

7th March 1928

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume I

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SECOND SESSION

OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1928



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1928



# Legislative Assembly.

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THE HONOURABLE MR V. J. PATEL.

## *Deputy President :*

MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A.

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MR. G. H. SPENCE, I.C.S.

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CAPTAIN SURAJ SINGH, BAHADUR, I.O.M.

## *Committee on Public Petitions :*

MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

SIR HARI SINGH GOUB, KT., M.L.A.

MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

MR. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, M.L.A.

DR. A. SUHRAWARDY, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

Wednesday, 7th March, 1928.

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### **KIND OF LEAVE GRANTED TO AN OFFICER OF A BRITISH REGIMENT ADMITTED INTO HOSPITAL FOR INJURIES RECEIVED IN A RIOT OR ON FRONTIER SERVICE NOT CLASSIFIED AS ACTIVE SERVICE.**

333. **Colonel J. D. Crawford:** (a) Is it a fact that an officer of a British regiment admitted to hospital has either to count the period spent in hospital as privilege leave, or, if he has already availed himself of the privilege leave due to him, is placed on British or furlough rates of pay?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, does this regulation apply in the case of an officer injured in a riot or on Frontier service not classified as active service?

(c) Are Government considering the desirability of altering this regulation?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) The ordinary rule is that during the first month of sickness an officer of a British regiment is placed on the sick list and granted the same rates of pay as on duty, whether he has any privilege leave to his credit or not. After that he is granted privilege leave, if this is admissible to him, and, if not, he is placed on ordinary leave and granted furlough rates of pay.

(b) Under paragraph 880-C, Regulations for the Army in India, an officer who is injured in the circumstances mentioned by the Honourable Member may be granted wound or injury leave on full pay up to a maximum period of three months. This would be additional to any privilege leave that might be due to him.

(c) Government consider the existing rules to be sufficiently liberal.

### **LEAVE GRANTED TO A GOVERNMENT SERVANT TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF A RECOGNISED UNION OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER.**

334. **\*Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** Is the leave of absence permitted to be granted to a Government servant to attend constituted meetings of a recognised union of such servant subject to the condition that the absentee's work should be allowed to accumulate and he be made responsible to pull up the arrears?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to Government servants in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The grant of leave of absence is entirely at the discretion of the officer granting it and is subject to the exigencies of the public service of which the officer having the power to grant leave is the sole judge.

**GOVERNMENT SERVANTS HOLDING OFFICE IN RECOGNISED UNIONS.**

335. \***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** Have heads of the Departments instructed supervising officers under them to watch and report if Government servants who are office holders of recognised unions are more devoted to Union work than to Government work?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Government are not aware of any such instructions.

**GRANT OF SPECIAL CASUAL LEAVE TO MR. K. PARTHASARATHI IYENGAR, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ALL-INDIA P. O. AND R. M. S. UNION, TRICHINOPOLY.**

336. \***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) What is the total period of special casual leave granted to Mr. K. Parthasarathi Iyengar, member of the Council of the All-India P. O. and R. M. S. Union, Trichinopoly, from April 1926 to July 1927?

(b) By whom and on whose recommendation was it granted?

(c) Did the head of the office in which he worked object to grant of such leave or even recognised leave under the Fundamental Rules?

(d) Was this objection overruled? If so, by whom?

(e) Did the Postmaster, Trichinopoly, report to the Superintendent of Post Offices, Trichinopoly, in May 1926, that Mr. K. Parthasarathi Iyengar was less devoted to office work than to Union work? If so, what were the reasons for such report?

(f) Did he report in July 1926 that Mr. Iyengar's frequent absence on leave for Union work interfered with official work and therefore that he should either leave the accounts branch or stop going on leave?

(g) Was Mr. Iyengar given such an alternative by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Trichinopoly, in July 1926?

(h) What was Mr. Iyengar's reply?

(i) On what condition was leave sanctioned subsequently?

(j) Was the choice given to Mr. Iyengar enforced on him? If so, when?

(k) Why was not leave refused on the ground of exigencies of service instead of the choice being thrown on the official?

(l) Was the choice given with the approval of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Government have no information nor do they propose to call for any information, as no public advantage would, in their opinion, be gained therefrom. I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that the rules on the subject provide that "the officer who is empowered to grant leave to a Government employee will, so far as is possible, grant casual leave to an employee who is a representative of a recognised Association, to attend duly constituted meetings of the Association" and that "the grant of such leave will be

subject to the exigencies of the service, of which the officer in question shall be the sole judge". Government do not propose to make any enquiries which may even by implication interfere with the discretion in the matter of the officer empowered to grant leave.

**COLLECTION OF HAULAGE CHARGES FROM THE POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT FOR A THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENT ENGAGED IN CARRYING SAND BAGS.**

337. \***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Has the attention of the Railway Board been drawn to the "Notes from all sources" in the *Railway Herald* of March 1927?

(b) Were any haulage charges collected from the Postal and R. M. S. Department for the third class compartment engaged for carrying the sand bags mentioned in the "Notes from all sources"? If not, why not?

(c) Was any charge collected from any R. M. S. officer?

(d) From whom was it recovered? When and from whom?

(e) What was the charge first fixed and subsequently collected?

(f) Why was the amount first fixed subsequently reduced?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) to (f). Government have not seen the notes referred to, and have no information in the matter.

**LEAVE OF INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.**

338. \***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** With reference to answer to starred questions Nos. 817 and 818 given on the 2nd September, 1927, will the Government kindly give specific replies to questions Nos. 817 (b) and (c) and 818?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I think the following statement will give the Honourable Member all the information he desires. In 1923, because they considered the concessions granted a short time previously to be excessive, the Government of India decided that the leave salaries of inferior Government servants should be regulated by the Fundamental Rules subject to the restrictions imposed by Articles 147 (iii) and 321 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations; that is to say, the absentee allowance of the substantive incumbent is not permitted to exceed what remains from his pay after provision is made for the efficient discharge of his duties during his absence, except when, in the resulting acting arrangement an incumbent who has no substantive appointment is given more than half the pay of the appointment in which he acts, in which case the excess over half pay granted to him may, at the discretion of the authority sanctioning the leave, be disregarded altogether in calculating the sum available for the leave allowance of the absentee and the acting allowance to be paid to the substitute. In practice the authority granting the leave tries to carry on without a substitute in order that the official on leave may receive leave allowance.

The question of revising the leave rules of inferior servants is being re-examined by the Government of India.



**COUNTING FOR INCREMENTS OF PERIODS OF SERVICE SPENT ON LEAVE WITHOUT PAY.**

339. **\*Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** With reference to answer to starred question No. 819 (e), will the Government kindly state the result of their enquiry?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** It was ascertained that the statement made in part (e) of question No. 819 was correct. This fact was communicated to the Honourable Member on the 12th November, 1927.

**SUPPLY TO INFERIOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS OF VERNACULAR TRANSLATIONS OF THE RULES RELATING TO THEIR SERVICE CONDITIONS.**

340. **\*Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** Are inferior Government servants supplied with vernacular translations of the rules relating to their service conditions so that they may safeguard their interest with that knowledge when the former are infringed?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The answer is in the negative. The Government of India do not issue vernacular translations of the Civil Service Regulations or the Fundamental Rules.

**PAYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HOUSE RENT FOR THE PORTION OF THE BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, T. DIVISION, AS HIS QUARTERS.**

341. **\*Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article about the house rent of the Office of the Superintendent, R. M. S., T. Division, published in the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union general letter for December, 1927?

(b) Have any enquiries been made to find out if the Government is paying house rent for the portion of the building occupied by the Superintendent, R. M. S., T. Division, as his quarters? If so, with what result?

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

(b) The Postmaster-General has been asked for a report.

**PROVISION OF A NEW LEVEL CROSSING AT OKARA ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

342. **\*Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to their reply of the 18th August last, regarding the question of providing a new level crossing at Okara on the North Western Railway, District Montgomery, in paragraphs 2 and 3 of which they stated that a foot overbridge which has been provided has "minimised any inconvenience that would otherwise have been felt"?

(b) Are Government aware that the foot overbridge has not relieved the inconvenience and hardship in the case of sick or old persons, and persons with heavy luggage desiring access to the station?

(c) Is it a fact that a deputation of the local Bar and the public has drawn the attention of the Deputy Commissioner of the district to the hardship referred to above?

(d) Is it a fact that the foot overbridge has not solved the problem in respect of the heavy vehicular traffic from the town to the station and

*vice versa*, as also from the mandi to the factories and from the factories to the goods station, which has still to make a long detour *via* the existing Dipalpur Road level crossing?

(e) Are Government aware that there is no proper road on public land available for the use of the people of the town seeking access to the station, and that in doing so at present they have to trespass on privately-owned land?

(f) Are Government prepared to institute an inquiry into this grievance of the public of Okara and reconsider the whole question?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I am making enquiries on the subject from the Agent of the North Western Railway and will communicate with the Honourable Member on receipt of his reply.

**LEAVE AND PENSION RULES FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS OF GOVERNMENT.**

343. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state what stage the question of leave and pension rules applicable to inferior servants has reached?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The matter is still under consideration, but I think it should now be possible to arrive at a decision before very long.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Sir, may I ask whether the Government is aware that they have been giving the same reply since the year 1922?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I can only date from 1923, Sir.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government can now state any definite time by which a reply will be given on the subject.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I think it should now be possible to arrive at a decision before very long.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I know, Sir, whether "before long" means before many months are past or before many years are past.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The Honourable Member, I think, will have to wait and see.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**

344. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state at what stage the question of establishing a Provident Fund for their employees is now?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply which I gave in this House on the 1st February to starred question No. 79 on the same subject.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether Government has not been giving the same reply to this also for some years.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The Honourable Member will have noticed that I have varied the reply.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, what is the variation made?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blckett:** The Honourable Member has not read the answer to the question to which I have referred him. I think.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Sir, I have been reading these answers very carefully for the last three years.

#### TIME-TEST IN THE POST OFFICE.

345. **\*Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Is it a fact that in fixing the strength of the clerical establishment of Post offices roughly five hours work arrived at according to the time-test is taken as the basis of sanctioning a clerk in small sub-offices having two or three clerks, and six hours in big sub-offices and Departments of a Head-Office, the margin of three and two hours left out of the eight hours of duty being intended for items of work not covered by the time-test?

(b) When was the time-test and the above formula introduced?

(c) Is it a fact that many items of work have not been provided for in the time and these items of work take up more than the margin of two or three hours mentioned in the question (a)?

(d) Has the Postal Enquiry Committee suggested to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, for a closer examination of the time-tests by experts who possess an intimate knowledge of the details of the work?

(e) Is it a fact that the Director General appointed two Postal Superintendents for the above purpose who had no previous experience of the details of work in the Post Office as neither of them had worked in the clerical cadre.

(f) Did they make a tour throughout India for making the necessary investigations?

(g) How long did they take to complete their investigations and what was the cost to Government on account of this inquiry?

(h) Did they examine any witnesses from the staff side and did they hear their complaints?

(i) Will the Government place on the table a list of items which were revised or newly added?

(j) Is it a fact that they reduced the time allowance of the principal items of work done in a Post Office, namely, time allotted to the receipt and disposal of unregistered articles, allowed time allowance for very few items of work, viz., for those which are occasionally done and did not provide for many items of work?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) It would be more correct to say that a clerk is ordinarily considered to be admissible for every five hours or six hours work of the classes covered by the time-test. The margin allowed also takes into consideration the fact that the work in a small office is generally not continuous in any department. A copy of rule 560-6 (a) and (b) of the Post Office Manual, Volume II on the subject is being supplied to the Honourable Member.

(b) The time-test was originally prepared in 1895 and has been revised from time to time. It cannot be said for certain when the formula referred to in part (a) of the question was introduced but it was probably in 1895.

(c) Representations have been received from time to time to the effect that the margin allowed is insufficient. The question of revising the time-test is under consideration.

(d) Yes.

(e) The two Superintendents had full experience of post office work though neither of them had worked in the clerical cadre.

(f) The officers visited certain post offices in India.

(g) 6 months. The cost to Government was Rs. 24,000 approximately.

(h) No witnesses were formally examined, but the officers presumably listened to what the clerks had to say when they visited certain post offices for the purpose of their investigation.

(i) and (j). A copy of letter No. C. F. 4, dated the 15th August, 1922, from the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to all Heads of Circles is being supplied to the Honourable Member. This letter gives all the information required by him. As already stated in my reply to part (a), the margin of 3 hours and 2 hours is partly intended to cover the time required for those items of work which are done occasionally or which are not shown in the time-test.

#### TIME-TEST IN THE POST OFFICE.

346. \***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Is not the revision of the Issue-Test one of the grievances placed before the Government by the deputation of the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union?

(b) Did not the Government promise in the Assembly on the 4th March, 1926, that they would further look into this matter? If so, what is the result of the further investigations made by the Government?

(c) Have the Government received from the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union a copy of regulation passed by the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Conference, Nagpur, requesting the Government to appoint a representative committee to examine the Issue-Test and suggest modifications and improvements? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they are going to appoint the proposed Committee, and if so, when and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The Honourable Member doubtless refers to the time-test which was the subject of one of the grievances placed before the Government by the deputation of the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, no decision has yet been reached.

(c) Yes. The question of appointing a small committee to look into the matter is under consideration.

#### MAIL GUARDS IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

347. \***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the duties of the mail guards in the Railway Mail Service?

(b) Are the duties slightly inferior to those of the sorters but carry heavy responsibilities and day and night duties?

(c) What was the pay granted to the mail guards by the Postal Enquiry Committee?

(d) What was the pay granted to the departmental branch postmasters, cash and line overseers by the Postal Enquiry Committee?

(e) Did not the Postal Enquiry Committee grant a higher maximum pay for the mail guards than departmental branch postmasters and the overseer postman (cash and line) considering the more onerous and responsible nature of the duties for the former?

(f) Do the Government propose for the departmental branch postmasters and Overseers a higher scale of pay, *viz.*, Rs. 35—4—75, in most of the places in India and reduce the pay of mail guards generally to Rs. 18—1—38 and are they going to place them on a par with that of postmen in the revision of pay which the Government is making this year?

(g) Have the work, responsibilities and other conditions of service of the mail guards been reduced since the time the Postal Enquiry Committee conducted that investigation in 1919? If not, what is the reason for reducing the status of mail guards?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The duties of mail guards in the Railway Mail Service are defined in Rule 306 of the Post Office Manual, Vol. IV. A copy of the rule is being supplied to the Honourable Member.

(b) The duties and responsibilities of mail guards differ considerably from the duties and responsibilities of sorters. Mail guards have certain responsibilities but these cannot be regarded as heavy. In some sections the mail guards have to work at night.

(c) Different time-scales of pay were recommended for different stations ranging between Rs. 20 and Rs. 45.

(d) Different time-scales of pay were recommended for different stations ranging between Rs. 22 and Rs. 45.

(e) The maxima of the scales of pay recommended by the Postal Committee for mail guards were not in general higher than those recommended for departmental branch postmasters and overseers. The duties of mail guards are on the whole less onerous and less responsible than those of departmental branch postmasters and overseers.

(f) The minimum scale of pay now proposed for departmental branch postmasters is Rs. 35—4—75 and the minimum scale of pay now proposed for mail guards is Rs. 18—1—38. The mail guards will be placed on a footing of equality with postmen as regards pay at all stations.

(g) No. No reduction in the status of mail guards is contemplated.

#### PAY OF POSTAL CLERKS IN POONA, AHMEDABAD, MADURA, ETC.

348. **\*Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Is it a fact that the Postal Enquiry Committee gave the same scale of pay, *viz.*, Rs. 40—130 to the postal clerks in the following towns:

Poona, Ahmedabad, Madura, Dhanushkodi, Hyderabad, and Bangalore?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India revised the scale of pay of the first two offices mentioned above to Rs. 50 to 150 in the year 1926 and revised the pay of the rest of the stations to Rs. 40—140 in 1927? If so, what is the reason for such discrimination?

(c) Is it a fact that the minimum pay for the staff of these offices was not raised in the last revision?

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

(b) Yes. The scales of pay for each station were fixed in consideration of the index number of prices, where available and of the rates of pay prevailing in offices of other Departments located at the same station.

(c) Yes.

VISIT TO INDIA OF MISS ALICE SCHALEK.

349. \***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter of Mr. Hodge addressed to Mr. Prentice of the Bengal Government published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 21st February, 1928?

(b) Have the India Office or the Government of India taken any guarantee from Miss Alice Schalek that she would not abuse the hospitality of the Government of India in any shape or manner?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** (a) The Government of India have observed that the newspaper in question has obtained access to this letter.

(b) As the Honourable Member will observe from the letter which he quotes, Government are not offering Miss Schalek hospitality and there is therefore no occasion to ask for a guarantee of the nature suggested.

**Mr. B. Das:** Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a statement of Miss Schalek published in the *Statesman* of Calcutta that she has received support from most of the Indian leaders including Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. J. N. Sen Gupta, while Mr. J. N. Sen Gupta has issued a statement that he has given no support to her in any shape? In view of these press comments will Government see their way not to give any help to Miss Schalek that would lead to comments similar to those made by Miss Katherine Mayo in her book?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** I have not observed the statement referred to by the Honourable Member.

(Mr. President then called on Maulvi Muhammad Yakub in whose name stood question No. 350.)

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** May I put this question, Sir?

**Mr. President:** I have got no intimation from the Honourable Member.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** I have got written authority from the Honourable Member that I may put this question on his behalf because it is very.....

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member may have been authorized by the Honourable Member but no intimation has been given to the Chair.

† For this question and the answer thereto, see page 1056 of these proceedings.

**TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

351. \***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will the Government be pleased to state what is the total strength of clerks in the establishment of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs? What is the number in the "A" cadre? What is the number in the "B" cadre? How many Hindus, how many Muslims and how many others are in the "A" cadre? How many Hindus, how many Muslims and how many others are in the "B" cadre?

**Mr. H. A. Sams**: The total clerical strength of the office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs is 207. There are 130 clerks in the "A" cadre of whom 119 are Hindus, 8 Muslims and 3 others. There are 55 clerks in the "B" cadre of whom 40 are Hindus, 13 Muslims and 2 others.

**NUMBER OF MUSLIMS RECRUITED OR PROMOTED TO THE "A" CADRE OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

352. \***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Is it a fact that the Government profess to pursue a policy by which 33 per cent. of the total strength in the clerical cadre of a Government establishment should go to Muslims? If so, how many vacancies in the "A" cadre in the establishment of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs occurred during the last five years? How many of them were filled up by Muslims during that period? Is the number of Muslims recruited or promoted from the lower grade to the "A" cadre of that establishment in accordance with the policy of the Government? If not, why not? What steps are being taken by the Government to reduce the communal inequality in the Directorate and how long is it likely to take to make up the inequality?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra**: The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. The policy adopted by Government, which has been explained on several occasions on the floor of this House, is that to prevent the preponderance of any one class or community in any particular service or office, one-third of all permanent vacancies should be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities subject to adequately qualified candidates being available. A copy of the orders on the subject was supplied to the Honourable Member on the 24th February, 1928. These orders apply also to the Director-General's office.

During the last 5 years, 21 vacancies occurred in the "A" cadre of the Director-General's office. Six of these vacancies have been filled by Muslims.

With regard to the remaining parts of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply to the first part of his question. The length of time required will depend on the vacancies available.

**RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIM HEAD ASSISTANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

353. \***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will the Government be pleased to state how many office Superintendents, Chief Clerks and Head Assistants there have been in the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs since the creation of those appointments or during the period for which

records are available in the office? How many of them were Muslims in each of these cadres? Do the records that have not yet been destroyed show that there have been any Muslims in the cadre of Head Assistants in the office? If not, why not? How many Head Assistants are there in that office? How many of them are Muslims? If none, why? Is it under the contemplation of the Government to recruit Muslim Head Assistants in that office from other Departments of the Government? If so, when will that be carried into effect?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The offices of the Director-General of the Post Office and Director-General of Telegraphs were amalgamated in 1912. Since that year there have been 3 incumbents in the post of office Superintendent, 11 in the posts of Head Clerk and Assistant Superintendent and 44 in the posts of Head Clerks and Head Assistants. Of these, only one was a Muslim in the cadre of head clerks. Other Muslims in the lower grades did not attain sufficient seniority for promotion to the posts in question.

At the present time there are 16 Head Assistants and 2 Head Clerks in the office of whom none is a Muslim. These are selection grade posts and are filled by the promotion of the senior fit officials in the office. There is nothing to debar a Muslim from promotion to the grade of Head Assistant if with due regards to seniority he is considered to be best fitted for such promotion.

The reply to the last two parts of the question is in the negative. As already explained the appointments of Head Assistant are filled by promotion, not by outside recruitment.

**NUMBER OF TYPISTS (SECTION-WRITERS) IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

354. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government be pleased to state how many typists (Section-Writers) there are in the office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs? How many of them are permanently and how many of them are temporarily attached to the Department? How many of them are Hindus, Muslims and others? What test is applied before these men are recruited?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** At present, there are no section-writers in the Office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

Of the previous 19 section-writers, who have recently been appointed "B" class clerks, six are on probation.

Out of these 19, 18 are Hindus and one is an Anglo-Indian. Before appointment as permanent clerks, they were examined in typing. Six failed to pass and will be re-examined.

**OFFICIATING APPOINTMENTS IN THE HIGHER GRADE OF THE CLERICAL CADRE OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

355. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government be pleased to state how many officiating arrangements in the higher grade of the clerical cadre of the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs were made during the past two years? How many of them went to Hindus, how many to Muslims and how many to others?



**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Seventeen; of these 15 went to Hindus one to an Indian Christian, one to an Anglo-Indian and none to a Muslim, the reason being that there was no Muslim sufficiently senior to be considered for the officiating vacancy.

**ALLEGED NEPOTISM IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

356. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Is it a fact:

- (a) that preferential treatment is being meted out to sons and relations of Superintendents, Head Assistants and senior clerks of the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs?
- (b) that Hari Bhusan De, son-in-law of a Head Assistant Hari Mohan Bose, recently superseded many qualified and senior clerks of the Department?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) No.

(b) The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. Mr. Hari Bhusan De was promoted from the "B" to the "A" cadre on his merits.

(Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim then put question No. 357 without rising from his seat.)

**Mr. President:** I think the Honourable Member ought to make some pretence of rising from his seat.

(Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim then rose from his seat and put question No. 357.)

**APPOINTMENT OF A DEAF AND DUMB PERSON AS A CLERK IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

357. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Is it a fact that a deaf and dumb person who is the son of the office Superintendent is enjoying a permanent clerical post in the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs? If so, why?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Yes, he is a trained typist, was appointed to the post of typist in 1922 on probation and was confirmed in 1924 after he had proved himself competent at a special test.

**APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.**

358. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government be pleased to state how many departmental officials who passed the departmental examination for the appointment of Superintendent of Post Offices and were considered fit for that appointment were in the waiting list during the last five years? How many of them were Muslims? Were the Muslims who were in the waiting list during the period considered equally fit with the members of the other community? How many departmental officials were appointed as Superintendents of Post Offices during the last five years? How many of them were Muslims? If none, why, and why did not one-third of the vacancies filled up by departmental officials in the cadre of Superintendents go to the Muslims according to the standing orders of the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** During the last 5 years there have been on the waiting list 67 departmental officials who had passed

the departmental examination for the appointment of Superintendent of Post Offices and were considered fit for that appointment. Of these, 8 were Muslims. They were considered equally fit with the members of other communities. During the last five years 17 departmental officials were appointed as Superintendents of Post Offices. Of these 3 were Muslims. The last part of the question does not arise. But I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that the question of communal representation does not arise when appointments are filled from the subordinate staff by promotion according to merit.

**PROMOTION OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS FROM THE LOWER GRADE TO APPOINTMENTS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.**

359. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Government be pleased to state how many vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents were filled up during the last five years by departmental officials from the lower grade? How many of them went to Hindus and how many to Muslims? How many Muslims from among the departmental officials who have passed the departmental examination for the post of Superintendents of Post Offices and are considered fit for that appointment are on the waiting list? What is the number of existing or would-be vacancies during the year 1928 approximately? How many of them will go to departmental officials? How many to Hindus and how many to Muslims?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** During the last 5 years 17 vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents of Post Offices were filled up by promotion from among departmental officials. 12 of the appointments went to Hindus and 3 to Muslims. There are 5 Muslims at present on the waiting list. The number of existing vacancies is one and it is anticipated that during the year 1928 there will be 6 more vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents of Post Offices. 4 of these seven vacancies will probably be filled by promotion of senior and suitable departmental officials who have passed the departmental examination for promotion to the cadre of Superintendents and irrespective of the community to which they may belong. As regards the last part of the question Government is not in a position to say how many of these posts will go to Hindus or how many to Muslims.

**APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.**

360. **\*Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** 1. Is it a fact:

- (a) that the present system of recruitment in the cadre of Superintendents enables only half the number of vacancies in each year to be filled up by departmental officials who are on the waiting list while the other half goes to the Probationary Superintendents?
- (b) that departmental officials are appointed as Superintendents strictly in order of seniority in the list?
- (c) That by this system the Hindus who are mostly seniors on the list get the entire vacancies allotted to departmental officials?
- (d) That if the present system is continued in appointing departmental officials as Superintendents it will take at least 10 years or even more to give appointments to all those Muslims who are on the waiting list?

- (e) That the Muslims from among the departmental officials on the waiting list are juniors and they have no chance in the near future under the present system?
- (f) That by this system the lion's share goes to the Hindus who enjoy the entire half of the total vacancies in each year allotted to departmental officials as well as their full share in the other half reserved for outsiders?

2. If the answers to (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) are in the affirmative, will Government please state how the proposed one-third representatives of the Mussalmans in the public services will be attained?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** 1. (a) Yes.

(b) Appointment is subject to seniority as well as to fitness irrespective of the community to which the candidates belong.

(c) Those Hindus who are senior in the list will get the appointments in their turn if at the time of selection they are considered suitable.

(d) At the present rate of promotion, *i.e.*, three to four a year for passed departmental men, it will take eleven or twelve years for the last Muslim on the list to get an appointment of Superintendent. The same remark applies of course to the last Hindu on the list.

(e) This is not a fact. The first Muslim on the list is No. 12. He will get his chance in three or four years.

(f) The fact is not as stated, nor could it be unless the entire list were composed of Hindus which is not the case.

2. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his question No. 358.

**RESEARCH AND EXCAVATION WORK CARRIED ON BY THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT IN THE PATNA CIRCLE AND THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.**

361. **\*Mr. M. S. Aney:** Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the details of the work of research and excavation carried on by the Archæological Department in the Patna Circle in general and the Central Provinces and Berar in particular during the last ten years, with the expenditure incurred during the same period year by year?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** I regret to say that I have not found it possible to compress an account of the exploration work done during the last 10 years in the Central Circle, including the Central Provinces and Berar, into a short statement which I could lay on the table of the House. I must therefore request the Honourable Member to peruse the relevant portions of the annual reports issued by the Archæological Department. Copies of these reports will be found in the Library of the House.

I am having a statement of the expenditure incurred during the last 10 years on excavation and research in the Central Circle compiled and shall supply it to the Honourable Member as soon as possible. I cannot guarantee that I shall give separate figures for Berar and the Central Provinces.

**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.**

362. **\*Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) What are the qualifications required for recruitment to the service in the different branches of the Archæological Department?

(b) Does the staff employed at present contain an adequate number of technically qualified men, Indians as well as non-Indians? If not, what efforts have Government made or propose to make to train such men in this country,—specially to qualify them in the special branch of research and excavation before employing them permanently in the service?

(c) Is Indian talent being adequately utilised and encouraged in the work of research and excavation?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) The qualifications required vary according to the nature of the work for which recruitment is made, but ordinarily, all candidates have to possess some knowledge of architecture, or Indian languages and history, pre-historic antiquities, excavation and epigraphy.

(b) Yes. The second part of the question does not arise.

(c) Yes. 72 per cent. of the appointments in the Department are held by Indians.

**TRAINING OF INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD IN INDIAN ARCHÆOLOGY.**

363. **\*Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any institutions in the United Kingdom, America or on the Continent where Indian Archæology can be studied and scientific training in excavation and research can be taken?

(b) What efforts, if any, are being made to send or encourage deserving Indian students to proceed to such institutions?

(c) What prospects are Government prepared to hold out to the students as regards service and facilities for research on their return after completing their studies abroad?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) So far as Government are aware, there are no institutions in the United Kingdom, America or on the Continent where Indian Archæology can be studied. Scientific training in excavation and research can be obtained at some institutions such as the British School at Athens, but Indian Archæology is not taught there.

(b) It is not the policy of the Archæological Department to send students for training abroad, as it is considered that for archæological work in India, India offers sufficient opportunities for instruction and for the acquisition of experience. Scholarships are offered in India itself for archæological training.

(c) The policy of Government is to recruit to the Archæological Department Indians trained in India or in the Department itself. Government would, however, consider sympathetically applications for employment which it might receive from private students returning from abroad, and any requests that might be made for facilities for research.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR PRIVATE PATIENTS IN THE CIVIL HOSPITAL AT DELHI.

364. **\*The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** Will Government be pleased to state what accommodation exists for private patients in the Civil Hospital at Delhi?

### INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION FOR PRIVATE PATIENTS IN THE CIVIL HOSPITAL AT DELHI.

365. **\*The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** Have Government received any complaints or are they aware of any complaints that the accommodation for patients in the Civil Hospital at Delhi, as well as the equipment of that Hospital are very inadequate and out of date for the needs of a large and growing city like Delhi?

### CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CIVIL HOSPITAL AT DELHI.

366. **\*The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how long a scheme for a new Civil Hospital at Delhi been under their consideration?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to give practical effect to the proposed scheme?

(c) Are Government prepared to give an assurance, that in the construction of the proposed new Hospital adequate private wards for Indian patients will be provided?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 364, 365 and 366 together. There are six rooms available, I understand, at present in the Civil Hospital at Delhi for the accommodation of private patients. It was represented to Government nearly a year ago that the existing hospital in Delhi City is no longer large enough or adequately equipped to cope with the requirements of the city. But the proposals made to replace it by a new hospital were conceived on too generous a scale. As the question is linked up with that of the provision of hospital facilities for New Delhi also, Government propose to appoint a small committee to go into the whole question of hospital accommodation for Delhi.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** May I put a supplementary question, Sir? Are the Government aware that the six rooms referred to by the Honourable the Education Secretary are only small cubicles with thin wooden partitions and are very noisy, and if that fact is admitted, may I ask if Government cannot do something to provide temporary accommodation for private patients during the time that must elapse before any large new hospital can be built?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** The specifications of the rooms or their acoustic properties I am not aware of (*The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:* "I am.") nor am I altogether convinced of the wisdom of adding to a hospital which we may have to scrap in the course of a year or two. But I shall have enquiries made from the Local Administration, and if they think that any temporary arrangements ought to be made to relieve the difficulties to which the Honourable Member has referred, Government will give sympathetic consideration to their suggestions.

**NON-EMPLOYMENT OF BIHARIS IN THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.**

367. \***Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that there is a rule in the Auditor General's Office that no one from the Province of Bihar and Orissa is to be appointed in that office?

(b) If it is so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which have induced it to establish such a rule for a particular Province?

(c) Are there any men from the Province of Bihar and Orissa serving at present in the Auditor General's office? If so, what is their proportion to the total number employed in the said office?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Enquiries are being made and the information will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

**CONVEYANCE OF MAILS TO GULMARG.**

368. \***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that Gulmarg post office is opened on the 1st May and closed on the 15th October?

(b) Is it a fact that the motor service to Gulmarg commences on the 15th June and closes on the 30th September?

(c) Is it a fact that runners carry mails to Gulmarg from 1st May to 15th June and from 1st October to 15th October?

(d) What is the monthly cost for carrying mails by (1) runners, and (2) by the motor mail contractor?

(e) What advantages are gained by the extra expenditure involved in giving the work of carrying mails to the motor mail contractor?

(f) Is it not a fact that the carrying of mails by motor used to cause one day's delay to postal articles coming from Rawalpindi side for which complaints were received by the department?

(g) Is it a fact that as a result of such complaints runners have again been engaged from the 1st August, 1927, to carry mails coming from Rawalpindi side from Baramulla to Gulmarg?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The information has been called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course. With respect to part (b) I would inform the Honourable Member that the motor service goes only as far as Tanmarg, not to Gulmarg.

**CONVEYANCE OF MAILS FROM SRINAGAR TO GULMARG.**

369. \***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the motor mail contractor is still permitted to carry mails from Srinagar to Gulmarg at the old rates?

(b) Will it not be more economical to arrange for carrying mails by runners to Gulmarg both from Baramulla and Srinagar?

(c) What is the time that will be required for runners to carry mails from Srinagar to Gulmarg?

(d) Is it not a fact that under existing arrangements mails from Srinagar reach Gulmarg at 12 noon?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Information on the points raised has been called for and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

**AMOUNT PAID ANNUALLY TO THE MOTOR MAIL CONTRACTOR FOR THE LINE BETWEEN RAWALPINDI AND SRINAGAR.**

370. \***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount paid annually to the motor mail contractor for the line between Rawalpindi and Srinagar?

(b) What is the daily average weight of the bags carried by the contractor?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) Three lakhs and ninety thousand.

(b) The information is not available. It is being obtained and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

**CONVEYANCE OF MAILS BETWEEN RAWALPINDI AND SRINAGAR.**

371. \***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Is it not a fact that the Kashmere State pays Rs. 3 per maund for luggage sent by motor or lorry between Rawalpindi and Srinagar to the railway outagents as well as to private contractors?

(b) Is it not a fact that two lorries are daily used, one to carry mails and the other to carry parcel bags from Rawalpindi and two lorries are used to carry mails and parcel bags from Srinagar?

(c) Is it not a fact that in the lorry carrying mail bags four passengers are permitted to travel and in the parcel mail lorry two passengers are permitted to travel on payment to the contractors of their usual fare?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) Government have no information.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The number is fixed by the contractors, not by the Department.

**MOTOR MAIL CONTRACT BETWEEN RAWALPINDI AND SRINAGAR.**

372. \***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) What is the usual rate of fare for a whole one-ton lorry running between Rawalpindi and Srinagar?

(b) Was a tender called for before the contract was given to the present contractor? If not, why not?

(c) What is the date of expiry of the present contract?

(d) Do Government propose to advertise widely for tenders for the motor mail contract between Rawalpindi and Srinagar?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) Government have no information.

(b) Yes, tenders were called for.

(c) 31st May 1929.

(d) Tenders will be called for in the usual way.

**CONVEYANCE BY RUNNERS OF THE MAILS FROM SRINAGAR TO GULMARG.**

373. \***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will it not be possible for the runners to carry mails from Srinagar to Gulmarg, if the mails are despatched from Srinagar at 4 A.M. to reach Gulmarg at 11 A.M.?

(b) Will not the carrying of mails by runners be both economical and convenient to the public?

(c) What is the number of additional runners that will be necessary to introduce a runners' line from Srinagar to Gulmarg and what will be the monthly expenditure for it?

(d) What will be the annual saving if the conveyance of mails to Gulmarg is done by runners instead of motor mail contractors?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

**INCONVENIENCES OF PASSENGERS AT CHAK JHUMRA STATION ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

874. **\*Mr. Muhammad Rafique:** (a) How many trains leave from Chak Jhumra to Chiniot during the twenty-four hours (North Western Railway)?

(b) Is it a fact that all passengers from Calcutta, Madras and Delhi on their way to Chiniot have to wait for five hours at the Chak Jhumra station?

(c) Are Government aware that there is no waiting room for the intermediate and third class passengers at the Chak Jhumra station while the first and second class waiting room is occupied by the railway clerks and officials?

(d) Is it a fact that no arrangement is made for supplying drinking water to passengers, while the buckets at the water stands are not cleansed for months?

(e) Is it a fact that practically all passengers from Calcutta, Madras, Delhi and Lahore leave from Chak Jhumra to Chiniot by motor lorries and very few wait for five hours for the train?

(f) Is it a fact that all letters, ordinary and registered, are sent from Chak Jhumra to Chiniot by horse-driven carriage?

(g) Will Government state what amount is paid to the garrywalah per month?

(h) What is the distance from Chak Jhumra to Chiniot in miles?

(i) Do Government propose to consider a change in the timings of the trains?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) to (i). Government have themselves no information on these points; but I am having a copy of the Honourable Member's questions sent to the Agent of the North Western Railway who is competent to take such action with regard to them as he may think necessary.

**THROWING OF STONES AT RUNNING TRAINS AT CHINIOT STATION, ETC.**

875. **\*Mr. Muhammad Rafique:** (a) Are Government aware that stones are usually thrown at the running train at Chiniot station?

(b) What action have Government taken against the offenders and what steps have been taken to stop the practice?

(c) Is it a fact that no policeman is posted at the Chiniot station?

(d) Will the Government state when a raised platform is going to be erected at the Chiniot station?



**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have no information, but I am having a copy of the Honourable Member's question sent to the Agent who is competent to take any action that may be required.

#### RAILWAY ADVERTISEMENTS IN URDU DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF CALCUTTA.

376. **\*Mr. Muhammad Rafique:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Urdu dailies in Calcutta are given railway advertisements? What are their names?

(b) What amount has been paid to the following Calcutta dailies for publishing railway matters, "Statesman", "Englishman" and "Forward"?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have no information.

**Mr. Muhammad Rafique:** Will Government enquire and furnish the information at an early date?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I do not think it necessary to make an enquiry. The Agents of the Railways have been told that they can use any newspaper they think desirable for giving information of this character.

#### GRANT OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO VAN PEONS AND PORTERS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE AT NAGPUR.

377. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Is it a fact that postal peons at Nagpur have been given a house-rent allowance from 1st October 1926?

(b) If the answer to the aforesaid question is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not sanctioning house-rent allowance to van peons and porters of the Railway Mail Service at Nagpur?

(c) Are Government considering the desirability of granting such allowance to the Railway Mail Service van peons and porters at Nagpur with effect from the same date?

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

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) The Government of India are considering a proposal for the grant of a similar allowance to the Railway Mail Service van peons and porters at Nagpur but it is unlikely that the proposal if sanctioned will be given retrospective effect from the 1st October 1926.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BOGIE VANS IN F 15 SECTION, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

378. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a note entitled "Wanted Bogie vans for F. 15 Section" published at page 3 of Bulletin No. 5 of the R. M. S. Association, Nagpur?

(b) Is it a fact that the Superintendent, R. M. S., F Division, Jhansi, replied to the Honorary Secretary of the R. M. S. Association, Nagpur, in his letter No. F.-2-15, dated the 10th June 1927, that "the matter is still under correspondence with the Deputy Postmaster General, Poona"?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if it has decided to remedy this grievance by the introduction of bogie vans and if so from what date?

(d) If the answer to the above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to give the reasons for its refusal?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). Government have no information. I have asked the Postmaster General for a report.

**GRANT OF A PENSION TO THE FAMILY OF MR. NARAIN HANUMAN SAWAK, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE NAGPUR RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE OFFICE, KILLED IN THE COMMUNAL RIOTS AT NAGPUR IN SEPTEMBER 1927.**

379. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Narain Hanuman Sawak, an employee of the Nagpur R. M. S. Office, was killed in the communal riots at Nagpur in September 1927, while he was proceeding on duty to the R. M. S. Record Office at Nagpur?

(b) If the answer to the aforesaid question is in the affirmative, did Government receive any application from the R. M. S. Association, Nagpur, or from the relatives of the late Mr. Narain Hanuman Sawak for the grant of a suitable pension to the family of the deceased?

(c) What action have Government taken and have they decided to give any financial relief to the family and if so, what is the nature and extent of such relief?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) Yes. It is not however certain that he was on duty when he was killed.

(b) No.

(c) No action has been taken by the Government of India as no application in the matter has yet been received by them. I am having enquiries made on the subject and will take such action as the circumstances of the case warrant.

**DISCONTINUANCE OF THE ALLOWANCE OF RS. 5 PER MENSEM TO THE SORTERS STATIONED AT NAGPUR.**

380. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem was granted to the sorters stationed at Nagpur? And if so, from which year to which year was it paid and for what reasons?

(b) Is it a fact that the aforesaid allowance was reduced to Rs. 2-8-0 in the year 1924 and if so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that this reduced allowance has been completely discontinued since 1st March 1927? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that the sorters stationed at Nagpur have been sending representations urging the full grant of this allowance of Rs. 5 and if so on how many occasions and when?

(e) What action was taken by the Government with regard to these representations?

(f) Have Government received any recommendation from the Postmaster General, Nagpur, that the sorters stationed at Nagpur should be compensated in some way if the aforesaid allowance cannot be revived?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Yes. From the 1st December 1919 to the 31st October 1923. As the sorters at Nagpur were given the same scale of pay as sorters elsewhere in the Central Provinces, this allowance was paid as compensation for the dearness of living at Nagpur, on the analogy of the action taken by the Local Government in respect of their subordinates.

(b) Yes, because the Local Government ordered a similar reduction in the rate of the dear district allowance sanctioned by them for their subordinates.

(c) Yes, because a higher scale of pay has been fixed for the sorters at Nagpur than in other places of the Central Circle with the exception of Jubbulpore.

(d) Representations addressed to the Director-General were received in October 1925 and November 1925. Reminders on the subject were received in January 1926, February 1926, May 1926 and May 1927.

(e) No action was taken by Government on these petitions which were neither addressed nor referred to them. The prayer contained therein was however automatically disposed of by the issue of Government orders under which the sorters of Nagpur were given the same scale of pay as postal clerks at that station and the initial pay of the sorters was fixed on the new scale at the stage next above the pay in the old scale plus compensatory allowance drawn by them.

(f) No.

#### CONSTRUCTION BY THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY OF AN UNDERGROUND BRIDGE AT GONDIA.

381. **\*Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Are the Government aware that the Bengal Nagpur Railway line runs through the populated locality of Gondia, a growing Tahsil town in the District of Bhandara, Central Provinces, and as such, has been causing great inconvenience to the residents and cartmen and is also a source of danger?

(b) Are the Government also aware that the Municipal Committee of the town has applied to the Local Government to move the railway authorities for constructing preferably an underground bridge or an over-bridge?

(c) If so, what has been so far done in the matter and do the Government propose to construct an underground bridge at an early date?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The information is being obtained, and will be supplied to the Honourable Member when received.

#### OMISSION OF HINDI FROM THE SYLLABUS OF THE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

382. **\*Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda:** (a) Are Government aware that Hindi is one of the subjects for the Diploma Examination of the Chiefs' Colleges in India?

(b) Are Government aware that the students of the Dehra Dun Military College are eligible to sit for the Diploma Examination?

(c) Are Government also aware that there is no separate teacher for Hindi as there is one for Urdu in the Dehra Dun Military College?

(d) Are Government aware that students of the Dehra Dun Military College with Hindi as their second language are at a great disadvantage compared with the students with Urdu as their second language when appearing for the Diploma Examination?

(e) Is it a fact that Hindi is not even an optional subject for the Sandhurst Military College Examination while Urdu is such a subject?

(f) Are Government aware that the Rajputs and the other military classes of Rajputana are dissatisfied with the omission of Hindi from the subjects for the Sandhurst Military College and that that is the reason why so few students from Rajputana are able to go to Dehra Dun Military College or to Sandhurst?

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

(b) Yes, but successful students from the Dehra Dun College receive the Royal Indian Military College Diploma and not the Chiefs' College Diploma.

(c) Yes, but Hindi is taught by one of the religious teachers.

(d) No, Sir. Government are informed that the arrangements for teaching Hindi are adequate.

(e) Yes. The attention of the Honourable Member is however invited to the reply given on the 1st February to part (b) of starred question No. 19.

(f) Government have received several requests from Rajput gentlemen and others for the inclusion of Hindi in the syllabus of the examination for admission to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and the inclusion of Hindi has now been recommended. They have no reason to believe, however, that the absence of Hindi from this syllabus has had any effect on the number of boys from Rajputana applying for admission to the Dehra Dun College.

**Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda:** The Honourable Member has replied to part (c) of the question and said that there are adequate arrangements for teaching Hindi. Is the fact that there is no teacher of Hindi appointed by the Dehra Dun College adequate provision for teaching Hindi? There is a religious teacher . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The Honourable Member must ask a question.

**Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda:** My question is this. Do Government think that making no provision for a separate teacher to teach Hindi is adequate provision?

**Sir Abdul Qaiyum:** In view of the fact that a large number of army officers are serving on the Frontier, do Government propose to make arrangements for the teaching of Pushtu as one of the languages at the Dehra Dun College?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** There is no such proposal. There is a proposal to include Persian.

**Sir Abdul Qaiyum:** Will Government consider the desirability of including Pushtu?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** Government have considered the advisability of including almost every conceivable language.

**QUESTION NOT PUT AT THE MEETING OWING TO THE ABSENCE OF THE QUESTIONER, WITH ANSWER TO THE SAME.**

**ALLEGED CONFISCATION OF A GUN PRESENTED TO MR. MOHAMED HUSAIN KHAN OF DELHI FOR SERVICES RENDERED IN CONNECTION WITH RECRUITING.**

350. \*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. Mohamed Husain Khan served as honorary District Assistant Recruiting Officer, Delhi, under Major W. B. Greig, O.B.E., Divisional Recruiting Officer, Delhi, and that he has brought forward over 6,000 recruits for the Indian Army?

(b) Is it a fact that Major W. B. Greig, O.B.E., Divisional Recruiting Officer, Delhi, granted the said Mr. Mohamed Husain Khan a certificate in appreciation of his honorary and loyal services under his office No. 2507-D., dated 12th October, 1920?

(c) Is it a fact that Major W. B. Greig, O.B.E., Divisional Recruiting Officer, Delhi, recommended the said Mr. Mohamed Husain Khan for a 1st Class Jagir and title under his office No. 2872-D., dated 22nd November, 1920, to the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, commending his loyalty and honorary work in recruiting and in the said period of unrest and non-co-operation?

(d) Is it a fact that the Adjutant-General in India informed the said Mr. Mohamed Husain Khan in his office No. App./Mis.-(A. G.-6), dated 30th May, 1922, that the arms presented to him would not be wanted back by the military authorities?

(e) Is it a fact that the District Magistrate, Delhi, in his office letter No. 1491-M., dated 12th April 1922, asked the said Mr. Mohamed Husain Khan to deposit his sword within a week?

(f) Is it a fact that in his office letter No. 1746-M., dated 2nd May 1922, the District Magistrate, Delhi cancelled his order regarding the sword but merely asked the said Mr. Mohamed Husain Khan to produce his presented gun before him on 15th May 1922 in his office letter No. 1947-M., dated 12th May, 1922?

(g) Is it a fact that the said gun was taken and never returned to the presentee, the said Mr. Mohamed Husain Khan, by the District Magistrate, Delhi? If so, will Government kindly state the law or rule for withholding the presented gun?

(h) Will the Government of India kindly state under what authority or regulation the gun, which was presented by the Government for the meritorious services in procuring over 6,000 recruits to the Government in its dire need, was taken back, and that after 1½ years of the grant? Will the Government be also pleased to state the reasons for which Mr. Mohammed Husain Khan was deprived of his arms?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar:** I am making enquiries into the facts and will inform the Honourable Member of the result later.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### UNITED PROVINCES GOVERNMENT'S NOTIFICATION OF THE RULES MADE UNDER THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS ACT.

**188. Diwan Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that the Trade Union Act was passed in 1926 and came into force with effect from the 1st day of June, 1927? If so, will the Government state the date and lay on the table a copy of the United Provinces Government's Notification of the rules made thereunder?

(b) Is it a fact that the delay to notify the rules has affected the registration of the unions?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The notification to which the Honourable Member refers was dated 15th September 1927. It is a long one and I do not propose to lay it on the table, but I shall be glad to show it to the Honourable Member if he so desires.

(b) The Government of India have received no complaints and they are not aware of any union having been adversely affected.

### NON-REGISTRATION UNDER THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS ACT OF UNIONS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

**189. Diwan Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India in the Home Department has issued instructions to the Local Governments not to register the unions of Government employees under the Trade Unions Act of 1927? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Home Department, No. F.-16-8-27, dated the 21st May, 1927, along with the Home Department, No. F.-39, dated the 13/20th October, 1921?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the provisions of the Trade Unions Act of 1927 under which the Registrar is bound to carry out the instructions contained in the said Home Department orders?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** (a) Government have not issued such instructions.

(b) The question does not arise.

### INDIANISATION ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

**190. Mr. Yusuf Imam:** What steps have been taken by the Bengal and North Western Railway authorities towards Indianisation of the higher services? What is the number of Indians in the officers' grade and that in the upper subordinates' grade? How many Muslims are there in each? Is it a fact that there is a vast difference in the starting pay of Indian upper subordinates and that of Anglo-Indians or Europeans?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Bengal and North Western Railway administration has accepted the policy of Indianisation recommended by the Lee Commission. From the figures given in Appendix G of the Annual Report on Indian Railways for 1926-27 (a copy of which is available in the Library), it will be seen that the percentage of Indians appointed to the

total number of vacancies filled rose from 14·3 in 1925-26 to 66·7 in 1926-27.

As regards the number of Indians in the grades of officers and higher subordinates, and the number of Muslims, I would refer the Honourable Member to Appendix F of the Annual Report on Indian Railways for 1926-27.

Government are not aware that there is any difference between the rates of pay of Indian and Anglo-Indian or European higher subordinates belonging to the same grade.

#### CREATION OF A NORTH EAST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

191. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are considering any proposal to create a North East Frontier Province, and if so, whether they propose to consult this House before coming to any conclusion on this matter?

**Sir Denys Bray:** There is no such proposal under consideration.

#### EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR TO INDIA.

192. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Will Government be pleased to state, whether any portion of the expenses connected with the visit of His Majesty's Secretary of State for War to this country will be charged to Indian revenues?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** As stated on behalf of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in another place on the 17th September last, no portion of the cost of the visit of the Secretary of State or of the officer accompanying him is being borne by the Government of India. The only expenditure, so far as I know, which has been incurred from Indian revenues in connexion with the visit has been a small sum representing the travelling and deputation allowances of a Major of the Indian Army, whose services were placed at the disposal of the Secretary of State during his tour in India.

#### PERSONNEL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMISSION.

193. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Have the Government communicated to His Majesty's Government in England the views of this House regarding the personnel of the East African Commission?

(b) Will Government place on the table of this House the correspondence between them and the Colonial Office or the Secretary of State for India?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention in this connection to the answers given by me to Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru's question No. 579 and the connected supplementaries asked on the 30th August, 1927.

(b) I deeply regret that it is not possible for me to comply with the Honourable Member's request to place a copy of the correspondence on the table.

## PURCHASE BY THE INDIA OFFICE OF COPIES OF "MOTHER INDIA".

194. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Will Government be pleased to state, whether the India Office purchased copies of the book called "Mother India" by Miss Mayo, and if so, how many copies?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** I have no information, but invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answers given by me in the House on the 19th and 20th September 1927 to questions 1128 and 1191 which make it clear that the India Office purchased no copies for distribution.

## INCREASE OF THE SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR PROBATIONERS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

195. **Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Have the South Indian Railway Company submitted to the Railway Board any proposals for increasing the subsistence allowance given to the probationers on that Railway? If so, what are the proposals and have the Railway Board accepted those proposals?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Certain proposals from the South Indian Railway concerning pupil candidates and probationary assistants have been under the consideration of the Railway Board and I intend to place the proposals before the Standing Finance Committee at an early meeting.

## TRANSFER OF THE STAMP SECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS TO NASIK, ETC.

196. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state when it was definitely decided to separate the Stamp Section from the administration of the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps and transfer it to Nasik?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a statement on the table showing:

- (i) the number of assistants in different grades working at that time in the Stamp Branch and Stamp Store,
- (ii) the number of assistants in different grades recruited since that time up to the end of October, 1927, in the different offices under the Controller,
- (iii) the number of assistants in the different grades confirmed during the period mentioned in (ii) above,
- (iv) the number of assistants in different grades with their length of service served with notices relating to the termination of their services owing to the transfer of the Stamp Branch at the end of 1925 and the middle of 1927?

(c) Is it a fact that the notices mentioned in (iv) above were issued without the concurrence of the Controller, but by the order of the Deputy Controller of Stationery and Stamps?

(d) Is it a fact that preparatory to the issue of these notices certain selected assistants originally appointed in the Stamp Branch were transferred to the Stationery Branch and *vice versa*?

(e) Is it a fact that the most of the assistants thus transferred to the Stationery Branch are relations by blood or marriage of the Superintendent of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office or the Head Assistants thereof?



(f) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a statement on the table showing the number of such transfers of assistants in different grades with their length of service?

(g) Is it not the declared policy of Government that in case of retrenchment in a particular department the recruits who entered into service under Government in that department last and those in service who are on the verge of retirement in that department are made to go out first?

(h) Does the Honourable Member propose to enquire into the matter stated in (c) and (d) above and if the principle laid down in (g) above was not followed, state the reason?

(i) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take so that injustice may not be done to any member of the staff of the Stationery and Stamp Office in effecting the proposed retrenchment?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) July 1925.

(b) (i) *Stamp Branch*.—1 Head Assistant, 2 Assistants, 6 clerks grade I, 10 clerks grade II.

*Samps Store*.—1 Storekeeper, 1 Deputy Storekeeper, 1 Store Assistant, 5 clerks grade I, 10 clerks grade II, 8 Junior clerks.

(ii) 1 Head Assistant, 2 Assistants, 10 clerks grade I, 36 clerks grade II.

(iii) 1 Head Assistant, 8 Assistants, 13 clerks grade I, 27 clerks grade II. These include men who were recruited prior to July 1925.

(iv) The preparation of a detailed statement would entail an amount of time and labour disproportionate to its value. At the end of 1925 a warning of the probable termination of their services was given to all probationers. Regular notices were served on all the assistants in the Stamp Branch in the middle of 1927, in view of the proposed abolition of that Branch from the 1st March 1928.

(c) No.

(d) Transfers were made at various times between 1925 and 1927 as vacancies occurred.

(e) No.

(f) (i) From Stamp to Stationery Branch:

Four clerks grade I with a service of 27, 20, 16 and 13 years respectively. Five clerks grade II with a service of 24, 20, 15, 8 and 2 years respectively.

(ii) From Stationery to Stamp Branch:

One assistant with a service of 31 years and 2 clerks grade II with a service of 31 and 29 years respectively.

(g) Yes. The transfers mentioned in (f) above were made from time to time in accordance with this policy.

(h) and (i). Do not arise.

**MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE.**

197. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state what are the

minimum educational qualification prescribed for admittance in the clerical grade of the Stationery and Stamp Office?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state how many times examinations were held during 1925 to 1927 to fill up vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that non-Matriculantes were not permitted to sit for these examinations?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the number of non-Matriculantes appointed, permanent or temporary, without any examination in the offices under the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps during 1925 to 1927?

(e) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reason why candidates below the prescribed educational qualification were appointed?

(f) Does the Honourable Member propose to enquire into the matter and frame rules for recruitment in these offices?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The Matriculation examination of an Indian University.

(b) Four times.

(c) Yes.

(d) None permanently. Five temporarily.

(e) Two were typists. Three were recommended by the heads of Branches under whom they had already been employed in different capacities.

(f) Rules for recruitment have already been framed.

**NAMES AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF RECRUITS APPOINTED IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE BY MR. F. D. ASCOLI AND SINCE DEGRADED, DISMISSED OR NOT CONFIRMED.**

198. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state when the establishment of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office was last reorganised?

(b) Will he be pleased to put up a statement showing:—

(i) the names and educational qualifications of persons appointed by Mr. F. D. Ascoli, M.A., I.C.S.,

(ii) the names of those recruits who were degraded or dismissed with specific reasons in each case since Mr. Ascoli's departure,

(iii) the names and educational qualifications of the persons who were appointed in their places,

(iv) the names and educational qualifications of the persons who were appointed on six months' probation by Mr. Ascoli, but not confirmed even after two years, with specific reason in each case why they were not confirmed after the probationary period,

(v) the names and educational qualifications of persons who were recruited after those mentioned in (iv) above, but confirmed before them?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to make a searching enquiry into the matter if answers to the above questions reveal grave irregularities?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) 1925.**

(b) (i) Babu R. L. Mukherji, M.Sc.

Babu Ajit Narain Chowdhury, M.Sc.

Babu Prodyot K. Sen Gupta, B.A.

Babu Serajuddin Ahmad, B.Sc.

Babu Sudhansu Sekhar Bannerje, B.A., B.L.

Babu Sanat K Chatterjee, B.A.

Babu Kanti Bh. Mozumdar, B.A.

Babu Mohammad Meah, B.A.

Babu Mohammad Roshan Ali, B.A.

Babu Mohammad Nazmul Alam, B.A.

Babu Mohuddin Ahmad, B.A.

Babu Nagendra N. Chakraburty, B.A.

Babu Rakhal Das Gupta, Matric.

Babu Sachjiban Goswamy, B.A.

Babu Nanda Dulal Chatterji, B.A.

Babu Sailendra Nath Chatterjee, B.A. (recruited from the Bengal Secretariat).

Babu Manindra N. Bhanja, Matric.

Babu Fanindra N. Bose, Matric.

Babu Dwijendra Nath Bannerjee (recruited from the office of the Accountant General, Bengal).

Babu Ganendra N. Banerji, B.A.

Babu Promodā R. Banerji, Matric.

Babu Barendra Nath Mitra, Matric.

(ii) No one has been dismissed. Babu Prodyot K. Sen Gupta on probation as assistant was found unsuitable. He was offered a lower grade post which he accepted

(iii) Babu Suprakash Pal, Matriculate, clerk, grade I, was promoted in the vacancy caused.

(iv) Owing to the issue of the orders that the Stamp Branch would be abolished in 1926 none of those mentioned in (b) (i) above except Babu R. L. Mukherji, M.Sc., a chemical assistant, and Babu Dwijendra Nath Bannerjee was confirmed directly after the probationary period. Subsequently with the exception of *two* men all were confirmed when it was found that it would be possible to absorb them in the other branches of the Stationery and Printing Department on the abolition of the Stamp Office. The two men, *viz.*, Babus Rakhal Das Gupta and Ganendra Nath Banerji were not confirmed for reasons of health.

(v) Babus Triguna Ch. Chakraburty, B.A., and Sourindra N. Roy, Matric.

(c) There were no irregularities and consequently the question does not arise.

**EMPLOYMENT IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMPS OFFICE OF RELATIVES OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND HEAD ASSISTANTS.**

199. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state, whether it is a fact that each employee under Government is required to submit a periodical return stating the number of relatives he has in the same Department?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say whether any such returns are regularly submitted by the employees in the offices under the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps?

(c) Is it a fact that the Superintendent and the Head Assistants of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office have a large number of relatives in that department?

(d) Is it a fact that in most cases these relatives have not the prescribed educational qualifications?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to enquire into the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a)—(d). No.

(e) The necessity for such an enquiry does not arise.

**NAMES AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF ASSISTANTS AND CLERKS RECRUITED FOR THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE IN 1925, ETC.**

200. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that only establishment cases are dealt with by the Superintendent of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office?

(b) Is it a fact that the establishment cases are never submitted to the Assistant Controller of that Office?

(c) Is it a fact that the Superintendent when he officiated as Assistant Controller dealt with all establishment cases which cropped up at that time?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the names and educational qualifications of the (1) assistants and clerks recruited on probation for six months in 1925 or earlier, but not yet confirmed and (2) assistants and clerks recruited after 1925, who were confirmed and allowed to draw higher salaries, showing specific reasons in each case?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to examine all cases of appointments, confirmations and non-confirmations during 1925 to 1927, if the answer to the above questions reveal grave irregularities?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a), (b) and (c). No.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question 198 (b) (iv) and (v).

(e) Does not arise.

**DUTIES OF THE HEAD ASSISTANTS OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES AND SECTIONS OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE.**

201. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether the Head

Assistants of the different branches and sections of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office have to supervise the work of the assistants under them and pass the cases disposed of by them direct to the Deputy Controller or the Assistant Controller for orders and approval."

(b) Is it a fact that these Head Assistants are primarily responsible for the work of the branches and sections under them?

(c) Is it a fact that only establishment cases are dealt with by the Superintendent of that office?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Yes, but important cases have to be submitted through the Superintendent.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

#### DUTIES OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE.

202. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the duties required to be performed by the Superintendent of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office?

(b) Is it a fact that the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps has recently suggested the abolition of the post of the Superintendent in the Central Stationery and Stamp Office?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The Superintendent is in general charge of the office establishment and the General Branch of the office is under his direct supervision. Documents such as bills for payment supplies, vouchers for supplies, all shipping documents, all delivery vouchers and orders, reminders, requisitions and other important cases are dealt with by him. Recommendations for promotion and leave, etc., of all men are submitted to officers through the Superintendent who sees that the rules and regulations are being observed. The attendance registers of all branches including those of the durwans, *farashes*, sweepers and *bhisties* are submitted to him. The Superintendent supervises the working of all branches and is responsible for the correct observance of the office procedure. He also arranges for the distribution to branches of all letters and cases. He checks the service stamp account and has many other duties of a miscellaneous nature.

(b) No. The Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps has suggested the conversion of the post into that of an Assistant Controller on account of the responsible nature of the duties involved.

#### OFFICIATING ARRANGEMENTS MADE IN THE CHAINS OF MR. E. E. COOMBS, CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS AND MR. G. W. COSTER, DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY AND STAMPS, WHEN THEY PROCEEDED ON LEAVE.

203. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state the date when:

(i) **Mr. G. W. Coster**, the Deputy Controller of Stationery and Stamps, went away on leave in 1927:

(ii) Mr. D. D. Mazumder, the Assistant Controller of Stationery and Stamp was appointed to officiate as the Deputy Controller of Stationery and Stamps; and

(iii) Rai Saheb A. C. Chunder, the Superintendent of Stationery and Stamps Office, was appointed to officiate as the Assistant Controller of Stationery and Stamps?

(b) Is it a fact that no officiating arrangement was made for the post of the Assistant Controller of Stationery and Stamps so long as Mr. C. T. Letton officiated as the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps?

(c) Is it a fact that after the return of Mr. E. E. Coombs, the permanent Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, from leave, the officiating arrangement was made for the post of the Assistant Controller of Stationery and Stamps with retrospective effect?

(d) Is it a fact that during the period the post of the Assistant Controller remained vacant, the Offg. Deputy Controller of Stationery and Stamps had to carry on the work of the Deputy Controller as well as of the Assistant Controller?

(e) Is it a fact that during the period the post of the Assistant Controller of Stationery and Stamps remained vacant, no work of the Assistant Controller was done by the Superintendent?

(f) Is it a fact that during that period the Superintendent attended office late in the afternoon as he had to carry on propaganda work in connection with his election as Commissioner of the Tollygunge Municipality?

(g) If the answer to questions (e) and (f) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to explain the significance of the appointment of the Superintendent of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office as the officiating Assistant Controller of Stationery and Stamps, with retrospective effect?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) (i), (ii) and (iii). 12th October 1927.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). No.

(g) Does not arise.

**CONTRACT WITH MESSRS. BIRD AND CO. FOR THE SUPPLY OF COOLIES TO THE CENTRAL STATIONERY AND STAMP OFFICE.**

204. **Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state when Messrs. Bird and Co. were given the contract to supply coolie labourers in the Central Stationery and Stamp Office?

(b) Will he be pleased to state the number of coolies the Company are authorised to send every day?

(c) Is it a fact that a good number of temporary coolies are every day regularly engaged over and above the number of coolies sent by the Company?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to put up a statement showing the number of temporary coolies thus engaged month by month during 1925 to 1927 and the amount expended on this account?

(e) Will he be pleased to state the reason why steps were not taken to get the sanctioned number of permanent coolies increased to avoid the regular engagement of temporary coolies?

(f) Is it a fact that the man in charge of the coolie labour is paid from the establishment of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office?

(g) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether there is any system of check to guard against the appropriation of the amount drawn on account of temporary coolie hire, without their actual engagement?

(h) If the answer to the above question be in the negative, will he be pleased to state what method he contemplates to introduce to guard against the misappropriation of coolie hire in this way?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) In 1916.

(b) Thirty-four.

(c) Yes.

(d)

	1925-26.		1926-27.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		Rs. A.		Rs. A.
April . . . . .	239	209 2	268	234 8
May . . . . .	320	280 0	309	270 6
June . . . . .	220	192 8	218	190 12
July . . . . .	400	350 0	165	144 6
August . . . . .	282	246 12	195	170 10
September . . . . .	187	163 10	305	266 14
October . . . . .	399	349 2	277	242 6
November . . . . .	642	561 12	449	392 14
December . . . . .	578	505 12	96	84 0
January . . . . .	651	569 10	174	152 4
February . . . . .	436	381 8	166	145 4
March . . . . .	620	542 8	483	422 10

(e) The total number of labourers required in the Central Stationery and Stamp Office varies from day to day, and it is therefore necessary to employ temporary labourers in addition to permanent labourers. The question of increasing the number of permanent labourers is receiving consideration.

(f) No.

(g) Payment for coolies both permanent and temporary is made to Messrs. Bird and Co., by cheque monthly. No cooly is paid in cash by the Stationery Office.

(h) Does not arise.

) )

**TRANSFER OF THE CONTROL AND ARRANGEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT CASES  
FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE ASSISTANT CONTROLLER OF THE  
STATIONERY AND STAMP DEPARTMENT.**

205. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office controls the appointments, transfers and promotions of all assistants in different grades in the three offices in Calcutta of the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps?

(b) Is it a fact that an assistant was given an appointment in the Forms Store Department on the ground that he served temporarily in the Stationery Office, but on enquiry the Deputy Controller of Forms found out that the candidate thus sent never worked in the Stationery Office?

(c) If the answer to the above question be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take to prevent the recurrence of such irregularities?

(d) Does he propose to transfer the control and management of the establishment cases from the hands of the Superintendent to the Assistant Controller of the Stationery and Stamp Department?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) and (b). No.

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

**GRANT OF PENSION OR COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE TO MR. V. VENKATASWAMY NAIDU, LATE HEAD CLERK, TRAFFIC BRANCH, POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, MADRAS.**

206. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. V. Venkataswamy Naidu, Head Clerk, Traffic Branch, Postmaster-General's Office, Madras, put in nearly 30 years of service and that he was dismissed from service on suspicion on 2nd July 1919?

(b) Is it a fact that the dismissal order was passed without holding a regular inquiry in the necessary judicial form?

(c) Did the Director-General withhold his appeal petition to His Excellency the Viceroy on the ground of two months' delay, although it was pointed out that the delay was due to a series of domestic calamities and his sickness for which he produced medical certificates? If so, was not this done contrary to the principles laid down in Madras Board's Standing Order No. 133 touching the punishment of subordinates?

(d) Are Government prepared to call for the records and to consider the question of granting him a pension or at least compassionate allowance?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Mr. Naidu had about 30 years' service. He was not dismissed on suspicion.



(b) The dismissal order was passed on the 1st July 1919 after observing the formalities prescribed in this respect by the rules of the Department.

(c) The petition to His Excellency the Viceroy which was withheld by the Director-General was submitted more than 2 years after the date of the communication of the Director-General's orders appealed against. The explanation of the delay in submission of the petition was not considered satisfactory by the Director-General. The Madras Board's Standing Order No. 133 referred to does not apply to the disposal of appeals or petitions by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. I would add that in awarding the punishment, the previous service rendered by Mr. Naidu was fully taken into consideration.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

#### ALLEGED DEATH FROM SNAKE-BITE OF JATINDRA BHATTACHARYA, A DETENU.

207. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the *Statesman* of November 23rd, 1927, page 7, under the heading "Commons questions"?

(b) If so, is the statement made therein that Lord Winterton promised to enquire whether the detenu Jatindra Bhattacharya died from snake-bite correct?

(c) Are the Government aware whether the detenu Jatindra Bhattacharya actually died from snake-bite; and if not, will they please inquire into the matter and communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar:** (a) I have seen the article referred to.

(b) Yes.

(c) Jatindra Bhattacharji was not bitten by a snake and is in good health.

#### SUICIDE OF AMBIKA CHARAN KHAN, A DETENU.

208. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the *Statesman* of November 23rd, page 7, under the heading "Detenu's suicide"?

(b) If so, is the statement made therein correct?

(c) Are Government aware whether the detenu Ambika Charan Khan left a statement in connection with his suicide?

(d) If so, will they please lay the said statement on the table?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar:** (a) I have seen the article referred to.

(b) Enquiries were made by the Secretary of State.

(c) and (d). Ambika Charan Khan committed suicide in April 1926. The authorities who enquired into the matter found no statement among his effects.

#### RECRUITMENT OF SEAMEN AT CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY.

209. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph in the *Statesman* of November 23rd, 1927, page 7, under the heading "Recruitment of seamen"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state if Lord Birkenhead has asked them what action was proposed to be taken in connection with the scheme submitted by Captain Darvell?

(d) If they have been asked by Lord Birkenhead on the subject, will they please state if they have given any reply?

(e) If they have replied, will they please lay the reply on the table?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) Government have seen the Paragraph.

(b) to (e). Captain Darvell was appointed Shipping Master at Calcutta on the 2nd December, 1924. He has since submitted various reports on the recruitment of seamen at Calcutta. As a result of these reports, the Government have strengthened the staff of the Shipping Office by the appointment of a senior officer of the Bengal Civil Service as Assistant Shipping Master, and have started an employment register of serangs. Similar steps are being taken at Bombay. The Secretary of State is being informed accordingly.

#### SEPARATE OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

210. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government considered the scheme received from the Honourable the President of the Legislative Assembly regarding the separate establishment for the Legislative Assembly (*vide* Government reply to starred question 37 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 18th August 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision to the House?

(c) If not, will they please state when they are likely to come to a decision on the subject?

**Mr. L. Graham:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 20th February, 1928, to Mr. B. Das' starred question No. 254.

#### CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN ASSAM AND THE UNITED PROVINCES.

211. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Are Government aware of the reasons for the vast difference in the consumption of opium between the provinces of Assam and United Provinces—the former being 44·21 and the latter being 4·85 in the year 1925-26, as shown in the statement laid on the table in reply to unstarred question 24 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 18th August 1927?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to state the reasons?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The relatively high rate of consumption in Assam is mainly due to the physical conditions of the province and the traditional habits and customs of the people.

#### APPEALS IN RENT SUITS UNDER SECTION 153 OF THE BENGAL TENANCY ACT.

212. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the information been received from the Local Governments with regard to appeals in rent suits under section 153 of the Bengal Tenancy Act as referred to in

unstarred question 44 and the Government reply in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 18th August 1927?

(b) If so, will they please lay it on the table for the information of the Members?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** A statement containing the information required is laid on the table.

*Statement showing the number of appeals preferred in rent suits in the High Court and District Courts under the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, during the years 1925 and 1926.*

Province.	Year.	High Court.		District Courts.	
		Number of appeals valued above Rs. 100.	Number of appeals valued above Rs. 200.	Number of appeals valued above Rs. 50.	Number of appeals valued above Rs. 100.
Bengal . . . . .	1925	112	106	1,069	1,033
	1926	93	85	1,211	1,250
Bihar . . . . .	1925	114	128	755	1,508
	1926	94	150	924	1,574

#### DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIAN STUDENTS AT GLASGOW, DUNDEE AND ABERDEEN.

213. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "I shall certainly make further inquiries in the direction suggested by the Honourable Member" to the fourth supplementary question to starred question 54 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd August 1927, will Government please state if they have made the inquiries?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar:** (a) Yes.

(b) It has been ascertained that no discrimination of any kind has been made on racial grounds by the University authorities of any of the cities in question. It is understood that during the session of 1925-26 Indian students were for a time refused admission to certain places of amusement in Glasgow, but the exclusion soon stopped and has not since been repeated. In Dundee some years ago the speeches of an Indian student created a certain amount of prejudice against the Indian student community, which persisted for a while but has disappeared. No difficulties of any kind have occurred at Aberdeen.

**PAUCITY OF RECRUITS FOR THE ARMY FROM BIHAR AND ORISSA.**

**214. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to the question of paucity of recruits for the Army from Bihar and Orissa, will Government please state if recruits for the Army from any other province except Bihar and Orissa have been discontinued (*vide* supplementary question to starred question 57 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd August 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please state the names of the provinces in which the recruitment has been discontinued?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) and (b) Bengal is the only other province from which recruitment for the Indian Army has been discontinued.

**SAFETY OF THE ROOF OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER IN NEW DELHI.**

**215. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "No final conclusions on that subject have yet been arrived at" to supplementary question to starred question 58 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd August 1927, will Government please state if they have finally arrived at any conclusion on that subject?

(b) If so, will Government please lay it on the table?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No final conclusion has been arrived at as the question of the additional requirements in the matter of office accommodation for the Government of India and offices of the Local Administration is being examined in the light of this year's experience.

**DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS.**

**216. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if a conference of representatives of Local Governments have met to discuss the question of road developments as proposed by the Government in their statement laid on the table with reference to starred question 102 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd August 1927?

(b) If so, will they please state the decision they have arrived at?

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

(b) The Conference agreed to the appointment of the Road Development Committee with the terms of reference subsequently announced in the Commerce Department Resolution No. 489-T. (1), dated the 3rd November, 1927, which was published in the Gazette of India of the 5th November, 1927.

REMOVAL OF VALUABLE RELICS FROM THE MUSEUM AT PATNA TO THE  
MUSEUM AT CALCUTTA.

217. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to the starred question 103 regarding the removal of valuable relics from the museum at Patna to the museum at Calcutta, in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd August 1927, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision as a result of the correspondence of the Director General of Archæology with the Government of Bihar and Orissa?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision for the information of the House?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) The question is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

EXPENDITURE ON THE CREW SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS.

218. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Are Government in a position to state what was the average number of passengers travelling without tickets before the introduction of the crew system within the jurisdiction of each of the Divisional Superintendents where the crew system is now in force?

(b) What is the extra expense which the Company has to undergo owing to the introduction of the crew system?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) No.

(b) I am obtaining the information and will have it sent to the Honourable Member.

EXTENSION OF THE CREW SYSTEM TO THE DINAPORE DIVISION, EAST  
INDIAN RAILWAY.

219. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Do Government consider the necessity of introducing the crew system within the railway jurisdiction of the Divisional Superintendent, Dinapore, East Indian Railway?

(b) If not, have Government satisfied themselves that the number of passengers travelling without tickets within the jurisdiction of the Divisional Superintendent, Dinapore, is *nil* or less than the number of similar passengers in those places where the crew system is in force?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). Government are not aware of any immediate intention on the part of the Agent of the East Indian Railway to extend the crew system to the Dinapore Division; they have no figures by divisions of passengers travelling without tickets which would enable them to answer the second part of the Honourable Member's question.

## THE CREW SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS.

220. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the final trial of the crew system has been completed (*vide* Government reply to my starred question 272 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 24th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please state if the posts of the crew have been confirmed where this system is in force?

(c) Do they propose to introduce this system on other Government Railways?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The system has been introduced in a modified form on the Eastern Bengal Railway and is being introduced on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for a period of six months.

## THE CREW SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS.

221. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state if the crew system exists in other British Dominions besides India or in foreign countries?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have no information on the point.

## ACTION ON THE REPORT OF THE SKEEN COMMITTEE.

222. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the final decision on the recommendations of the Indian Sandhurst Committee has been reached (*vide* Government reply to starred question 109 regarding the Skeen Committee's Report in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will Government please state what action they intend to take with regard to the Skeen Committee's report?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will make an announcement on the 8th March.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE REGARDING SOCIAL INSURANCE.

223. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question 111 asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August, 1927, regarding the recommendations of the International Labour Conference regarding social insurance, will Government please state if they have received the report of the Delegates to the Conference and the authentic copies of the draft Conventions and Recommendations?

(b) If so, are Government in a position to state what action they intend to take regarding the recommendations of the International Labour Conference in connection with social insurance?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The matter is under consideration and the Government of India hope to move a Resolution on the subject during the present Session.

**EXTENSIONS OF THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY TO ARAMBAGH AND BURDWAN.**

224. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to extend the Bankura Damodar River Railway towards Arambagh on the south and Burdwan on the north from Sehera? Was there any proposal for such extension by the managing agent of the Railway? If so, what is the decision of the Government about the same?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bankura Damodar River Railway does not yield the guaranteed dividend and that Government have to contribute to the Railway for the guaranteed dividend? If so, will the Government be pleased to enquire whether the above proposed extension will make the Railway yield more income?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) Government do not propose to make the extensions mentioned at present. The Managing Agents of the Railway have proposed an extension from Sehera to Burdwan which has been opposed by the Government of Bengal on the ground that no obstruction to the flow of flood water over the country on the right bank of the Damodar river can be permitted. Government have therefore not included this extension in their present construction programme.

(b) The Bankura-Damodar River Railway has not yielded the guaranteed dividend since 1917-18. If the extension southward to Arambagh would be remunerative, the Managing Agents would no doubt have proposed it. Government do not propose to enquire into the prospects of that extension at present.

**ANSWERS TO CERTAIN STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.**

225. **Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the replies to (a) the starred question No. 845 asked in this House on 15th February 1926 and (b) questions Nos. 102 to 106 on 21st February 1927?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 14th February, 1927, to the question (No. 84) by Mr. Amar Nath Dutt. A copy of the reply to question No. 845, asked in this House on the 15th February, 1926, was then laid on the table. It will be found on page 741 of the printed report of the Debates.

(b) For the replies to questions Nos. 104 and 106 the Honourable Member is referred to pages 1047 and 1048 of the printed report of the Debates for the 21st February, 1927. A copy of the replies to questions Nos. 102, 103 and 105 is laid on the table.

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*Reply to question No. 102 by Mr. Amar Nath Dutt in the Delhi Session of the Legislative Assembly in 1927.*

Government are not prepared to discuss the noting in their office records. The following information, however, is given with reference to the various heads of the question:

(a) and (b). The original orders revising the pay of the A and B class clerks prescribed different methods of determining the admission of the

various classes to the revised rates of pay. Under the strict application of these orders it was found that certain clerks would actually suffer a loss in consequence of the change and these were given special concessions to prevent this result. The late Babu B. B. Bose and two other A class clerks who were affected in the same way were not at first covered by the orders granting the special concession but on a review of their cases they were subsequently admitted to it.

(c) It is not a fact that adversely affected cases were remedied only in respect of a few fortunate men. A concession was allowed by Government in every case in which the orders affected clerks adversely as explained above.

(d) The mode of regulating pay in the revised scales was definitely laid down in the final orders of the Government of India, who, in this respect, decided to depart from the recommendation of the Booth Committee.

(e) Clerks substantively in the old "A" class on the date of the Government order (16th September 1921) were brought on to the revised "A" class scale with effect from the 1st March 1921; but the total clerical strength of the "A" and "B" classes as fixed by Government was actually given effect to from the 1st March 1922, by the promotion of 54 'B' class clerks to the 'A' class.

(f) Acting allowance drawn under the former graded rates of pay was not taken into account either in the case of the 'A' class clerks or in the case of the 'B' class clerks, except in a few cases in which it was allowed for in order to save those concerned from actual loss.

(g) The recommendations of the Booth Committee were not accepted in full by the Government of India and different methods were laid down for the fixation of pay in the revised time-scales.

It may be added that the net effect of the orders issued to which reference has been made was that no individual clerk was adversely affected.

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*Reply to question No. 103 by Mr. Amar Nath Dutt in the Delhi Session of the Legislative Assembly in 1927.*

(a) Government are not prepared to discuss the noting in their office records. The following information is, however, given with reference to the points under head (b) of the Honourable Member's question, and to head (c).

(b)—(1) and (2). The original orders of Government were relaxed in favour of several A class clerks and also in the case of two B class clerks, with the object of saving these from actual loss which would otherwise have been entailed by the strict application of the orders.

(b) (3) Government do not propose to make any further concession in connection with these orders. The cases of the B cadre clerks referred to are entirely different in that no loss was entailed in their case.



(b) (4) and (5). The cases were not "shelved" as suggested. They were carefully examined and it was found that no real grievances existed as there was no loss of emoluments.

(c) The statement asked for is attached.

Name of clerks.	Service in February 1921.	Pay with allowance.	Pay that would have been fixed on 1st March 1921 if acting allowance had been taken into account.	Pay actually fixed in March 1921 and percentage of increase granted on (3).
1	2	3	4	5
	Years.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>(i) Those who are still in the B cadre.</i>				
T. C. Banerji . . . . .	15	76	100	88 ; 16 per cent.
A. T. Bhattacharji . . . . .	24	76	100	88 ; 16 "
M. N. Choudhury . . . . .	15	66	88	74 ; 12 "
N. L. Das . . . . .	14	66	88	74 ; 12 "
P. B. Mitra . . . . .	7	55	77	59 ; 7 "
A. N. Bose . . . . .	7	55	77	59 ; 7 "
H. R. Choudhury . . . . .	6	55	77	59 ; 7 "
K. C. Guha Biswas . . . . .	6	55	77	59 ; 7 "
K. C. Bhattacharji . . . . .	6	65	77	59 ; 7 "
M. Sifatullah . . . . .	4	55	77	59 ; 7 "
M. A. Rasheed . . . . .	3	55	77	59 ; 7 "
Haridas Datta . . . . .	3	55	77	59 ; 7 "
S. C. Mitra . . . . .	17	55	77	59 ; 7 "
Q. D. Ahmed . . . . .	3	55	77	59 ; 7 "
M. K. A. Bashir . . . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 "
B. B. Datta . . . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 "
A. Selahuddin . . . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 "
M. G. M. Butt . . . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 "
H. N. Varma . . . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 "
M. A. Ghani . . . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 "
H. N. Shome Choudhury . . . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 "

Name of clerks.	Service in February 1921.	Pay with allowance.	Pay that would have been fixed on 1st March 1921 if acting allowance had been taken into account.	Pay actually fixed in March 1921 and percentage of increase granted on (3).
1	2	3	4	5
	Years.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(ii) <i>Others correspondingly of the same category but transferred from B to A cadre in March 1922.</i>				
H. L. Banerji . . .	18	76	100	88 ; 16 per cent.
J. G. Paul . . .	15	76	100	88 ; 16 ..
H. C. Chatterji . . .	14	66	88	74 ; 12 ..
Y. C. Adhicary . . .	14	66	88	74 ; 12 ..
L. K. Bose . . .	14	66	88	74 ; 12 ..
B. N. Sinha . . .	14	84	112	84 Nil.
H. C. Bhattacharji . . .	14	66	88	74 ; 12 per cent.
B. K. Ghose . . .	9	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
D. N. Bose . . .	7	55	77	59 ; 7 ,
N. B. Mukerji . . .	7	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
S. C. Bhattacharji . . .	6	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
A. Dutta . . .	5	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
P. C. Basu . . .	5	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
N. Chandra . . .	3	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
S. C. Banerji . . .	3	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
M. A. Khan . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 ..
K. C. Motilal . . .	2	55	77	59 ; 7 ..

Reply to question No. 105 by Mr. Amar Nath Dutt in the Delhi Session of the Legislative Assembly in 1927.

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Rule 156 (4) provides that ordinarily all personal claims should be audited finally within six months of the date of payment. Rule 157 (b) of Audit Code does not apply in these cases as the bills were not admitted in Audit.

The Financial Adviser's ruling reproduced by the Honourable Member was in connection with the fixation of pay in the time-scales and had no bearing on travelling allowance.

(d) and (e). The bills which were prepared and cashed at Simla or Delhi were required to be sent down to the Audit Office at Calcutta for post audit, when the objection in question was raised. As this objection was in accordance with the rules, the Director-General saw no justification for challenging it, nor did he consider it necessary to have the matter placed before the Auditor General.

(f) There was only a single appeal which was rejected on the ground that the concessions asked for were inadmissible.

REVISED SCALES OF PAY OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

226. **Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta:** (a) With reference to the replies to part (c) of the starred question No. 846 in the Assembly on 15th February 1926 will the Government be pleased to say the reason for their statement that "there was no petition before Government" when the Director General's recommendations on the particular petition were actually before the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour through the F. A., P. & T. for sanction of certain concessions to the clerks of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs?

(b) Is it a fact that long before the petition referred to in part (b) of starred question No. 846 of 15th February 1926, *i.e.*, in August, 1924, the clerks of the Director General's office had submitted a memorial to H. E. the Viceroy?

(c) Is it a fact that since then the Government were delaying consideration on the prayers of the memorialists and that only last year the Government obtained approval of the Standing Finance Committee to the expenditure of Rs. 10,000 only with a view to granting revision of the scales of pay for the staff of that office?

(d) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the different prayers of the staff embodied in their memorials of 1924 and that in their subsequent joint petition submitted last year to the Director General in Simla side by side with the Government proposals granting ameliorations to their grievances within the sanctioned amount?

(e) Have the staff of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, been proposed to be given in the Government sanction to be issued the benefit of their services in the proposed time scales for the present incumbents as in the case of the staff of the offices referred to in part (a) of question No. \*844 of 15th February 1926? -If not, why not?

(f) Have Government proposed to fix the pay of the staff of that office in the revised scales (1) by bringing them on to the new scales in the same way as placing them in the same positions as stated in answer to part (d) (2) of question No. \*844 on 15th February 1926 and (2) or by regulating or determining their pay in the revised scales under Fundamental Rule 22 (a), Fundamental Rule 23 and Fundamental Rule 1926? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) I should be obliged if the Honourable Member would furnish me with the precise authority for his assertion which challenges the accuracy of my previous statement.

(b) A petition to H. E. the Viceroy for the revision of their scales of pay was submitted to the Director-General by the clerks of his office in August 1924.

(c) The Director-General was not in favour of any general revision of pay until the move of the office from Calcutta to Delhi had taken place. This move began in October, 1926; and in connection with the Budget for 1926-27 Government dealt with the question of revision of pay of clerks in the Director-General's office along with allied questions of revision of pay of other postal subordinates. The proposals of Government were placed before the Standing Finance Committee in January 1927 and were approved by them. In consequence a sum of Rs. 10,000 was included in the current year's estimates for giving effect to the proposals.

(d) A statement giving the required information in regard to the memorials of 1924 and the subsequent joint petition, together with the copies of orders of Government in regard to revision of rates and concessions granted in connection with the move, is being sent to the Honourable Member.

(e) and (f). Under the proposals of Government accepted by the Standing Finance Committee the clerks concerned would be brought on to the revised scales strictly in accordance with the Fundamental Rules. This is the arrangement now invariably followed in all revisions of pay.

#### PAY OF CLERKS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

227. **Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government have ignored totally the very strong recommendations of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, on the joint petition of the clerks of his office in August last praying for fixation of their pay in the manner prayed for in the revised time scales, the expenditure being within the amount sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee last year?

(b) Is it a fact that the Director General before making those recommendations consulted a deputation representing the staff of his office as to whether their prayers made in their joint petition last year in Simla would remove their grievances once and for all as he wanted a contented and not a discontented staff?

(c) Is it a fact that again after making his recommendations finally to Government he vouchsafed his very sympathetic assurance to his staff?

(d) Is it a fact that after so much the Government have turned down the Director General's recommendations on the ground that nothing could be done for those "unfortunate victims of the circumstances" at this distant date?

(e) If so, will the Government be pleased to say (1) from whom those "unfortunate victims of the circumstances" will seek for sympathy and redress of their grievances? and (2) is it, therefore, the intention of Government that the staff, who have been brought up from Calcutta should thus suffer in a foreign land far off from their homes?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a), (d) and (e). The rates of pay of clerks of the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on the revised time-scales recently sanctioned have been

fixed in accordance with the Fundamental Rules. Government are not prepared to discuss the noting in their office records nor are they prepared to accept the correctness of the implications arising out of the questions.

(b) and (c). Government are informed by the Director-General that the facts are not as stated.

**REVISED SCALES OF PAY FOR THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

228. **Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Government sanction that is under issue granting revised scales of pay for the staff of the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, it has not been proposed to absorb the "personal pay" with their substantive pay on the apprehension that there would be an objection from other quarters, *i.e.*, from the Finance Department?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to explain fully why the old hands among the present incumbents of that office, who are serving for 15 years or more, should thus remain deprived of their annual increments, when there is no hope for them to reach the maximum of their scales of pay? Is not this contrary to the condition of the time-scale of pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (31)?

(c) Is it a fact that the "personal pay" was granted to the present incumbents in "exceptional circumstances, on other personal consideration, *i.e.*, for compulsorily bringing them up with the Director General's office to Delhi from Calcutta, which was not contemplated before 1912? Will Government please say why the personal pay should be absorbed in their future annual increments or in other words deducted in annual instalments?

(d) Why should not the pay of the Director General's office staff be regulated now (as they have come up to Delhi) inconsistent with the principle laid down by the Secretary of State in paragraph 3 of his Despatch No. 107, dated the 22nd September 1911, as referred to in question No. 338 in the Assembly during Delhi session 1921?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to part (a) of the reply given on the 26th February 1926 to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt's starred question No. 1001.

(d) The revision of pay already approved by the Standing Finance Committee is consistent with the principle laid down in the Despatch from the Secretary of State referred to.

**SYSTEM OF RECORDING INTRODUCED IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS BY MR. KING.**

229. **Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to say who Mr. King is in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs?

(b) Is it not a fact that an Assistant Director General's business is to look after only the working of the Branch or Branches in his charge and

is it a fact that the present Deputy Director General is incapable or has not got time to look after the matters and to run the general administration of the Director General's Office?

(c) Is it a fact that the same Mr. King has usurped the rôle of the Deputy Director General and is making various proposals?

(d) Is it a fact that the same Mr. King is inventing various methods of recording, etc., and a German system of records for reorganising the system of the Director General's office, which at the outset have necessitated an appreciable amount of expenditure from the contingent grant of the office?

(e) If so, will the Government be pleased to say how much money has thus been spent during the current financial year on account of the activities of Mr. King?

(f) By whom has he been allowed to show his activities?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) Mr. King is an Assistant Director-General.

(b) An Assistant Director-General is usually in charge of a certain portion of the office work. The present Deputy Director-General to whom is entrusted the administration of the Director-General's office is capable of looking after and has time to look after its general administration.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. It is possible that in the course of his work Mr. King may make proposals to the Deputy Director-General.

(d) It is a fact that under Deputy Director-General's order Mr. King has been examining such a system. There has however been no expenditure at all on that account.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Mr. King has acted on all occasions under orders.

**NUMBER OF MUSLIMS IN THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE AND THE CHIEF AUDITOR'S OFFICE, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, LAHORE.**

230. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) What was the number of Muslim clerks in the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, Lahore, and in the Chief Auditor's Office as compared with other communities prior to the Government of India letter No. F.-176/25-Ests., dated 5th February, 1926?

(b) What is the present number?

(c) What special steps were taken by the recruiting officer of the above offices in carrying out the above order?

(d) What is the number of the clerks recruited after the receipt of the above letter separately from each community?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I propose to reply to question Nos. 230, 233, 234, 235, 236 and 242 together.

I regret that the information is not available. The information in the possession of Government with regard to communal representation on the North Western Railway will be found in Appendix F. in Volume I and Appendix C. in Volume II of the Report on Indian Railways for

1926-27, a copy of which is in the Library. The statistics were formulated in this form after consultation with, and acceptance by, the Central Advisory Council for Railways, and Government do not consider it desirable to supplement them by details regarding individual offices or posts. The policy of the Government of India regarding the representation of minority communities was communicated to the North Western Railway Administration as to other Railway Administrations, and Government have no reason to believe that it is not being carried out by them.

#### NUMBER OF MUSLIM AND HINDU ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS OF STORES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

231. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Muslim and Hindu Assistant Controllers of Stores of the State Railways?

(b) What are their qualifications?

(c) Are Government unable to recruit Muslims possessing similar qualifications?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) Of the Assistant Controllers of Stores on the State Railway establishment, three are Hindus and one is a Muslim.

(b) One was promoted from the subordinate ranks, the remainder were appointed initially as probationers as they appeared likely to make suitable officers.

(c) Direct recruitment to the Superior Stores Department has been discontinued. It is now carried out by transfer of suitable officers from the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Departments. Muslims of these Departments, if found suitable, have an equal chance of appointment to others.

#### NUMBER OF MUSLIM STOCK VERIFIERS.

232. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that no Muslim stock verifier has been appointed since 1918? If not, will the Government state the number of Muslims thus appointed?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Information is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

#### NUMBER OF MUSLIM AND HINDU HEAD CLERKS, SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, LAHORE.

†233. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** 1. Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Muslim and Hindu head clerks, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of the different sections in the headquarters office of the North Western Railway, Lahore?

(b) The number of head clerks in the Personnel Branch of the Headquarters Office and how many of them are Muslims?

† For answer to this question see answer to question No. 230.

2. Is it a fact that no Muslim in pursuance of Government of India Orders has been recruited in the Personnel Branch of the Headquarter Office in spite of the fact that vacancies have been filled by recruitment and by transferring Hindus from other Sections?

**MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE PERSONNEL BRANCH OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICE,  
FEROZEPORE.**

†234. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that in the Personnel Branch of the Divisional Office, Ferozepore, there is not a single Muslim clerk and such of them as were there prior to amalgamation have been shunted off? If so, are the Government prepared to make up the deficiency?

**RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS FOR CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS ON THE NORTH  
WESTERN RAILWAY.**

†235. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that there are 4 Hindu Senior Claims Inspectors and no Muslim?

(b) Is it a fact that both senior and junior Rate Inspectors are Hindus?

(c) Is it a fact that there are 11 junior Claims Inspectors, out of whom 9 are Hindus and 2 Muslims?

(d) Is it a fact that there are 9 senior Claims Tracers, out of whom 7 are Hindus and 2 Muslims? (3 out of these are at Karachi)?

(e) Is it a fact that the Publicity Inspector is a Hindu?

(f) Is it a fact that 3 Claims Supervisors in the Lahore Division are Hindus?

(g) Is it a fact that all Indian Commercial Superintendents are Hindus and no Muslim?

(h) Is it a fact that there is a vacancy of Court Inspector in Karachi Division? If so, are the Government prepared to consider the advisability of appointing a suitable Muslim to the post?

(i) Is it a fact that there are 3 General Transit Inspectors of whom 2 are Hindus and 1 Muslim?

(j) Is it a fact that the general Transit Inspector is a Hindu?

(k) If the reply to the above parts are in the affirmative are the Government prepared to take any action for the recruitment of Muslims for the above posts?

**MUSLIM TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

†236. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Indian Traffic Inspectors and also state the number of Muslims and Hindus? If the number of Muslim Traffic Inspectors is less than the other communities, are the Government prepared to take necessary action to increase the number of the Muslims?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 230.



**PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE ACCOUNTS BRANCH (RAILWAYS).**

237. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that all the Divisional Audit Officers are Hindus and no Muslim? If so, are the Government prepared to take action to remove the paucity of the Muslim element in the Accounts Branch?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** There is no Muslim Divisional Audit Officer, but all are not Hindus. Divisional Audit Officers are either officers of the General List or Assistant Audit Officers. As regards the officers of the General List, the question is covered by the answer to clause (a) of the succeeding question. As regards Assistant Audit Officers, it is impossible at present to transfer Muslim Account Officers from the Civil Department in view of their lack of training in Railway Accounts.

**MUSLIM AUDIT OFFICERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

238. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that all the Audit Officers on the North Western Railway in the C. A.'s Office are Hindus with the exception of one Muslim, who is an Assistant Accounts Officer?

(b) Is it a fact that no office order has so far been issued in C. A.'s Office, North Western Railway, Lahore, for the recruitment of Muslims according to the Government of India Order No. F.-176/25-Est., dated 5th February, 1926? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) Yes. Officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service are liable to transfer all over India, and postings to individual offices are not governed by communal considerations. It so happens, however, that one of the Muslim officers of the Service is at present serving in the North Western Railway.

(b) Recruitment is made under the direction of the Chief Auditor, who is aware of the orders referred to by the Honourable Member. Office orders are for the guidance of the staff and an office order would not ordinarily be issued on a matter of this kind.

**NUMBER OF MUSLIM CLERKS AND CHAPRASSIS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AUDIT OFFICE, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, LAHORE.**

239. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the number of Muslim and Hindu clerks and Muslim and Hindu chaprassis that have been recruited in the Construction Audit Office, North Western Railway, Lahore, since its existence?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The information has been called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

**RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIM CLERKS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL AUDIT OFFICER, QUETTA.**

240. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that the Divisional Audit Officer, Quetta, is recruiting Sindhi Hindus in his office and putting different sorts of trouble in the way of Muslim recruitment? Will the Government be pleased to state what number of Muslim clerks has been recruited by this officer?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The Government have no information, but they are enquiring into the matter and I will communicate with the Honourable Member as soon as possible after the information has come in.

**REDUCTION OF A MUSLIM INSPECTOR OF WORKS AT MALIKWAL, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

241. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that a Muslim (Karimuddin) Inspector of Works at Malikwal, who was selected for the 300 grade, after his 35 years' service has been degraded only 5 months before his retirement by 100 rupees on the confidential report of a Hindu officer (named D. L. Buttra)? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons of depriving the Muslim of the fruit of his 35 years' service doing him this irreparable loss in gratuity and bonus? Is it a fact that he was at one time recommended for the title of Khan Sahab by his officer?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have no knowledge of the facts, and regret that they cannot undertake to enquire into cases of individual officers which are within the competence of the Agent of the Railway.

**NUMBER OF MUSLIM AND HINDU SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICES.**

†242. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the number of Muslim and Hindu Superintendents (Subordinate Service) in the Divisional Superintendents' Offices?

**SUPERSESSION OF TWO MUSLIM CLAIMS INSPECTORS IN THE KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

243. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that Ragu Bans Singh, a senior Claims Inspector in the Karachi Division, superseded two Muslim colleagues of equal qualifications and senior in service? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the special reasons for allowing the supersession?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government have no knowledge of the facts and regret that they cannot undertake to enquire into cases of individual officers which are within the competence of the Agent of the Railway.

**ANSWERS TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS PUT IN THE SEPTEMBER SESSION.**

244. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to give answers to the questions Nos. 1002, 1003 and 1004 put in the last Session on the 13th September, 1927?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** A reply was given to question No. 1002. I am sending the Honourable Member a copy of the information furnished in response to questions 1003 and 1004.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 230.

**FAILURE OF THE SYSTEM OF CHECKING OUTWARD DOCUMENTS IN FORCE IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

245. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Are the Government aware of the fact that the scheme of checking the outward documents in force in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, has already failed in the year 1916; if so, will the Government be pleased to state what were the causes of its failure given by Mr. Indra Narain Kaula, the then Accountant-General, Railways?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The experiment was not a failure. The gentleman mentioned was never Accountant General, Railways.

**TRIAL OF THE SCHEME OF LOCAL GOODS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

246. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that the scheme of local goods has failed on the North Western Railway, Lahore?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why it is proposed to try it again on the East Indian Railway?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**PROMOTION OF MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

247. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Are the Government aware of the great discontent and disappointment prevailing among the Muslim employees in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office on account of the treatment meted out to them in the matter of promotion owing to the paucity of Muslims in the supervising staff?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Government have no reason to believe that this is the case, and are informed by the Director that he has received no such complaints.

**NUMBER OF HINDU, MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN CLERKS, ACCOUNTANTS, ETC., IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED BRANCHES OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

248. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Will the Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the number of Hindu, Muslim and Christian clerks, accountants and sub-heads in the Goods, Coaching, Worked Lines, Military, Miscellaneous, Machines, Dāk, Inspection, and Administration branches of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** As I stated last September in reply to a similar question put by Mr. Abdul Haye, the compilation of the information asked for would involve a great deal of trouble which Government are not prepared to impose on the authorities concerned.

**QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

249. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the minimum qualification required for employment in the clerical staff is Matriculation, First Division?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether this rule has been avoided by recruiting persons as office boys and then promoting them to clerkships in the case of the relatives of the recruiting officer in the last year?

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

(b) No.

**PROMOTION OF AMAR CHAND TO A SUB-HEADSHIP IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

250. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that Amar Chand sub-head is closely related to the Assistant Director of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and he has been given a sub-headship superseding many people senior to him?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** No.

**HINDU AND MUSLIM INSPECTORS OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

251. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu and Muslim Inspectors of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office as it stood on the 1st January, 1928?

(b) Are the Government prepared to consider the advisability of asking those responsible for the recruitment of the staff in the subordinate establishment of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office to abide by the instructions contained in the Government of India Home Department Memorandum No. F-176/25-Ests., dated 5th February, 1926, regarding the recruitment of minority communities?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The instructions of the Government of India regarding recruitment from minority communities are well known to, and are being followed by officers serving under the Railway Department, including the Director of the Clearing Accounts Office. Statistics showing communal representation on railways as a whole are given in successive reports by the Railway Board on the Administration of Indian Railways, but it is not considered desirable to give them for individual offices or appointments in individual offices.

**CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF PAPER, STATIONERY, ETC., TO THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.**

252. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state since when the firm of Khosla Brothers has enjoyed the monopoly of printing work and supplying paper, stationery and other materials to the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) Is there any contract existing between the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and the above-named firm to this effect? If so, what are the terms of the contract, on what date will it terminate and what amount is annually paid to the firm on this account?

(c) Can this work not be undertaken by the Government Press, Delhi, as is done for other Government Departments?

(d) Is it a fact that the proprietor and the Assistant Director are sharing some property and are neighbours in their native place?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) There is no such monopoly.

(b) No.

(c) Government have no reason to doubt this.

(d) No.

#### RECRUITMENT TO THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

253. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the recruitment for the Railway Clearing Accounts Office has been done by an officer belonging to Doaba Bist Jullundur?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for giving preference to people belonging to that very district?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### RECRUITMENT TO THE SUBORDINATE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

254. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that it was advertised in a paper to make recruitment for the subordinate establishment of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office? If so, are the Government aware that it was only advertised in the Punjab Press? If so, was the construction of this office taken as provincial or for State Railways as a whole?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Government understand that there was no such advertisement.

#### SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF MUSLIMS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

255. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the name of the Recruiting Officer of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) Have Government ever noticed the preponderance of only one community in this office?

(c) If so what steps have hitherto been taken by the Government to safeguard the Muslim interests?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) There is no special recruiting officer.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to his question No. 251.

#### AGITATION IN MUSLIM PAPERS AGAINST THE WORKING OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

256. **Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan:** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that there was agitation in the Muslim newspapers on a communal basis?

(b) Are Government aware that series after series of articles were published in the *Muslim Outlook*, *Young Muslim*, *Inqulab*, *Mobullag*, and *Allaman*?

(c) If so, was any action taken by the Government?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 1st February to a somewhat similar question put by Haji Abdoolla Haroon.

#### ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE STATION MASTER OF MEERUT CITY STATION.

257. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government received a report from the Agent, North Western Railway, regarding the action taken against the station master of Meerut City Station (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 254 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of the report on the table?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

258. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government received any report with regard to the investigation by an officer of the Education Department into the case of education of railway employees' children (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 264 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will Government please state what action has been taken by them regarding the grievances of the railway employees?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given in this Assembly to a similar question asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 1st February 1928.

#### MANUFACTURE IN INDIA OF ARTICLES IN COMMON USE ON RAILWAYS.

259. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to my starred question No. 274 regarding manufacture in India of articles in common use on Railways in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have considered the report? If so, will they please communicate the result to this House?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to his unstarred question No. 148 on the 1st March 1928 and to the Bill to provide for the modification of certain import duties relating to the protection of the steel industry in British India introduced in this House on the same date.

#### AIRSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND INDIA VIA EGYPT.

260. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to my starred question No. 297 on the 24th August, 1927, will Government please state if the auxiliary services have been completed as anticipated by them?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer is in the affirmative.

## LOCATION OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY.

261. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to the question of the location of the Imperial Library and the Government reply to my starred question No. 300 on the 24th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision to this House?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

## PAY OF TEMPORARY INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

262. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Are Government in a position to explain the reasons of difference between the scales of pay of Indians who are offered Rs. 500 only and those recruited in England as temporary officers in the Indian Medical Service (*vide* Government reply to third supplementary question to starred question No. 369 on the 25th August, 1927)?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies I gave on the 2nd September last to Diwan Chaman Lall's starred questions Nos. 798 to 800 and 805 to 807, in which I fully explained the position with regard to temporary officers of the Indian Medical Service.

## INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON THE LINES OF THE RECENT MERCHANDISE MARKS LEGISLATION IN ENGLAND.

263. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The question is under the consideration of the Government" to starred question No. 371 on the 25th August, 1927, will they please state if they have considered the matter regarding introduction of legislation on the lines of the recent Merchandise Marks legislation in England?

(b) If so, what action have they taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my speech on the motion in this House by Mr. K. C. Neogy on the 9th February 1928 that the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon.

## CLAIMS OF THE POSTAL RECRUITED TELEGRAPHISTS.

264. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state under what section and Act they have withheld the memorial submitted by the General Secretary of the All-India Telegraph Union regarding the claims of the postal recruited telegraphists?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The memorial referred to is assumed to be that dated the 3rd May 1927 and was withheld by the Government of India under Rule XI (13) of the Rules for the submission of memorials to the Secretary of State, which rules have received statutory confirmation under section 96 (B) of the Government of India Act.

**REVISION OF THE PAY OF THE LOWER SUBORDINATE STAFF ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.**

265. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply, "The revision of the rate is still under the consideration of the South Indian Railway Company" to starred question No. 384 on the 25th August, 1927, will Government please state if the pay of the lower subordinate staff has been revised?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this House on 15th February 1928 to Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar's question No. 73.

**ENQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF THE MUSLIM UNIVERSITY AT ALIGARH.**

266. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Have Government received any statement from H. H. the Chancellor of the University regarding the enquiry into the working of the Muslim University at Aligarh (*vide* Government reply to my starred question No. 443(4) on the 25th August, 1927)?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** No.

**ATTACHMENT OF LAVATORIES TO THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS CARRIAGES OF TRAINS RUNNING BETWEEN MEERUT CITY AND KHURJA JUNCTION.**

267. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please inquire if the Agent, East Indian Railway, has paid any attention to the copy forwarded by the Government of India for suggesting the attachment of lavatories to the first and second class carriages of trains running between Meerut City and Khurja Junction (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 446 on the 25th August, 1927)?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Small local matters of this kind must be left to the Agent to decide, and Government regret that they cannot undertake to make enquiries about them.

**OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF RAILWAY UNIONS.**

268. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The matter is under consideration" to my starred question No. 349 (c) on the 25th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have finally arrived at any decision?

(b) If so, do Government propose to direct them to do so in the matter of official recognition of railway Unions?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 1st February 1928 to Mr. Joshi's starred question No. 42.

**REVISION OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT.**

269. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government arrived at any decision in connection with the revision of the Railways Act (*vide* Government reply to my starred question No. 353 on the 25th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.



## INTRODUCTION OF THE SHIFT SYSTEM OF WORK IN MINES.

270. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state if the Bill regarding the introduction of the shift system of work in Indian mines introduced in the last Session was passed (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 389 on the 25th August, 1927)?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee of this House on the 13th February last.

## SLAVERY IN BURMA.

271. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The question of publishing the Burma Government's report is under consideration. If published a copy will be placed in the Library" to starred question No. 398 (b) on the 25th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have considered the reports?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of the report on the table?

**Sir Denys Bray:** The report was communicated to the Press by the Burma Government on the 9th December last. A copy has been placed in the Library.

## STATUS OF INDIANS IN FIJI.

272. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Are Government in a position to lay on the table the result of the enquiries made by them on the subject of the status of Indians in Fiji as replied by Mr. G. S. Bajpai, to starred question No. 422 on the 25th August, 1927?

(b) With reference to part (b) of the question No. 422 on the 25th August, 1927, will Government please state if the correspondence on the subject has been completed? If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) and (b). The reply of the Fiji Government has been received only within the last few days, and is being examined. Government regret that it is not possible for them, at this stage, to lay the correspondence on the table.

## PREVENTION OF OPIUM SMOKING IN BIHAR AND ORISSA, ETC.

273. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "Proposals to prohibit such smoking and to introduce a system of registration and rationing are still under consideration by the Government of Bihar and Orissa" to starred question No. 429 on the 25th August, 1927, will Government please obtain the information from the Government of Bihar and Orissa, if they have arrived at any decision regarding the abuse of opium?

(b) Will Government please ask the Governments of Madras and Bombay in regard to their proposals in this connection and furnish the information to the House?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** An Act prohibiting opium smoking in Bihar and Orissa except by registered smokers has since been passed. It will come into force on such date as the Local Government may appoint. The legislation proposed by the Madras Government is still under their

consideration. The Government of Bombay are also still considering measures to bring about the ultimate suppression of opium smoking in the Presidency.

**REVISION OF THE PENSIONS OF THE MENIAL STAFF IN SOME GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.**

274. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government arrived at any decision regarding the question of the revision of the pensions of the menial staff in some Government Departments (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 481 on the 25th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** No. The question is still under consideration.

**PROMOTION OF A BAZAAR AT JOHANNESBURG TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A HOSPITAL FOR INDIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**

275. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state if it is a fact that English Church authorities are promoting a bazaar at Johannesburg to raise funds for a hospital for Indian women and children as published in the *Statesman* of December 11, 1927, on page 5, under the heading "Hospital for Indians"?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** Government have seen the press report referred to, but have no further information on the subject.

**INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIANS EMPLOYED AS WIRELESS OPERATORS.**

276. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to the Government reply "the matter is still under consideration" to starred question No. 140 asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August, 1927, regarding increase in the number of Indians employed as wireless operators, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please state what steps they have taken to increase the number of Indians employed as wireless operators?

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

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to (a) of Mr. Joshi's starred question No. 29 on the 1st February 1928.

**TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH ANGLO-INDIAN SCHOOLS FOR CONDUCTING TELEGRAPH TRAINING CLASSES.**

277. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government considered the question of terminating the agreement with Anglo-Indian schools for conducting telegraph training classes [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 142 (b) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August, 1927]?

(b) If so, will they please state when the agreement with these schools will terminate?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by the Director-General on 1st February 1928 to Mr. N. M. Joshi's question No. 27.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**

278. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at any final decision with regard to the consideration of the question of establishing a Provident Fund for their employees [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 148 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August 1927]?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

(c) If not, when do they expect to come to a final decision?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave on the 1st February to part (a) of Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtullah's question No. 79.

**HOURS OF WORK AND WEEKLY REST DAYS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.**

279. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to the Government reply, "The Government of India are examining this question in consultation with their legal advisers" to starred question No. 150(d) asked in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August, 1927, regarding hours of work and weekly rest days of railway employees, will Government please state if they have examined the question?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Honourable Member is referred to part (a) of the reply given on 1st February 1928 to Mr. Joshi's starred question No. 31.

**RULES REGARDING RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.**

280. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have considered the matter in respect of rules regarding recruitment to the Posts and Telegraphs Department [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 153 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August, 1927]?

(b) If so, when are these rules likely to be published?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) and (b). If the Honourable Member is referring to a general scheme for future recruitment of postal clerks, the question is still under the consideration of Government. If he is referring to orders regarding representation of various communities, these have issued and a copy will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

**ORDERS ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS REGARDING REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES.**

281. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Are Government prepared to lay on the table the General Orders issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, in accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India on the subject of the representation of minority communities in the various services. [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 154 (c) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August, 1927]?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** A copy of the orders on the subject is laid on the table.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

From

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs,

To

All Postmasters-General,  
The Deputy Postmaster-General, Sind & Baluchistan,  
All Deputy Postmasters-General, Railway Mail Service,  
All Directors, Telegraph Engineering,  
The Superintendent, Postal Workshop, Aligarh,  
The Controller of Telegraph Stores, Alipore,  
The Superintendent, Telegraph Workshops, Alipore,  
The Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Alipore,  
The Divisional Engineer, Wireless Engineering Division, Delhi,  
The Divisional Engineer, Wireless, Experimental Division, Calcutta.

*New Delhi, the 23rd November 1927.*

G. I. No. AM-516/12  
27

SIR,

I am directed to say that the policy of the Government of India is to prevent the preponderance of any one class or community in Government employment and they have decided that in recruiting the clerical establishments the method to be adopted for attaining this end should be the reservation of one-third of all permanent vacancies for the redress of communal inequalities, where such preponderance actually exists.

2. I am to request that the above principle should ordinarily be adopted in all future recruitment in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. In order to give the instructions practical effect it will be necessary to examine periodically the communal composition of the clerical staff in the offices or Divisions under your control in order to ascertain whether any community requires to be more adequately represented than it may be at the time of such examination.

3. For this purpose the head of each office or Division should specially consider in the case of every third vacancy which occurs whether or not such vacancy should, having regard to the communal composition of the clerical staff of the office, go to a member of a community which is not adequately represented. If the decision is in the affirmative, a candidate of such a community, if available and properly qualified, should be appointed to the vacancy, the claims of the various communities available for service being borne in mind. If the decision is in the negative the vacancy should go to the candidate with the best claim to it, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, not necessarily to a member of the best represented community. Such recruitment should of course be made through the prescribed channel where such has been laid down.

4. These orders refer to fresh recruitment only and not to Departmental promotions which will continue to be regulated by merit.

5. In order to ensure that these orders are understood and carried out, Heads of Circles will please send to the Director-General yearly as soon as possible after 1st July a statement showing separately the composition of the clerical establishment of each divisional unit in his charge and existing on 1st July.

6. If any Head of a Circle has any doubt about the interpretation of this order, he should refer the matter to this office without delay.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) G. V. BEWOOR,

*Deputy Director-General.*

**PROVINCIAL SHARE OF THE INCOME-TAX ON COMPANIES OPERATING IN BIHAR AND ORISSA, BUT REGISTERED ELSEWHERE.**

282. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have the Government of India received a further representation from the Government of Bihar and Orissa regarding "Provincial share of the income-tax on companies operating in Bihar and Orissa but registered elsewhere" [*vide* starred question No. 169 (a) and its reply in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 1927]?

(b) If so, will they please state the steps they have taken?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

**STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN THE STATESMAN OF DECEMBER 6TH, 1927, UNDER THE HEADING "NEW RAILWAY LINE OPENED BY PUNJAB GOVERNOR".**

283. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is the statement published in the issue of the *Statesman* of December 6th, 1927, page 12, under the heading "New Railway Line opened by Punjab Governor" correct?

(b) If so, will Government please state the total cost of this newly opened railway branch?

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

(b) Approximately Rs. 14,80,000.

**REPRESENTATION FROM THE EAST AFRICAN INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS REGARDING THE SEGREGATION OF INDIAN RESIDENTS OF MOMBASSA.**

284. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government considered the matter in connection with the representation received by them from the East African Indian National Congress, on the 8th August [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 188 (c) in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 1927]?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Kenya, to the question asked on this subject by the Honourable Mr. J. B. Pandya in the Kenya Legislative Council on the 15th September, 1927. For the convenience of the Honourable Member a copy of the full text of the question and answer has been placed in the Library of the House. The Government of India have from the outset urged that, whatever the legal view may be, the principle of non-segregation affirmed in the White Paper of 1923 should be observed as far as possible, and they are still in communication with the Secretary of State for India on the subject.

**NUMBER OF PASSENGERS, CLASS BY CLASS, DETECTED TRAVELLING WITHOUT TICKETS.**

285. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 205 in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 1927, will Government please

state if they have obtained the information regarding the number of passengers, class by class, detected travelling without tickets?

(b) If so, will they please lay it on the table?

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

(b) I have had a copy of the letter containing the information sent to the Honourable Member.

#### TOTAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

286. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Is the statement published in the *Statesman*, dated the 7th December, 1927, page 8, under the heading "Indian Mines" "in connection with the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines", correct?

(b) If so, will Government please give reasons for such a large number of fatal accidents, namely, 198, as shown in the report?

(c) What was the average number of fatal accidents during the three years previous to the passing of the Indian Mines Act?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The statement relates to the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines on the working of the Indian Mines Act during the year 1926 and not during the year 1925 as reported and is generally correct.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to section III of the Annual Report in question, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(c) 225

#### CEYLON LABOUR ORDINANCE.

287. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is the statement published in the *Statesman*, dated the 7th December, 1927, page 8, under the heading "Indians in Ceylon, Labour Ordinance question brought up", correct?

(b) If so, will Government please inquire if the Ceylon Legislative Council have arrived at any decision in the matter regarding the question of Labour Ordinance, as referred to by Mr. J. Griffiths in the House of Commons?

(c) Will Government please state what advice they have given in this connection, as stated by Major Ormsby-Gore, in the House of Commons, and will they please lay it on the table?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpal:** It will be convenient if I reply to the question as a whole. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, which is summarised in the same issue of the *Statesman* newspaper. The Ordinance seeks to give effect to a settlement arrived at between the Governments of India and Ceylon, the terms of which were announced in the press communiqué issued on the 29th September, 1926, and is calculated to improve, not to depress, the economic condition of Indian estate labourers in Ceylon.

#### POPULARISING THE USE OF COAL AS A DOMESTIC FUEL.

288. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have considered the scheme for popularising the use

of coal as a domestic fuel, as suggested in their representation by the Mining Federation of Calcutta (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 216 put in the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** The proposal is still under consideration.

#### RETIREMENT OF POSTMEN AND INFERIOR POSTAL SERVANTS FROM THE BOMBAY GENERAL POST OFFICE, ETC.

289. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of postmen and men in inferior service from the Bombay General Post Office and its town sub-offices, who retired during the year 1926-27 and also the number of those who died during the same period after having served there for 20 years or more?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** 14 postmen and 2 men in inferior service serving in the Bombay General Post Office and its town sub-offices retired during 1926-27.

During the same period, 6 postmen and 1 man in inferior service died after serving 20 years or more.

#### PROVISION OF ESCORTS FOR POSTMEN OF THE TOWN SUB-OFFICES IN BOMBAY.

290. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is it a fact that since the issue of Government orders regarding 'escorts' as stated in reply to question No. 530 put on the 29th August, 1927, in the last Session of the Legislative Assembly, postmen in some of the town sub-offices in Bombay have been given money order payment in excess of the prescribed limit without providing escorts? If so, are Government prepared to issue orders to stop such practice and provide escorts as required by Post Office Manual Rules?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Yes, in three town sub-offices of Bombay. The practice has been discontinued.

#### DELIVERY OF INSURED ARTICLES BY POSTMEN IN BOMBAY.

291. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is it a fact that in some of the town sub-offices in Bombay, postmen are given for delivery insured articles the aggregate value of which greatly exceeds Rs. 500 in spite of the fact that rule 438 of the Post Office Manual, Vol. I, forbids such practice?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The practice, which was in vogue in one or two offices only, has already been stopped by the sanction of additional staff.

I would, however, like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the note below rule 396 of the Post Office Manual, Volume I, of which it would appear he has a copy.

#### APPOINTMENT OF POSTAL PACKERS TO VACANCIES IN THE POSTMEN'S LINE IN BOMBAY.

292. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is it a fact that Government have issued orders to give preference to packers in the Post Office who are otherwise qualified for filling up vacancies in the postmen's line? If so, will Government be pleased to state how many packers have since been appointed in such

vacancies and how many vacancies have been filled up from outsiders in the Bombay General Post Office and its town sub-offices?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Information asked for in the second part of the question is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

#### HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCES OF MAIL PEONS, PACKERS AND VILLAGE POSTMEN AT VIRLE-PARLE, ANDHERI, ETC.

293. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is it a fact that mail peons, packers and village postmen of the Thana Post Office are paid Rs. 1-8-0 per month as house rent while the same classes of employees at Virle-Parle, Andheri, etc., in the vicinity of Bombay are paid Rs. 4 per month as house-rent? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this difference and whether house accommodation is not as dear at Thana as at other stations in the vicinity of Bombay?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Village postmen of the Thana Post Office are paid house rent allowances at Rs. 1-8-0 per month, while mail peons and packers of that office get only Re. 1-0-0 per month. The adequacy of these rates of house rent allowance is under investigation with a view to their revision should this be justified by facts.

#### TIME TESTS FOR POSTMEN.

294. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether any time-test is applied for fixing the amount of work to be done by each postman? If so, will Government be pleased to state what things are taken into consideration before fixing such time-test?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me to the first part of his question No. 493 on the 18th February, 1927. The latter part of his question does not arise.

#### PROVISION OF STATIONERY TO POSTMEN.

295. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is it a fact that no stationery is provided to the postmen which is required by them for the discharge of their duties in the Post Office as well as for the delivery work outside the Post Office? If so, why not?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The answer to the first part is in the negative. Orders have already been issued to provide necessary stationery to postmen. The second part of the question does not arise.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME OF CHEAP SORTING IN POST OFFICES.

296. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Is it a fact that in the last year's discussion in the Standing Finance Committee on the Post Office Demands the Government declared their intention of introducing their scheme of cheap sorting as recommended by the Ryan Committee, and if so, have Government issued any orders in that respect? If not, will Government be pleased to state when the orders are likely to be issued?



**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Yes. Orders have not been issued yet nor can it be stated definitely when they will be issued.

**ANTICIPATED SAVINGS IN THE BUDGET FOR THE PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT, ETC.**

297. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to state:

- (i) the expected amount of savings from the Printing and Stationery Budget for 1928-29 on account of the transfer of the Stamp Department to Nasik in March, 1928, from the administration of the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps,
- (ii) the number of gazetted officers reduced in the Central Stationery and Stamp Office on account of the transfer of the Stamp Department,
- (iii) the number of clerks of different grades reduced on account of such transfer, and
- (iv) the percentage of work of the Stamp Department done by the Deputy Controller and the Assistant Controller of the Central Stationery and Stamp Office during 1925 and 1927?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether he entertains any proposal for the appointment of an additional gazetted officer in the Central Stationery and Stamp Office?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) (i) Nil, as charges on account of the Central Stamp Depot are recorded under the head "Stamps".

(ii) One.

(iii) 4 assistants, 9 clerks grade I, 19 clerks grade II, 8 junior clerks.

(iv) The Deputy Controller was responsible for the conduct of the work relating to the Stamp Branch and the Assistant Controller worked under his orders and was in immediate charge of that Branch.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

**DISMISSALS, DEGRADATIONS AND STOPPAGE OF INCREMENTS OF PERSONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS.**

298. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department be pleased to put up a statement showing:

- (i) the names and educational qualifications and past services, if any, of the persons appointed by Mr. F. D. Ascoli, M.A., I.C.S., as the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps,
- (ii) the names and educational qualifications and past services, if any, of the persons selected by him but appointed in that Department after his retirement on proportionate pension,
- (iii) the names of those persons mentioned in (i) and (ii) above who were placed in the (a) Press (b) Forms (c) Stationery (d) Stamp and (e) Publication Departments and
- (iv) the names of those persons mentioned in (iii) above, (a) who were dismissed or degraded, (b) whose increments to their

salary were stopped for any period during 1926 and 1927 and (c) whose increments to their salary were stopped during 1926 and 1927 in spite of good recommendations from the Head Assistants of different Branches under whom they directly work, stating in each case the reasons for such dismissal, degradations and stoppage of increments?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state in which offices of the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps mentioned in (iii) above the percentage of dismissals, degradation and stoppage of increments is the highest and to make an enquiry into the reason thereof?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Government regret that they cannot undertake to collect all the information asked for in this question, as it would involve an amount of time and trouble disproportionate to the result.

#### ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

299. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the *Search Light* of 11th December, 1927, page 9, under the heading "Mismanagements of Bengal and North Western Railway?"

(b) If so, will Government please state, if the statements made in the letter are correct?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I have not seen the letter referred to.

#### SAFEGUARDING OF THE HEALTH AND LIVES OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

300. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state the purport of the orders issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs for the purpose of safeguarding the health and lives of postal employees [*vide* Government reply to part (b) of the starred question No. 450 on the 25th August, 1927]?

(b) Will Government please state if the orders issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs chiefly deal with medical relief to the postal employees or sanitary measures relating to unhealthy localities?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) and (b). The orders issued by the Director-General prescribed that an official should not *ordinarily* be required to serve in a frontier station for more than two years or in a notoriously unhealthy place for more than a year at a time and that after having once served for the prescribed periods, he should not *ordinarily* be posted again to such an office against his will.

#### FREE QUARTERS FOR CLERKS OF THE GUDALUR POST OFFICE.

301. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The matter is under consideration," to part (g) of the unstarred question No. 460 on the 25th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision with regard to free quarters for the clerks of the Gudalur Post Office?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) The matter has been decided by the Director General.

(b) The Director General did not consider that there was any justification for the grant of rent free quarters to the clerks of the Gudalur Post Office.

**INSTITUTION OF A FINES FUND IN THE INDIAN POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.**

302. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The matter is under consideration" to part (c) of the unstarred question No. 464 on the 25th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have considered the matter regarding the question of instituting a Fines Fund as in some Railway Companies?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given on the 1st February, 1928, to Mr. N. M. Joshi's starred question No. 39.

**HAJ PILGRIMS WHO RETURNED TO INDIA AFTER THE HAJ IN THE YEARS 1924, 1925 AND 1926, RESPECTIVELY.**

303. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government been supplied with the information as asked for by them from the Local Governments concerned regarding Haj Pilgrims who returned to India after the Haj in the years 1924, 1925, 1926, respectively [*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 515 (a) on the 29th August, 1927]?

(b) If so, will they please lay the information on the table?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) and (b). A statement showing the number of pilgrims that went to the Hedjaz and the number that returned in the years 1924, 1925 and 1926, has been placed in the Library.

**TRAINING OF MARINE WIRELESS OPERATORS OF THE GOVERNMENT WIRELESS TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT IN CALCUTTA.**

304. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government arranged to give training to marine wireless operators at the Government Wireless Training Establishment in Calcutta (*vide* starred question No. 587 on the 30th August, 1927) ?

(b) Will they please state what the arrangements are?

(c) If the arrangements have not been made, will Government please state by what time the arrangements are expected to be completed?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) Yes, as a temporary measure.

(b) A class will be held in Calcutta under a Divisional Engineer, Wireless, assisted by an Upper Subordinate of the Wireless Branch. The necessary facilities have been provided to give a 6 months' course of training in Marine Wireless Telegraphy to a limited number of students to enable them to qualify for the 2nd Class Certificate of Competency of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. It is possible that the students will be able to pass the examination for the 1st Class Certificate of Competency at the end of a 6 months' course, but, if not, additional instruction can be provided.

(c) By the 15th March 1928.

## GRIEVANCES OF BRANCH POSTMASTERS.

305. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government been supplied with the information called for in connection with the grievances of Branch Postmasters (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 529 on the 29th August, 1927) ?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) The Director-General has been supplied with the information.

(b) A copy of the letter issued by the Director-General to the Honourable Mr. Jayakar is being supplied to the Honourable Member.

## DISCONTENT AMONG SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

306. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The question is under consideration", to part (b) of the starred question No. 1581 on the 30th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have considered the matter referred to above?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Presumably the question referred to is No. 581, not 1581, asked by Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy on 30th August, 1927. The question is still under consideration of Government.

(b) The result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

## TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT BY THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY ON ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

307. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government made inquiries regarding the total amount spent by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway on advertisements in the United Kingdom since January last (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 549 on the 29th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of the enquiry to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). The Honourable Member was informed that £300 had been spent.

## GAIN DERIVED BY THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF A PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT ON THAT RAILWAY.

308. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state the names of all the State Railways which have introduced the system of a General Publicity Department?

(b) Will Government please state the approximate gain obtained by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway since the introduction of the system of a Publicity Department as duly compared with the approximate income before this system came into being?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). All the four State-managed Railways have Publicity Departments. It is impossible to compute in exact terms of money what increase in earnings has resulted from their creation.

ALTERATIONS IN THE WATERWAYS OF THE NORTH WESTERN, EAST INDIAN  
AND EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAYS.

309. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have Government made inquiries regarding large alterations being made in the waterways of the North Western Railway, the East Indian Railway, and the Eastern Bengal Railway during the last five years [*vide* Government reply to part (b) of the starred question No. 559 on the 29th August, 1927]?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of the enquiries to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). The following additions have been made during the last five years to the waterways under the Railways mentioned:

North Western Railway	1,832 feet.
East Indian Railway	3,742 feet.
Eastern Bengal Railway	1,581 feet.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

310. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report published in the *Hindustan Times* of February 23rd, 1928, page 7, under the heading "India in Parliament"?

(b) If so, will they please state, if the statement made in the first paragraph of the report is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state the time by which the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture is expected to be submitted?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) It is expected that the report of the Royal Commission will be ready by about the end of April.

PAY AND DUTIES OF EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS IN THE POSTAL  
DEPARTMENT IN BENGAL.

311. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what the scale of pay is of the extra-departmental agents in the Postal Department in Bengal? Is it the same in other Provinces?

(b) Is it a fact that the extra-departmental agents have to perform all the functions of a postmaster, such as Registration, Parcel work, V. P. work, Insurance, Savings Banks, Money Orders and delivery of telegrams, etc.?

(c) Is it a fact that the extra-departmental agents are not allowed any leave or holidays?

(d) Is it true that their salary includes the expenses for repair of the post office and contingencies including ink, paper, lac, oil, lamp and gum, etc.?

(e) Is it true that the extra-departmental agents are not entitled to any pensions or benefits from Provident Funds, Postal Co-operative and Postal Insurance?

(f) Is it true that they have no claims for permanency of office and that when their office is transferred into a departmental one their services are very often dispensed with?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) Extra-departmental agents do not receive "pay" in the technical sense of that term from the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. They receive certain allowances for doing post office work during their leisure hours or in addition to their other occupations in places where the volume of business does not justify the employment of whole-time departmental officials. The allowances given to extra-departmental agents in Bengal vary from Rs. 6 to Rs. 20. The reply to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

(b) Extra-departmental agents may have to perform all the functions of a regular postmaster though in practice they are seldom, if ever, called upon to do so, as the public demand in the locality concerned for certain facilities, e.g., P. O. Savings Bank, and the V. P. P. system, is insufficient to warrant the grant of such facilities.

(c) As they are part-time employees of the department, they are not entitled to leave with allowances, but they are not required to work on Post Office holidays.

(d) When extra-departmental agents provide the accommodation for the post office they are expected to keep it in repair. With regard to contingencies, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on 30th August, 1927, to Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy's starred question No. 585 in the Legislative Assembly.

(e) As extra-departmental agents are not whole-time employees, they are not entitled to any pension or to the benefits of a Government Provident Fund or to participation in the benefits of Postal Co-operative Societies. With regard to Life Insurance the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on 30th August, 1927, to Mr. Bhabendra Chandra Roy's starred question No. 582 in the Legislative Assembly.

(f) Yes.

#### DEFALCATIONS COMMITTED BY EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN BENGAL, ETC.

312. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of defalcation cases for which extra-departmental agents in the Postal Department in Bengal have been prosecuted within the last three years, and will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for such cases?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of the extra-departmental agents who have resigned their services, and how many have been dismissed within the last three years?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Extra-departmental agents in Bengal were prosecuted for defalcations in 13 cases during the last three years. The reasons for the commission of the offences are not known.

(b) Government do not possess the information nor do they propose to call for it, as its collection will involve the expenditure of time and money incommensurate with the advantage to be gained therefrom.

### THE CHARSADDA-SWABI RAILWAY.

313. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the report on the survey has been completed in October, 1927, in connection with the Charsadda-Swabi Railway, (*vide* Government reply to my starred question 636 on the 30th August, 1927)?

(b) If so, with what result?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). The field work of the survey has been completed, but the report and estimates have not yet been received from the Agent, North Western Railway.

### SERVICE CONDITIONS AND EMOLUMENTS OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS EMPLOYED IN THE INDIAN POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

314. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please obtain the information from the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs in the matter of service conditions and emoluments of telephone operators serving under the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question 76 on the 30th August, 1927)?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** A revision of the scales of pay of telephone operators has been decided upon. The other service conditions of telephone operators are under examination by the Director General.

### QUARTERS FOR POSTMASTERS, ETC.

315. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The matter is under consideration" to unstarred question 77 on the 30th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision in the matter of quarters for Postmasters?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

(c) If not, by what time are they likely to come to a decision?

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

(b) The Director-General has already decided that the Postmaster will occupy the quarters.

(c) Does not arise.

### DEFECTS AT BAIDYANATH DHAM STATION ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

316. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Are Government willing to obtain the information from the Agent, East Indian Railway, if he has decided anything on the point of remedying the defects at Baidyanath Dham station on the East Indian Railway (*vide* reply by Government to starred question 653 on the 31st August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). The Agent, East Indian Railway, states that plans have been approved for providing high level platforms and waiting rooms for male and female passengers, and it is also proposed to fit the well with a pump and provide an additional well. The work will be completed shortly.

**PROVISION OF A PROPER REFRESHMENT ROOM AT MEERUT CANTONMENT STATION ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

317. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please obtain the information from the Agent, North Western Railway, if he has arrived at any decision in the matter of providing a proper refreshment room at Meerut Cantonment station (*vide* Government reply to starred question 680 on the 31st August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Matters of local importance of this nature must be left to the decision of Agents and the Government are not prepared to call for information on the subject.

**REMOVAL OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATIONS AT MEERUT CANTONMENT STATION ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

318. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please obtain the information from the Agent, North-Western Railway, if he has taken any action with regard to the removal of discriminations at Meerut Cantonment station (*vide* Government reply to starred question 81 on 31st August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The Agent of the North Western Railway has intimated that there are no benches marked "for Europeans only" at Meerut Cantonment station.

**DRAFT BERAR LAND REVENUE LAW.**

319. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the draft Berar Land Revenue Law passed by the Berar Legislative Committee on 1st December, 1925?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Sir Denys Bray:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**INCREASED TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.**

320. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The matter is under consideration of Government" to starred question 605 (b) on the 30th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision regarding the question of sanctioning the increase of travelling allowance to Inspectors of Post Offices?

(b) If not, by what time are they expected to come to a decision?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) No.

(b) It cannot be stated definitely by what time a decision will be arrived at.



PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR POSTMEN AND LOWER GRADE STAFF  
OF POST OFFICES.

321. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to my starred question 586 on the 30th August, 1927, will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision regarding the provision of accommodation for postmen and lower grade staff, etc.?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

PAY, PENSIONS AND PROMOTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIA UNAT-  
TACHED LIST.

322. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The matter is still under consideration of the Secretary of State" to my starred question 662 on the 31st August, 1927, will Government please state if the matter has been decided by the Secretary of State?

(b) If so, what is his decision?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** A time scale of promotion and revised rates of pay have been sanctioned for the India Unattached List. Details will be found in Army Instructions (India) Nos. 286-B., and 287-B., of 1927.

CONTINUANCE OF THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF TAKING TABOOTS OVER THE  
SANGHAM BRIDGE ON WELLESLEY ROAD, POONA.

323. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the Government of Bombay has arrived at any decision with regard to the continuance of the present practice of taking taboos over the Sangham Bridge on Wellesley Road, Poona, which subject was under the consideration of the Bombay Government, (*vide* Government reply to starred question 668 on the 31st August, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** I am making enquiries and will communicate the result to the Honourable Member.

THIRD CLASS FARES FROM AMBALA CANTONMENT TO AMBALA CITY AND  
DHULKOT, RESPECTIVELY.

324. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that the railway fare for third class from Ambala Cantonment to Ambala City is one anna only whereas the fare from Ambala Cantonment to Dhulkot is three annas although the distance in both cases is 5 miles only? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for the difference?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The mileage rates on the Ambala-Kalka section, part of which is heavily graded, and on which Dhulkot station lies, are higher than the North Western Railway generally and this is the reason for the difference.

## AMENDMENT OF DEVOLUTION RULE 15.

325. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply "The question is still under the consideration of the Government of India" to parts (b) and (c) of the starred question 756 on the 1st September, 1927, will Government please state if they have undertaken the amendment of Devolution Rule 15 for removing the grievances of Bengal and Bombay about its defective working?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The matter was considered by the Government of India in consultation with the financial representatives of the Provincial Governments in November last, and as a result of the opinions then expressed, it has been decided that it is undesirable that action in the direction suggested should be taken pending the examination which will presumably be made by the Statutory Commission.

## AMOUNT OF SEA SERVICE REQUIRED OF CANDIDATES APPOINTED TO THE BENGAL PILOT SERVICE FROM ENGLAND AND INDIA.

326. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "Government has under consideration the amendment of the rules so as to place cadets from the "Dufferin" which will shortly be ready as a training ship in Bombay, on the same footing in respect of sea service as cadets from the "Conway" or "Worcester", [to part (c) of the starred question 793, on the 2nd September, 1927], will Government please state if the amendment of the rules has been considered?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** (a) and (b). The Government of Bengal have been consulted in regard to the matter and the question is still under consideration.

## STATEMENT IN THE STATESMAN OF DECEMBER 21ST, 1927, UNDER THE HEADING "PUNJAB RAILWAYS."

327. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is the statement published in the issue of the *Statesman*, December 21st, 1927, page 8, under the heading "Punjab Railway" correct?

(b) If so, will Government please state what is the total estimated cost of the opening of the branch line?

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

(b) Rs. 16½ lakhs.

## GRIEVANCES OF THE EUROPEAN GUARDS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STATIONED AT RAWALPINDI.

328. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please inquire if the Agent, North Western Railway, has considered the matter regarding the grievances of the European guards of the North Western Railway stationed at Rawalpindi, (*vide* Government reply to starred question 827 on the 2nd September, 1927)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** Government regret that they are not prepared to make the suggested enquiry. The matter is within the Agent's competence.

#### OPENING OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR MUSLIMS IN AJMER-MERWARA.

329. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please inquire if the new schools in connection with the five years' programme of educational expansion have been opened for which provision has been made [vide Government reply to part (b) of the starred question 849 on the 5th September, 1927]?

(b) If not, by what time are they expected to be opened?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) It has been ascertained that all the new schools which it was proposed to open in 1927-28 in connection with the five years' programme of educational expansion in Ajmer-Merwara have been opened.

(l) Does not arise.

#### STOPPAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT OF HINDUS TO THE MINISTERIAL OR TECHNICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT DEHRA DUN.

330. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply "Instructions are being issued to withdraw the order" to part (c) of the starred question 1088 on the 19th September, 1927, will Government please inquire if the orders have been withdrawn by Mr. C. G. Trerar, acting for the President in conformity with the instructions by the Government of India?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** The order has been withdrawn.

#### REPORT OF THE OFFICER APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

331. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have received the report of the officer who is inquiring into the clerical establishment of Army Headquarters, as referred to in Government reply to starred question 925 on the 13th September, 1927?

(b) If so, will they please lay the report on the table?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) and (b). The report has not yet been received.

#### GRANT OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL OFFICIALS IN CERTAIN PLACES IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

332. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Are Government willing to obtain the information from the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, if he has made an inquiry into the matter and whether suitable

action' has been taken as referred to in Government reply to unstarred question 102 on the 6th September, 1927?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) An enquiry has been made by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, and the facts elicited are under examination.

(b) The Director-General will formulate and submit proposals on the subject to the Government of India as soon as possible.

#### REVISED PENSIONS FOR THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

333. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have received the final orders of the Secretary of State on the subject of revised pensions for the Indian Medical Department as referred to in Government reply to part (b) of the starred question 959 on the 13th September, 1927?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy of the orders on the table?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised scale of retiring pensions for Assistant Surgeons of the Indian Medical Department has been published in Army Instruction (India) No. B-27 of 1928.

#### PRESERVATION OF THE MOSQUES OF THE SHARQI KINGS AT JAUNPORE.

334. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "Yes, the Government are inquiring into the matter", to starred question 1098 on the 19th September, 1927, regarding preservation of the mosques of the Sharqi Kings at Jaunpore, will Government please state if they have made the inquiries into the matter?

(b) If so, will they please state what action they propose to take for the preservation of the mosques as referred to in Maulvi Mohammad Yaqub's question?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

#### TRANSFER OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE FROM LAHORE TO DELHI.

335. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the Railway Clearing Office has been transferred from Lahore to Delhi?

(b) If so, what was the total cost of purchase for the accommodation of the Railway Clearing Office at Delhi?

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

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to Haji Abdoola Haroom's starred question No. 81 on the 1st February 1928.

## DEATH OF LORD SINHA.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Leader of the House): Since the House last met, India has lost one of her foremost sons in the death of Lord Sinha and many in this House have lost a friend. I think, Sir, that you will agree, and that the House will agree, that it is only right that we should honour ourselves and his memory by calling to mind the loss that India has sustained before we proceed to the business of the day. In Lord Sinha India has lost one of her foremost representatives in the sphere of politics and of Indian life in India and in England and a man who has made history in this country by being, I think, the first Governor of a Province since the commencement of the British regime. He was the first Indian Member of the Governor General's Executive Council. Lord Sinha proceeded, from being a Member of the Executive Council in India, to become Under Secretary of State in England and a Peer of the United Kingdom. It is a very distinguished career, a career which, I think, all those who will look back on it will feel to mark the epoch in the history of India through which India and Britain have been passing. I had the honour to know Lord Sinha just a little before I came out to India, and after I came out I had opportunities to come in touch with him on many occasions, and I think the thing that impressed me most was that Lord Sinha had succeeded successfully in combining a real appreciation of what he had learnt of the West and a real understanding of Great Britain with complete retention of his character and outlook as an Indian. As such, he was able to render remarkable service in interpreting India to Britain. I am sure, Sir, that you will desire, and that the House will desire to ask you on their behalf, to convey to the relatives our sympathy in the sudden and grievous loss which they and India have sustained.

**\*Lala Lajpat Rai** (Jullunder Division: Non-Muhammadan): I rise to associate myself with the remarks that have fallen from the Leader of the House. In the death of Lord Sinha, India has lost one of her illustrious sons. We differed from him in politics, but we never doubted his motives or his ability. He was a great lawyer and a great publicist, and as such we have to mourn his loss at this particular juncture. Whatever our differences with him, they are all buried in his death and we can only look to his virtues and his ability. He was one of the ablest sons of India in modern times. Sir, I associate myself completely with the remarks made by the Leader of the House.

**Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I also beg to associate myself with Sir Basil Blackett and Lala Lajpat Rai in the sentiments which they have expressed on behalf of Members of this House. There can be no doubt that in Lord Sinha we have lost one of the most brilliant intellects, one who has risen to the highest places, at one time in the affections of the people, at other times in the confidence of the Government. But whatever differences there may be in politics, there is not the slightest doubt that every Indian is proud of the fact that Lord Sinha vindicated the patriotism, the ability, the character, the integrity, the efficiency and the adaptability of Indian statesmanship and Indian administrative skill and made himself a world-known figure. It was given to him on behalf of India to conquer some of the impregnable fortresses in the United Kingdom, and whatever our present political complexions may be, I must congratulate Indians on having Lord Sinha as one of their

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\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

greatest representatives. I myself had the honour of a very brief acquaintance with him. I remember talking to him when the Capital was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi, and I remember the sentiment he expressed on that occasion, to which I do not wish to refer at the present moment. Nor can I, speaking on behalf of my party, forget the fact that it was given to him even more than to be a Peer of the United Kingdom and a Governor of a Province, to fill most worthily at one of the critical stages in our struggle for freedom the Presidentship of the Indian National Congress. It was my privilege to work as one of his humble lieutenants in the Congress at Bombay. It is therefore my melancholy privilege to associate myself with all that has been said of him. There can be no doubt that he was one of the greatest sons of India.

**\*Mr. M. A. Jinnah** (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Whatever political parties there may be in this country and whichever party one may belong to, it cannot be denied that in the sudden death of Lord Sinha India has lost one of her greatest sons, and I associate myself entirely with the Leader of the House in his expressions of sorrow. Sir, I knew Lord Sinha when I was in the Imperial Legislative Council and he was a member of the Government of India, and ever since then I have come in very close contact with him. I can say without fear of contradiction that whatever office he was called upon to fill he discharged the responsibilities of that office fearlessly and loyally and with credit to his country. Not only that, but I think that however much we may differ from Lord Sinha's politics, it cannot be denied that in whatever he did he was actuated by honest convictions and principles in which he believed. Such a man, Sir, is very rare, and in his death India has suffered a very very great loss indeed. Our sympathies must naturally go out to Lady Sinha and his children whom he has left to mourn him, and we feel deeply for them in their great bereavement.

**Sir Walter Willson** (Associated Chambers of Commerce: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the non-official European group in this House desire to associate themselves most thoroughly in all that has been said as a kind tribute to the late Lord Sinha. He is mourned to-day throughout India and Britain. He was one of India's greatest sons, and it is nothing short of a calamity that he has been taken away at this particular period of India's history.

The number of high positions which he occupied, as the first of his race to do so, is absolutely outstanding in his record. His political career stretches over more than one chapter of Indian development and to few men has it been given to occupy so many responsible positions. It was not only what he was but the distinction with which he filled those positions and the success he attained in most of them which strikes the imagination.

In one's earliest thoughts over the dead, one is concerned perhaps more with what he was than what he really did. He was one of Bengal's finest products, a gentleman, able and cultured, honest and sincere, though he was not always politically understood as he might have been by everybody. But I feel that those very high qualities will be even more appreciated and honoured in the future by every school of thought in that India of which he was such an adornment.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum** (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): On behalf of the Central Muslim party, Sir,

\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum.]

I associate myself with the views expressed by the leaders of the other parties about the sad loss India has suffered from the death of Lord Sinha. His solid and sound views on all important political problems of the day are well known all over the country, and India can well be proud of his ability and the success with which he carried out his duties in all the high offices which he occupied. He was, as has been said, the first Indian Governor of a Province, and I am sure he has proved to the world that, given the opportunity, he, an Indian, could run a province as successfully as anybody else could do.

**Mr. President:** I am sure the House will permit me to associate myself with the great tribute paid by it to that great and brilliant son of India, Lord Sinha, who had a very unique and brilliant career. I have very little doubt that, when the history of India's struggle for freedom comes to be written, Lord Sinha's name will find in it a prominent and honoured place. As desired by this House it shall be my duty to convey to the family of Lord Sinha its sincere regret and condolences.

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#### BILL PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE LAID ON THE TABLE.

**Secretary of the Assembly:** Sir, in accordance with Rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table the Bill further to amend the Chittagong Port Act, 1914, for certain purposes, which was passed by the Council of State at its meeting of the 2nd March, 1928.

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#### THE INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL.

##### PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy** (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for certain purposes.

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#### GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

**Mr. President:** The House will now start the general discussion of the Budget.

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is the sixth and the last Budget of Sir Basil Blackett, and when I recall his memorable words uttered at the time of the presentation of his first Budget, I feel that I ought to render unto him the praise which he deserves for his genuine desire to bring about financial prosperity and thereby to serve the land of his birth. Sir, we know that the constitution of the Government of India is such that there is no efficient control over the expenditure, and that every Member of the Governor General's Council, except the Finance Member, is not only not responsible for financial equilibrium but is directly interested in spending, which overpowers all his appeals for economy and reduction. The views expressed in the financial

statement are not necessarily his own, and so the observations and criticisms that we on this side of the House offer will be against the general policy and not against the Honourable Member, who, like the good wife, is obliged to say to the Government of India, "Whither thou goest I shall go". But I take exception to his concluding remarks that this is a budget which both Government and the country can view with pleasure. I expected a more frank statement from the Honourable the Finance Member, and the omission of the word "country" would have been nearer the truth. Sir, the neat little speech covering 10 pages of printed foolscap showing a surplus of 2.63 crores may appear to the cursory observer to be satisfactory; but to the careful reader who examines the Demands for Grants and finds that nearly one-half of the revenue is devoted to military expenditure it is disquieting, though we have been told that the Government have given very special consideration to the matter during the current year, and the figure proposed for next year cannot be reduced if India is to make reasonable provision for her defence. Sir Malcolm Hailey, as Finance Member of the Government of India, is reported to have said in September 1921:

"I have in my Department men, who, if I would allow them to do so, would be capable of putting up a budget which would easily defeat the scrutiny and defy the criticism of the House."

Wonderful products of a wonderful system! But though some of them may still be in the Department left as a legacy to Sir Basil, he is too good to take shelter under any such device, and while we appreciate his honesty and candour, we regret that he has been the victim of a vicious system which prevents us from congratulating him on this his last Budget.

Nearly half a century ago the Government of India, in their despatch of 8th February, 1879, was constrained to represent to Her Majesty's Government that:

"The burden thrown upon India, on account of the British troops, is excessive beyond what an impartial judgment would assign, considering the relative material wealth of the two countries and the mutual obligation that subsist between them."

We have been told that there have been savings, owing to troops being sent to China, but these savings are being used towards financing a programme of expenditure upon modernisation, which the army authorities and the Government of India recognise as urgent. Of course we cannot be allowed to have a peep into that programme, nor are we capable mentally and morally to understand the urgency, for are we not perpetual minors, under the care and custody of our guardians? And under every system of jurisprudence the minor has no right to question the guardian's acts, except when he attains majority, and that, too, under very special circumstances. Here there is no fear of the minor attaining majority, in spite of the Indian Majority Act. But may we not complain before the bar of humanity against the Government of India for subordinating our interests to the impetuous impulses and seductions of conquest and Imperial vainglory, not to speak of the immediate gain and temptations of commercial enterprise and fat berths in the services?

It has been pointed out times without number in this House and out of it, that the military expenditure of a country should on no account exceed a fifth of its revenues under normal circumstances, and this enduring



[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

principle of sound finance was adopted by the Brussels Conference with the unanimous concurrence of the Government of India, and its representatives. But the variance between profession and practice on the part of our rulers is the guiding principle in every branch of their administration. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, whom I do not see here, may ask how to effect a reduction in the military expenditure? The answer that has been given times without number is "Indianise". But when I find that even the small modicum of Indianisation recommended by the Indian Sandhurst Committee is thrown into the waste paper basket, I shall not be wrong if I say that the Government of India is not serious in their endeavour to reduce the military expenditure.

The half-fed and ill-clad tillers of the soil is a standing commentary of your military policy, and the plea of protecting his hearth and home is only an euphemistic expression for his exploitation, and I make bold to assert that the real motive behind it is to keep India ever in bondage and to provide employment for the Britisher. I would prefer a Tamerlane or a Nadir Shah at intervals, than this perpetual invasion of a costly foreign army which sits like a vampire on the breast of India, sucking its life blood.

Sir, the cost of an Indian soldier is Rs. 631 per annum, while that of a British soldier is Rs. 2,503 per annum, and if this British element is eliminated, there will be a saving of about 10 crores of rupees a year. But then it will be argued that the British soldier has got greater military qualities than the Indian soldier. That argument will not hold water before an impartial reader of history. The Rajputs, Sikhs and the Mahrattas, as also the Gurkhas and the Pathans, make as good soldiers, if not better, if they are given the necessary training. All these arguments have failed to induce the Government to reduce their military expenditure, and it is useless to discuss it further, for it is impossible to convince those that are determined not to be convinced.

Sir, this land favoured by the gods, protected by natural barriers of seas and mountains, needs but little protection from human agency, and if you check your forward policy and Imperialistic tendencies, you will not require the huge foreign army to defend her.

Turning to the other items of the Budget, we have hardly any reason to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member, for the high postage rates remain where they were, the railway fares, except a nominal reduction in third class fares for long distances, remain the same, while such an every day necessity as salt, has to be taxed, not to speak of the Income-tax which has a tendency to increase every year in the hands of over-zealous officers. What hope is there then of the readjustment of the burdens of taxation and its reduction?

While I am thankful to the Honourable the Finance Member on the eve of his retirement for his prayer that no storm from without or from within may descend upon India to disturb, according to him, the bright prospects of financial well-being, to which she seems to-day to be justified in looking forward, I must confess that I see no hope of such a future so long as the items of civil and military expenditure do not bear any just and reasonable proportion to the revenue that can be possibly realised from the country without incurring peril and exhaustion. For we cannot forget

that the tax-gatherer is the foster parent of revolution, as was proved by the secession of America from the British Empire.

Sir David Barbour, a former Finance Member of the Government of India, described India as :

"an eastern country governed in accordance with western ideas, an immense and poor population, a narrow margin of possible additional taxation, claims for additional expenditure greatly in excess of possible additional revenue, a constant tendency for expenditure to outgrow revenue, a system of government favourable to the increase and unfavourable to the reduction of expenditure, no financial control by intelligent and well-informed public opinion either in England or in India, an insufficient check on expenditure in India, a remote and imperfect control exercised from England, a revenue specially liable to fluctuation from year to year, with large and growing foreign payments."

This is the description of India by one of Sir Basil's predecessors in office, who had no illusions of a surplus budget, and I request the Honourable the Finance Member to consider whether during his tenure of office things have improved in any way.

The Demand for Grants will come in for criticism in proper time, but in this general discussion I beg to refer to a particular item on page 509, which refers to the Indian Statutory Commission. We have been told that the Commission is a Parliamentary Commission, and yet a portion of the expenses have been charged upon the Indians who had no voice in its appointment, and who never asked for it. The elected Indian Members of this House, with twelve exceptions, have declared in no uncertain voice that they refuse to admit England's right to frame a constitution for the Government of India, and yet the Government in utter disregard of our verdict wants to saddle us with the cost of this white Commission, I was going to say—the traditional white elephant. In no other country, except India, would this have been possible, but relying upon the powers of certification, the Government, through the Honourable the Finance Member, has once more reminded us of our true position under the present system of administration. In a free country the withholding of the Demands for Grants cannot be restored, and all the functions of the State come to a standstill which brings about the downfall of the Government. Here in India there is no apprehension of any such kind, and the Government goes on merrily in spite of our refusal to the Demands for Grants.

To pass through all the formalities of Parliamentary procedure, without any sanction for enforcing compliance to the verdict of this House is a cruel travesty of responsible government. So long as this state of things continues, we cannot assent to the Budget consistently with our sense of self-respect, and our duty as representatives of the people will be one of disapproval of your methods signified by the rejection of the Budget, the only weapon left to an enchained, emasculated and disarmed people.

Although I am unable to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on his last Budget, yet I wish he may be privileged to witness from his island home in his retirement the dawn of a new era in Indian finance, freed from all external control in the near future, for the time has come for the star of India to shine as it did in days of yore, and enlighten the world with the truth that man is greater than gold, and that India's organised strength can break the chain that threatens to enchain the world. This vision of New India rising from the old is the

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bedrock of our faith and hope, which will triumphantly lead us to our proper place in the federation of the human race, and I repeat in the words of our poet Rabindranath :

*“ Eh nahé Kâhini  
Eh nahé Swapan  
Asibéy sé din asibéy.”*

“It is neither a phantasm nor a dream,  
But a certainty in the divine scheme.”

**Sir Walter Willson** (Associated Chambers of Commerce: Nominated Non-official): On a point of order, Sir. May I ask if any time limit is fixed to-day for speeches?

**Mr. President:** No time limit has been fixed, but I expect Honourable Members will not exceed twenty minutes in any case.

**Mr. N. C. Kelkar** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, we all listened with great interest and satisfaction to the budget speech which the Honourable the Finance Member delivered last week. It is, if I may say so, the swan song of Sir Basil Blackett as the Finance Member of the Government of India. As such it was couched in very subdued tones. It was free from controversial topics and it also contained no boastfulness of achievement. What was perhaps due to him had been said in another House by the Secretary of the Finance Department. In this House the Finance Member contented himself with giving a graceful expression to his own good wishes about the financial welfare of the land of his birth and our birth; and may I reciprocate that sentiment of his by giving expression to my personal hope that on his return to England it may be given to him to enjoy a long further career of distinction in the realms which are his own.

Sir, the Budget presented to us is not in any sense a spectacular budget; but I daresay it is a budget which is really a commendable budget for it is a normal and balanced budget which we have seen after several years. The Indian tax-payer will share with him a sigh of relief at emerging as it were into the light after travelling through a long tunnel of financial darkness and despair. We are free from the contributory uncertainty of railway finance. Whatever the merits of the exchange ratio established last year, we can calculate with certainty about the cost of our Home remittances, and the disappearance of the item of exchange under several heads of income and expenditure, so far as it goes, is a thing to be definitely welcomed. The debt position is progressively hopeful. India's credit may certainly be said to be established to a certain extent in the home and foreign markets, and there is everything to be said in favour of the reduction of unproductive debt. The Budget under the revenue heads does not call for much criticism, though it may be said with regret that notwithstanding the recurrent surpluses of the last five years, there has been no serious attempt at reduction of taxation. But, on the other hand, we must give credit to the Finance Member for relieving the Provincial Governments of their contributions and for abolishing the cotton excise duty. Provincial contributions were a continually running sore, but it will now be healed, and Provincial Governments will once more feel freedom from the shackles imposed upon them by the Meston Settlement.

His last budget is, as it were, the coping stone upon the financial administration of Sir Basil Blackett, and he would allow us, I suppose, as he has done it himself, to view the edifice of that administration as a whole. Many factors have no doubt contributed to the satisfactory position we have arrived at at the end of these five years. First of all, there is the propitiousness of the monsoon which is responsible for the progressively increasing returns of revenue during this period. The Finance Member may claim that he has stabilised prices by stabilising the rupee and fixing the exchange, but he knows as well as we do that the credit for stabilisation of prices is due to the general stabilisation of world conditions in a better measure than to the stabilisation of the rupee itself.

Then, with regard to the gold standard, which is said to have been established in this country, I must say that so far as I can see there has been no attempt so far to strengthen that position by adding to the gold reserves in this country and that, I think, is certainly a great point of weakness from the point of view of the gold standard ideal.

Then, again, the Finance Member has used the alternative methods of increasing and reducing the currency according to his own ideas without taking into consideration the legitimate demands of the market. By fixing the exchange ratio at 1s. 6d. he will no doubt be saving to Government a few crores in Home remittances; but he has done so not without causing a wrongful loss to the Indian producer of an amount which is at least five to six times the amount of the saving to Government; and one feels tempted in sheer desperation to say that it might have been better if he had raised the amount represented by his saving to Government under the head of exchange by imposing taxation which might yield that amount. But it must be said that side by side with the assistance of fortuitous circumstances beyond his control, the Finance Member has also shown a perception of certain correct principles in the general regulation of the finances of the country. Happiness and unhappiness in this world is said to be only relative, and those who are optimistic by temperament and charitable by nature may even derive some consolation from the fact that the Finance Member of India has perhaps done even better than the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Great Britain. For Mr. Phillip Snowden, himself an *ex*-Chancellor of the Exchequer, has recently pointed out that Mr. Churchill's financial policy during the last few years has been a failure. According to Mr. Snowden, Mr. Churchill has increased during his term of office national expenditure by something like 40 millions a year; has imposed additional indirect taxation of about 24 millions; has added to the burden of the local authorities by his various raids upon them; has neutralised the benefits which ought to have come from Sinking Fund payments; has increased the total National Debt; has raised the rate of Government borrowing, and has made the conversion of maturing debt a more costly proceeding for the tax-payer. Of course, I cannot vouch for the truth of all these statements; but that is what appears and may be taken as a matter of consolation by way of contrast. Contrasted with this, Sir Basil Blackett's administration seems to have been more successful. For during the last five years, he could show a total surplus of about 15 crores. This cycle of surpluses naturally leads one to think of the financial position of the Government of India during a number of years previous in which surpluses regularly alternated with deficits. From 1898 to 1913—the year before the War—the total net surplus amounted to about 54 crores.

[Mr. N. C. Kelkar.]

The era of deficits then commenced, which, with only two exceptions, lasted till 1922. In this period of nine years, while the total surpluses amounted to only 23 crores the total deficits amounted to 112 crores—that is to say, a balance of 89 crores on the wrong side. The memory of this disastrous policy and its effects takes away most of the consolation, and in fact the whole of the benefit of the financial policy which the present Finance Member has been able to pursue.

Sir, in speaking of any Finance Member of the Government of India, it must be remarked that we intend to speak only impersonally; we must look upon the Finance Member as a continuous entity. The deeds of predecessors and successors are inextricably interwoven. The wise measures of one Finance Member may naturally shine on the background of the misdeeds of another. Periodical elevations of spirit may compensate for periodical depressions of it. But just as the nation and the Government are continuous corporations, so also the Finance Member can be allowed to have only one corporate and continuous soul. Through the opening and closing balances of the Treasury and the schedule of the public debt, the nexus is woven of their indivisible existence. We know Sir Basil Blackett had to perform the Herculean task of cleaning the Augean stables of his predecessor, and we naturally sympathise with him in his labours. But Sir Basil Blackett cannot accuse us of deliberate pessimism if we like to take only a panoramic view of the finances of India from the vantage ground of the normality which we seem to have reached for the moment. From here we not only see but also still feel the effects of the mismanagement of the finances in the years gone by. It is no comfort to us to be told, that we have once more reached the region of balanced budgets, for we cannot forget what we have had to pay for arriving at that region, though with the helping hand of Sir Basil Blackett. We know of those who "husbanded the golden grain," but we cannot forget those who "flung it to the winds like rain." We are, of course, susceptible to the sweet music of the balanced and tuneful budget produced by Sir Basil, but we cannot put out of our mind the manner in which the instrument of that music has been manufactured. For we are still groaning under extra recurring taxation and the burden of our debt, from which not even Sir Basil Blackett's financial genius has been able to free the Indian nation. And that reminds me of the parable of the great god Pan poetically narrated by Elizabeth Browning, which has a great moral even for Finance Members and Chancellors of the Exchequer. The great god Pan made a flute out of a slender reed, but in doing so he spread ruin and broke the golden lilies afloat, while paddling and splashing with the hoofs of a goat. The limpid waters were made turbid. The great god Pan hacked and hewed with his hard bleak steel at the patient reed, till there was not a sign of a green leaf left. He drew the pith out of the reed like the heart of a man, and notched the poor thing with holes, and triumphantly said: "This is the way to make a flute out of a reed." But what was the verdict of the poet on that flute and that music?

"Yet half a beast is the great god Pan,

To laugh as he sits by the river,

Making a poet out of a man:

The true gods sigh for the cost and pain,—

For the reed which grows nevermore again

As a reed with the reed in the river."

Well, the Budget for the new year is certainly one which, as Sir Basil Blackett says, is a budget which both the Government and the country can view with pleasure. He also prophesies that, if the recent rate of progress is continued, our unproductive debt should vanish altogether in about 12 years' time. But we all know that it is a very big "if", and one wonders whether some of the voracious departments will not again open their mouths and raise their heads, if they are not kept under tight control by the new Finance Member, and whether the new Finance Member will advert, as an urgent duty, to the necessity of reducing taxation.

**Mr. Arthur Moore** (Bengal: European): Sir, I am perhaps inclined to turn a slightly less blistering eye on Sir Basil Blackett than my colleague from Bengal, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt. In fact, I do not mind joining Mr. Kelkar in throwing a bouquet at the Finance Member because, whatever we may have to say in detail about this particular Budget, I do not think for a moment any of us forgets what he has done for us in the last five years. We are only now in a position to offer criticism,—what I may call hopeful criticism,—because at last we think that there is a little bit of money to be got,—and for that we are very grateful to Sir Basil Blackett. But having said that, there are one or two points which I should like to register at this stage. First of all, I think that the Honourable Member has shown a great deal of discretion in regard to certain matters. He has for instance, I think, convinced us all that there is an uncovered liability for post office cash certificates. But I may at once say that I also think that this is the first time we have heard about it, and it is a liability which will now have to be provided for. Sir, I heard the other day of someone getting one day's simple imprisonment for concealment of liabilities. I am not quite certain whether the Government of India ought not to get one day's simple imprisonment . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett** (Finance Member): I am getting two days.

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** Two days then. Now, Sir, most of us are sitting here in two capacities. If we look at things from the point of view of the Central Government, we are bound to admit that very much has been done to change the whole face of affairs in the last five years. But there is another point of view which the Honourable the Finance Member does not really, we feel, share to the full with us. We are also representing our provinces, and we have to think of their position; and in Bengal it is an extremely unpleasant position. We have lately had our provincial Budget produced. I fear it may be said, in a very different sense, to be spectacular. Certainly it told a very different tale to the kind of tale that the Finance Member was in a position to unfold in this House. And it is to us becoming an intolerable position that in a province which is generally called a rich province, certainly a province that contains prosperous people and has prosperous industries, the Government should have no money at all for necessary public development. Now, Sir, we in Bengal are definitely out to try and undo this miserable Weston Settlement. We are all together. Bengal is in revolt. We have those famous fire-eaters, Sir Walter Willson and Sir Darcy Lindsay, leading us in rebellion. Our hearts beat as one from right to left. We have Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, we have Mr. Neogy, we have Mr. Goswami. We are all together. I do not think that there is a single Member from Bengal who has the slightest doubt or hesitation . . . . .

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** (Rohilkhund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din Ahmed?

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** Yes, I am quite sure of him. And our point is this, that we are paying definitely too much in two directions. In income-tax and super-tax alone, 655 lakhs is what the Honourable the Finance Member budgets to take next year out of Bengal. He has budgeted for a total for all India of 17 crores, and he takes more than 6½ crores out of Bengal. For his export duty on jute he budgets for 420 lakhs on raw and manufactured jute. That is a direct tax upon the one province of Bengal. Now, Sir, we were told the other day that the Government could not accept the definite proposals of the Tariff Board in regard to the small industry of ply-wood because the Tariff Board proposed an export duty. The Government of India could not have such a vicious affair as an export duty, so they proceeded to double the import duty. All their arguments against an export duty are no doubt very right and proper,—but why is the Government of India so very keen upon this export duty on jute? I am quite willing to agree that it is not an export duty comparable to others. I am quite willing to agree that jute is a monopoly, and therefore that many of the vices of an export duty do not arise in this case. Sir, I am not sure at all that we ourselves would not like an export duty. But if it is going to be an export duty, let it be one imposed by the province of Bengal. The duty is collected on raw jute and on manufactured jute. It seems to me that it is contrary to the declared policy of the Government of India to tax an Indian manufacturing industry. You say that if you are going to have an export duty on jute you must collect it on all the jute that goes out, either in raw form or in the manufactured form. It is obvious that in taxing the manufactured article as it goes out you are to a certain extent crippling an Indian industry. Again, I am not contending that the industry is in a bad way nor am I making out a case for its protection. But I do say that if it is going to suffer this particular discrimination against it, it ought only to do so in the interests of its own province which is without money, and where all large schemes for development and for public welfare have for years, ever since the institution of the reforms, ever since the dyarchic experiment was first heard of, been hopelessly cramped and rendered entirely impossible, simply for lack of money. Last year we heard some very admirable eloquence from the Government on the subject of the nefarious export tax on hides and the Government even proposed to abolish that tax, but, unfortunately, this House decided that it should not do so. I am sorry to see that Government has wearied of well doing. It has not again brought forward that proposal. In fact, last year, after the Assembly forced its hand, it only budgetted for 30 lakhs on the export of hides, but the Finance Member this year has cheerfully budgetted for 35 lakhs without any proposal to abolish it, and without any of those arguments that we heard last year. Well, Sir, I feel that there is a strong agreement in general in this House with the Government's arguments against export duties. In the case of jute, as I say, if there is going to be any export duty, it should be one of which Bengal gets the benefit; and I wish now, while saying on behalf of Bengal Members that we are very grateful to the Finance Member, who has brought us to the crest of that hill of vision to which he referred the other day whence we can survey the prospect, I do at the same time wish to throw down a glove to his successor, and to say that we will not rest till we get this miserable Meston Settlement upset.

**Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there is one point in the speech of my friend Mr. Arthur Moore on which I not only congratulate him but with which I entirely agree. He had the frankness to tell the Finance Member that this was the first time when this House was told of the accrued liability of the postal certificates. He also very appropriately reminded the Honourable the Finance Member that his action in concealing the losses from the House made him liable for one day's simple imprisonment if such a thing ever happened in any commercial firm. I beg to state, Sir, however, that this is not the only direction in which the Honourable the Finance Member has played with the figures and tried to mislead this House. I sincerely wish that I had been in a position to offer him my congratulations at least at this stage when he is about to leave India for good, but I am afraid, after knowing too well that he is responsible for placing incorrect and misleading statements before this House, it will be impossible for some of us to offer him any compliments. Sir, the other day the Honourable the Finance Member remarked that he was a better Swarajist than some of those sitting on the opposition benches. Sir, I confess I would be horribly shocked if my Swarajist friends put before this House a statement like the one put forward by Sir Basil full of untrue and incorrect statements. Sir, it is not the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett but his successor whom we shall hold responsible for the accuracy of this Budget, and therefore I maintain that it is not only unfair to this House but unfair in a greater sense to his successor that he should have put these misleading figures before us.

Sir, before I proceed to criticise the various statements I might say a few words of warning about the danger which is hovering over us. Sir, we have had five successive good crops. In the natural course good crops should have reflected on the prosperity of the people. But what do we find? Most of us in this House know that the purchasing power of the country at present is at its lowest ebb. There is practically no demand for piece-goods, foreign or Swadeshi, and people are poorer in every way than they were five years back. One may very pertinently ask what is the reason of the poverty of the people in spite of the fact that we have had five successive good crops? The answer is very simple. The country is practically being crushed to death under the heavy taxation. I tried in my speech of last year on the Budget to put before the House how the Government through the appreciation of exchange had been able to exact a greater amount of revenue than what they could have done under the ratio of 1s. 4d. It is not my intention this year to repeat these figures again. What I however wish to point out is that, due to the appreciation of exchange the fall in general level of prices and five good years which we have had, it should have been possible for the Government to reduce their expenditure and thus give a great amount of relief to the tax-payer. But what instead of that do we find? We find that, in spite of all these good factors which we have had during the last five years, the Government exact a greater amount of revenue from the tax-payer as compared with what they did in 1923-24. In 1923-24. the total revenue amounted to about Rs. 133 crores, which now amounts to Rs. 132 crores, and this in spite of the remission of the provincial contributions. Now, so far as the provincial contributions are concerned, they do not necessarily mean any relief to the tax-payer. If I am not wrong, my information is that almost



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in every province taxation has increased since 1923-24 in spite of the remission of the contributions. (*An Honourable Member*: "That is a fact".) Some of my friends tell me that that is a fact. Now, Sir, this is the situation in spite of good years, in spite of the appreciation of exchange, in spite of the fall in the general level of prices; the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are collecting more revenue from the country than what they used to do in 1923-24, and that is in short the reason why the purchasing power of the people is at a low ebb and why the poor people of this country find it difficult to buy even the bare necessities of their life. There is only one remedy for improvement of the present state of things, and that is retrenchment. It is for the House to consider very seriously whether we have not arrived at a stage when we should have another Retrenchment Committee. The Honourable the Finance Member may ridicule some of us who give him this warning; it is human nature that one who does not make himself agreeable is as a rule liable to be ridiculed. If any one had criticised the railway management five years back the response from the Railway Department would have been the same. Even last year when my Honourable friend, Mr. Chetty, criticised very strongly that the railway expenditure was over-estimated, he was ridiculed. Thank God, his position was vindicated, but I want to know what proof is there that the other departments of the Government are not being run with the same extravagance and the same inefficiency with which the Railway Department five years back was being run? I hope that in their own interest Government would consider very seriously the question of retrenchment. If we were to have one or two bad years and if we were called upon to pay the concealed losses such as the deferred interest on postal certificates—I call them concealed because they have not been disclosed to this House—if we were to be called upon to pay all these concealed losses, in one year there would be only one alternative left for the Government, and that is to increase further the present taxation, and I am quite sure that I am expressing the views of this House when I say that this House will never consent to any further increase in the present taxation. It would be impossible for the Government to find ways and means to meet any possible deficit which they might have to face in any bad year unless they made retrenchment, and if not for the sake of the tax-payer, at least for their own sake they ought to consider the question of cutting down the expenditure very seriously. I would specially appeal to my European friends in this House because I want to tell them very frankly that the economic condition will play a great part in maintaining the peace and contentment of this country. If the people were being oppressed under a wheel of heavy taxation and over and above that if we were called upon to impose further taxation, no sermon on peace and contentment would be able to keep the people calm and peaceful. I hope, therefore, that the Government will seriously consider the question of retrenchment and take effective action in the direction.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett remarked in his budget speech that the earnings of the Railways were a barometer of the prosperity of trade, and he implied thereby that the country was passing through a time of prosperity. So far as the imports of cloth and treasure go to show, so far as the collection of income-tax goes to show—if they are to be taken as a criterion of the people's prosperity—I must point out that Sir Basil's contention does not find any support in them.

There has been a serious drop in the collection of income-tax, the duty collected on the import of cloth has been less than that of the previous year, and the import of treasure has fallen by an amount of Rs. 6½ crores. The price of 3½ per cent Government loan which stood at Rs. 77-7-0 last year stood at Rs. 75-15-0 this year. If all these things have got any significance, they only go to show that the country is not passing through a time of prosperity. Now, Sir, the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett has budgetted for a higher figure for receipts from income-tax and customs for the Budget of this year. I hope and pray that his wishes may be realised, but as we all know there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. But granting that we shall get more money under these heads, I should like to know from the Honourable the Finance Member what provision he is going to make for those concealed losses which we may be called upon to pay in his absence. I was very much alarmed to note from his speech that the loan of 1918 issued at 5 per cent. premium and matured in 1928 caused a sudden demand of about Rs. 80 lakhs on the revenue within one year. This is not the only instance in which these so-called deferred interests have been kept concealed from the House and eventually paid in one year. It was for the first time, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Moore rightly remarked, that we happened to hear of the accrued liabilities of the postal certificates. Sir Basil very plausibly defends his action by saying, "Oh, our Budget is a mere statement of receipts and disbursements in cash." I do not agree with him that our Budget is a mere statement of receipts and disbursements in cash. I should like to give a few instances which will show how in the past the practice has varied according to the convenience of the Finance Members. In 1923, a loan was raised at a discount and in one year the whole discount was written off, whereas in 1927 loans have been raised at discounts in England and in India, and it is proposed that the discounts should be spread over a period of years of the currency of the loan. Now, as regards these loans issued at discount or premium such discounts or premiums represented nothing but interest pure and simple which the loans carried. If that was so, what was the reason that in some cases it was proposed to distribute the amount over a period of years, while in other cases it was written off in one year? There must be some cause, and I would like to know from the Honourable the Finance Member why he should decide at his sweet will to write off the interest on loan sometimes in one year and spread it sometimes over a number of years. The real fact is that he acts in a manner which suits him best. Sometimes it suits him to conceal losses while at other times it suits him to conceal profits. Sometimes it suits him to wipe off at one stroke a huge loan of 3½ crores lent to the Persian Government. At other times it suits him to conceal profits derived from the enemy ships. That has been the sort of jugglery going on in the Finance Department from time to time, and I very strongly protest against it. Similar treatment has been given to this House as regards the statement about the unproductive debt. If I rightly understand the meaning of unproductive debt, it represents nothing but a sort of loss which has to be carried forward from year to year, to be made up either by surpluses or by any other profits. Now, during the last few years he has been able to effect a reduction of about 80 crores in the unproductive debts. It is very difficult to say how the Finance Member ever happened to be in a position to achieve this miracle. How could he reduce the unproductive debt within one

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year to the extent of 20 crores? There can be only two explanations. Either there is an invisible surplus which has been kept away from this House, or he has used money from some other funds which were lying at his disposal. If he has kept any surplus concealed from this House, he is equally liable to criticism; but I think in the present case it is not so. If he has reduced the unproductive debt simply by using the various funds at his disposal, belonging to other departments, then I strongly protest that he has done a very wrong thing. He must tell us how did he do this? If the House does not get proper information about all these manipulations it will be difficult,—impossible I should say—to trust the Finance Department in future. This is a very serious matter and I wish to invite the attention of the House, and the Standing Finance Committee particularly, to this subject. To me it appears that the whole system of accounts requires revision. The Honourable the Finance Member will say: "All possible information is provided in the big bundles of books". Sir, in the first place it is impossible for every member to go through these huge files and even if one had sufficient time at his disposal. The system is so complicated that even after reading the books for six months one does not know where one stands. I would therefore suggest to the Finance Department that they should accept my suggestion and in future prepare the accounts in a simpler and more concise form. That is the only way to check future manipulations, and I hope that the House will keep these suggestions of mine in their mind.

**Mr. M. S. Sessa Aiyangar** (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Honourable the Finance Member will please excuse me if I do not indulge in conventional language, which I am really incapable of. I will be as frank as my friend Mr. Birla in criticising the Budget as I view it. I am in perfect agreement with my friend Mr. Amar Nath Dutt in maintaining that this is a Budget which the country can by no means view with pleasure. As I see it, the Budget is barren; and it is somewhat bitter too. I say it is barren because there is no advantage accruing from the Budget to the ordinary tax-payer. Even as regards the bare necessary of life for man and beast there is absolutely nothing in the Budget to indicate that the impost on salt is sought to be lessened; and so far as the reduction of postal rates is concerned, the Honourable the Finance Member has observed that there is no way of effecting that. The Finance Member says:

"As was then pointed out, such reductions would involve a far greater loss than the present-finances of the department would justify."

I would remind the Honourable the Finance Member that in the case of public utility departments, such as the Postal and Telegraph Department, these commercial considerations should be sparingly used. Then so far as the burden of taxation is concerned, he leaves it to his successor to effect what he might be able to achieve. So there is absolutely nothing by way of giving any relief to the ordinary tax-payer as seen from his view point. Now, I would be satisfied if at least there is economy in administration. The House might remember that when we were on the exchange question this time last year, the Finance Member said that if the rupee did not appreciate to 1s. 6d., there would be a loss of about a crore and a half of rupees. The surplus now is 2 crores and odd. At least one-half of it is admittedly due to the appreciation of the rupee.

Economy has not been attended to. In this connection I would invite the attention of the House to paragraph 23 of the budget statement. In 1923-24 the military expenditure was 56·23 crores, and in 1928-29 it is proposed to spend 55·10 crores. Now the House must read these figures in terms of their gold value on the 1st of March every year. For the information of the House I may submit that the sterling rate of exchange in 1923-24 was 1s. 4½d. and the gold rate then was 1s. 3½d. In 1928-29 it is 1s. 6d. Now the figure for 1923-24 converted into its gold value parity rate would yield £36 million. What do you find in 1928-29? The expenditure is put down as 55·10. Its equivalent now is £40 millions. This shows that in five years there has been an increase from £36 to 40 millions. The figures given in crores of rupees in paragraph 23 make us believe that there is really a reduction of 1·13 crores though really there is an increase of expenditure. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will in his reply enlighten the House on this point. Again, the general expenditure in 1923-24 is given as 1·30 crores. That would yield, according to this mode of calculation, £84 millions; and in 1928-29 the proposed figure is 129 crores which comes to £95 millions. So that there is really an increase of £10 millions in these five years. That is an alarming state of things and I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to enlighten the House again on this point also. I would also inform the House that, so far as England is concerned, the Secretary of State for War thought it expedient this year to bring down the military budget figures in England both as regards men and money because of possible criticism from Members of a critical Parliament. Here in India our rage is impotent though as Members of this House, we may also indulge in criticism. It is for that reason that we do not get any reduction in money or men. One other thing I would submit is this. So far as the redemption of debt is concerned, my Honourable friend Mr. Birla brought to the notice of the House the means adopted at present and the correct way of doing it. I would also bring to the notice of the House that the system which prevails in England is entirely different from that which obtains in India. In England I find that the unproductive debt amounts to £7,700 millions, but the provision made in the Budget towards avoidance or reduction of this unproductive debt is only £50 millions annually. That works out to something like two-thirds of one per cent. of the entire debt. But in the current year's Budget here we have 5·40 crores allotted for reduction of debt, which works out to a little over 3 per cent. of the whole debt. That is certainly out of all proportion to what obtains in similar circumstances in England. I therefore submit that, in all these matters, if the figures given were converted into their sterling equivalents we would be in a much better position to understand whether there is really any deficit or any surplus, or any increase or decrease in expenditure. What we are now given are concealed figures, with concealed taxation and concealment of the real state of things to which we refer year after year. I would this day suggest to the Finance Department that if they will give us the sterling equivalents in our Budgets year after year then the real position will be better shown to us; and we will then be in a much better position to criticise and expose what is actually wrong in the Budget. The only thing which the House can congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on is his cleverness in budgetting, as he

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calls it. He has twice taken the opportunity of congratulating himself upon the efficacy of the budgetting. In paragraph 2 of his speech I find :

"The close approximation of the revised estimate to the actual outturn is an encouraging sign of the improvement in our methods of budgetting."

Certainly that is a matter for congratulation. As I submitted the other day in connection with the Railway Budget, there was a disparity of 4 crores of rupees between the actuals and the budget estimates. And if those figures approximate closer here, it is certainly a matter for congratulation so far as efficiency in the mere method of budgetting is concerned. But so far as the intrinsic merits of the Budget itself are concerned, I am afraid there is hardly anything on which the Honourable the Finance Member can be congratulated.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee** (Nominated: Indian Christians): Sir, I wish to add my humble congratulations to the many well-deserved compliments that the Honourable the Finance Member has received, if not in this House, then in the wider world outside where it is possible to take a calmer and less impassioned view of things. And my compliment, Sir, is not couched in conventional terms because I have not yet learnt the language of convention or of politics. But I want to pay this humble tribute to one, the honour of whose acquaintance I have had for nearly five years in a world outside the world of politics. I am filled with admiration for his devotion to his duty, his vast knowledge and learning and his knowledge of men and affairs. I believe that whatever criticism may be made of his financial policy or other matters, there is no doubt that, when the heat of controversy is over, all parties will be united in acknowledging the great service which he has rendered to India, according to his lights and to the best of his abilities, in the course of these years when he has held so high an office in this land. An Honourable Member on the other side has said that he has always given his devotion to the country of his birth. Well, Sir, I do not know and it is not the place here to speak of his services to the country of his birth, but I am absolutely certain that in spite of much criticism and some times criticism which has not been sympathetic, Sir Basil Blackett has shown the utmost devotion to the land of his sojourn and has given of his best to this country. He has I believe added lustre by his great ability to the illustrious office which he unfortunately is so soon to lay down. Being a junior Member of this House I have no desire whatever to enter into broader questions of policy or of finance. I only crave the indulgence of the House to bring before it the case of the small province of Delhi and its urgent needs, and I do so at the special request of the municipality of Delhi.

**Mr. B. Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Delhi is represented by an Honourable Member.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee**: I have been requested by the Municipality of which I am a member to do this for them, and I believe I have the right to do so. There is a general impression that the city of Delhi and the province of Delhi have gained very greatly by the elevation of this city to the dignity of the Imperial Capital. But when facts are faced we find that Delhi, or at any rate the old city of Delhi, has lost much more than it has gained by the capital being brought here. (*An Honourable Member*: "Try Bombay.")

**Mr. K. Ahmed** (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): You have become a nominated Member.

**The Revd. J. O. Chatterjee:** That I am afraid is not a very great gain to the city of Delhi. In the first place, I would point out that every large city has round it a good deal of space for expansion. Now we are an old walled city and a very congested city, and since the capital came here we have been deprived of all scope for expansion. On one side the Fort and the river bind us within very narrow limits. On the other side there are the civil lines of Delhi and Kingsway, where again the city of Delhi cannot encroach. The only side where we could expand was this side, the southern side; and here we have this garden city of New Delhi. Between this and old Delhi there must always be a very broad belt which is no man's land and on which certainly we cannot encroach. There is only one other side left, where Karol Bagh, or what is known as the western extension, was formed. That is the only direction where we can expand and I will soon show how the unfortunate people who were taken there, have been treated in matters of public health and sanitation facilities. Then again our municipal expenditure has very greatly increased owing to the presence of the Government of India here. To give you only one example, since the new city was formed our dumping ground has had to be removed to such a great distance from Delhi, that it will very soon be costing us a capital outlay of several lakhs of rupees and a recurring annual cost of a lakh and a half for carrying out the refuse of the city. That is only one way in which the expenditure of the Delhi municipality has vastly increased; there are various other ways also. So long as the Government of India were in Kingsway, sojourning near to us, they were probably afraid of infection and disease getting at them, and they were generous in giving grants. They gave us grants and we carried out certain improvements in the city. But ever since they came to this secluded, or at any rate, this exclusive, segregated city of villas and palaces, they seem to have completely forgotten all about us. Sometimes their minds

1 P.M. have turned towards us and they have held out promises of kindness, but none of those hopes seem to have come to a fruition. I will give you some instances. In the year 1926, in the month of May, we suddenly received a very happy communication from the Department of Education, Health and Lands, saying that a grant of Rs. 50,000 was available for public health and sanitation, and asking if we would within a week's time send them a carefully considered and detailed programme of improvements, not only for the city of Delhi, but for the entire province of Delhi, and telling us that the Chief Medical Officer would be the person to divide this grant. We were allotted by that officer Rs. 32,000 for the city of Delhi, and we at once sent out a carefully considered scheme (at which our officers worked night and day for days), for the expenditure of this Rs. 32,000, on the improvement of one of the worst slums in the city of Delhi. Now these slums have been described by the Public Health Commissioner as veritable plague spots, and there could not have been a better purpose to which we could have devoted this money than to improve the sanitation of this slum area. But since that time, in spite of several reminders the grant seems to have vanished. I do not know what has happened to it. Perhaps we will be informed that the money has gone towards the remission of provincial contributions. Soon after we received another communication from the same Department of the Government of India, in which they informed us, to our great joy and raised our hopes, that they wanted us to submit for the consideration

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of the Government of India a carefully considered and detailed programme of public health and sanitary improvements spread over a period of five years. That was a very big task for the municipal officers to undertake, but they worked very hard at it and drew up a scheme for providing medical public health and sanitary facilities to the city of Delhi, and to its various extensions. That programme included among other things, a large outlay for improving the water supply in the city. I do not know whether Honourable Members are aware of the fact, that the water distribution scheme of Delhi is so antiquated that in the hot months there is a terrible scarcity of water, and that people living in Pahargunge and the Saddar Bazar can hardly get sufficient water to drink. We wanted a large sum to improve that water distribution scheme. We wanted money to improve our slum areas. We also desired to improve the lot of the people in Karol Bagh. We informed the Government of India that the scheme would cost 60 lakhs of rupees. The Local Government reduced this to 49 lakhs. It may be said that 49 lakhs is a very large sum, but this only works out to 10 lakhs per year, and that for the benefit of 300,000 inhabitants, whereas many crores have been spent on this new city for the benefit of about 30,000 people at the utmost. That scheme was submitted, but we were informed that the Government of India were unable to allot anything from their Budget for 1927-28 for this purpose. After some time we received another letter telling us that the Government of India would reconsider our proposals on our giving greater details and sending a fresh scheme for inclusion in the Budget of 1928-29. We hoped that the new heaven on earth had only been deferred and that this year, when a surplus Budget was most likely to be presented, something would be done for the old city of Delhi. The new scheme was sent up and we have just heard in reply that the Government of India regret that they have no money to give us, and would we again reconsider our scheme and present it for inclusion in the Budget of 1929-30. I will probably be told that the entire surplus of the Government of India will be swallowed up in remissions of provincial contributions, and therefore no more money has been left over. This is very small comfort to us, and therefore we cannot join in the jubilation that the major provinces are feeling. I believe the city of Delhi has a much stronger claim on this House and on the Government of India than any other city, because, in the first place, it lies nearest to them and ought to receive their closest attention. Secondly, because Delhi has no provincial council which can collar a portion of these remissions of provincial contributions, or put its case before the Central Government. I also wish to point out how very urgent those needs are. This morning I was informed that six small rooms were provided for private patients in the Civil Hospital, as if that was considered sufficient for the wants of nearly 300,000 people. I will show how a city like this needs an up-to-date and large Civil Hospital, and it is no use postponing that scheme from year to year.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai** (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): The scheme has been before the Government for a little over a year only.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** It was mooted in Delhi for several years. Any way that is only one of the things that are so urgently needed in the city to make the lives of the inhabitants happy and comfortable. Take



the case of infectious diseases. The only hospital provided for such patients is a wretched, miserable godown. So often we have had epidemics of plague, cholera and small-pox. Anyone who has got the time has only to go out a few miles and see what a terrible congestion there is in the slums of Delhi, and it is high time we did get some money to build houses for these poor people who lack sanitary houses, air and light. Then with regard to this question of Karol Bagh. The people who were living on this side of New Delhi had to be turned out of their houses so that the new city could be built. They were transferred to the western extension and in that place the Government leased out lands to them. Therefore, the Government are absolute landholders of this western extension. People have been living there for the past seven or eight years without any drainage, and the only water supply at their disposal consists of a few old-fashioned, and in some cases antiquated wells. Now the money that we wanted was partly to provide the water supply there, and for drainage and improvement of the slums, for the provision of a hospital for infectious diseases and for the city's expansion. I ask the House whether these are not things which need the immediate attention of the Government. Delhi can only come to the Central Government. We have been asking for a grant since 1926, and we are told that we may get something in the year 1929-30. I do hope that something will move the Government of India to reconsider their decision, and that from their general prosperity something at least may be given to us in the revised estimates when that matter is taken up.

I will refer to one other matter which is not of purely Delhi interest, and would submit that whatever I say is in no spirit of criticism, put mainly because it is a matter in which I am specially interested, and believe that a certain amount of attention being drawn to it would result in the good of a class of people who deserve the protection and the interest of the Government as well as of the public. I refer to the question of the administration of jails. I do so from a certain amount of personal experience, because I have been visiting jails for some years. I find that although the Government have done a great deal in recent years for the improvement of convicts and jails in India, a good deal still remains to be done. I am not a psycho-analyst. I do not believe that a criminal can by a few months of treatment be at once cured; nor am I one of those people who believe that the criminal is merely a bad boy who only needs to be smacked and smacked and smacked because there is no chance of curing him. I believe that they deserve humane treatment and at the same time firm treatment. Now, in the first place, there is this question of overcrowding in jails. I quite understand that the abolition of the Andamans as a penal settlement has a good deal to do with it and that Government have had tremendous difficulty to face in that matter. But still I could give you instances of jails where if there is accommodation for 600, there is a permanent convict population of 750 and sometimes more. That I believe is not as it should be. Something ought to be done. These people are convicts; we do not want to give them so good or comfortable a time that the jail should lose its horrors for them. But at the same time it is our duty to try and do all that is humanly right and incumbent on us to do.

That is one thing. Then in the same way there is this larger question of jails serving not only as penitentiaries but also as places for correction and improvement. It is very well-known that at least in the case of a



[The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee.]

large number of convicts it is the lack of livelihood—it is because of economic reasons—that they are sent to jail, and more so that is why they go there again and again. I have spoken to convicts and sometimes men have told me that they have gone there for the sixth time for they could get no work outside.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is exceeding twenty minutes.

**The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** May I have two minutes, Sir? I shall therefore conclude my remarks by saying that something should be done to teach more suitable industries in the jails. At the present time the industries taught in jails are carpet making, moonj matting weaving and paper making. But all these industries are such that convicts cannot engage in, after they get out of jail because they all require capital; and the employer in factories does not like the idea of employing convicts. I believe that something should be done to teach them industries like carpentry and blacksmith's work and things of that kind. It will give the convict a much better chance to get work when he comes out of jail.

Finally, I want to say one word; something ought to be done to look into the matter of juvenile offenders. It takes a very long time for the trial of juvenile offenders before their cases are disposed of; and during that time the juvenile offender is exposed to influences which may turn him into a hardened criminal. We want more in the way of special magistrates and special methods of dealing with juvenile offenders. I believe that reformatories are doing excellent work but special magistrates to try juvenile offenders are a great necessity and so is the speedy trial of these juvenile offenders.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava** (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, last year the Honourable the Finance Member, while closing his speech on the budget discussion day, said as follows:

"Once again I commend to the House the Government's budget proposals which will achieve our long-cherished project of getting rid of provincial contributions and will open the way next year or the year after to the effective discussion of reduced taxation in every direction and increased provision for the nation-building services."

We expected this year, according to the prophecy, a reduction of taxation in every direction and increased provision for the nation-building services. But we are sorely disappointed. In the present Budget no taxation has been proposed to be reduced and there is no increased provision for nation-building services. On the income side, the anticipated increases in sugar and cotton piece-goods is anything but desirable. This anticipated increase welcomed by the Finance Member, only serves to show the different standpoint from the national point of view and from the Government point of view. The increases in respect of these two articles are exactly the increases which I would never like to see at any time. The increase in these two articles denotes that the imports of these two articles will be greater in the year to come; whereas sound economy and the claims of national industry would dictate that such increases of these articles should be deprecated. Further on, an increase in income from taxation is also anticipated. If this increase is due to the prosperity of the jute trade I have nothing to complain of. But if this increase denotes efficiency of taxation, then we know what it actually denotes in actual practice. On the expenditure side 18 lakhs more to the military expenditure and the remission of provincial contributions is indicated. By way of reduction of taxation we get a declaration that the position of

the finances of the Government of India is sound and prosperous. By way of increased provision for nation-building services, we get a lip prayer that no storm from without or within may descend upon India to disturb the bright prospects of financial well-being. Sir, in no sense can the present Budget be called a prosperity budget, and the financial position of to-day cannot be regarded with complacent equanimity. Last year it was said by the Finance Member that but for the ratio the Budget would have shown a deficit of 1.56 crores. This year also, take away the ratio and you will find that the present Budget is not at all a prosperity budget. Thus, it appears that the red flush of the budget is not the result of health and strength but is the outcome of ratio stimulant. Deprive the Budget of this ratio draught and then it sinks into paleness; and if you take into account the concealed liability for payment of cash certificates, the seeming prosperity of the magician turns itself into a hideous bankruptcy. Even fed upon the manna of the ratio, the Budget is innocent of all progress and presents a picture of prosaic gloominess. It has been well said, Sir, that if you do not move forward, either you go back or you stagnate. In the present Budget, on the Finance Member's own showing, either there is retrogression or stagnation, which can hardly be regarded as satisfactory. The salt tax, the postal rates and other forms of taxation remain as usual. The nation-building services are not fostered. The super-tax and the income-tax and various other forms of taxation due to the exigencies of the War show the obstinacy of parasites on healthy organisms, and as a whole the Budget seems to cast gloom and despondency. In this connection I wish to say a word in regard to the incidence of taxation on Hindu undivided families. In the Finance Bill the Hindu undivided family is regarded as a unit and also families assessed at more than an income of Rs. 2,000 are sought to be taxed. It is true that a Mitakshara family constitutes a unit in an abstract sense and no coparcener can predicate that he is the owner of so much income or property before partition, yet it is clear that, whatever the income of the family is, it is the income, though joint, of more than one member. And when once the principle of accepting an income of Rs. 2,000 or less is admitted, it is unjust to make such income taxable as the fruit of the labours of more than one individual unless it exceeds the amount of Rs. 2,000 multiplied by the number of coparceners. In Hindu families governed by Dayabhaga, this principle of joint income without shares also does not apply, and there is no reason why such a family be regarded as different from a joint family of other than Hindus. In Mitakshara families, the fact that the family is joint does not make its income more valuable in the matter of getting more commodities and services. There is absolutely no reason why Hindu families as such should be penalised and taxed because of the fact that it is a Hindu family.

Sir, the Hindu joint family is fast disappearing and I am one of those who are sorry at this spectacle. But let the theory so ably interpreted by Sir Henry Mayne in his joint Hindu family law have its full operation and let not the Finance Act prove the greatest disruptive factor so far as Hindu families are concerned. Let not the process be unduly precipitated unconsciously by this means and let not a fiscal measure turn itself into a social monster from this standpoint. I hope the House will see the justice of the complaint and give its considered verdict on the proper occasion.

Sir, the present Budget, as all Budgets, is in effect the reflection of a more settled and delicate budget, and let me scrutinise that budget with

## [Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.]

your permission. Sir, the budget of the relations of the people of India with the Government of India and with the British Government does not show any surplus on our side. The appointment of the Simon Commission without any Indian on the Commission shows the extreme bankruptcy of imagination and *uberrima fides*. The denial of equality of the status, opportunity and value of the report of the representatives of the Central Legislature of India clearly indicates that the balance of trust is not even and is deflected in the wrong direction. Not less important in this connection is the attitude of the British military authorities in the matter of the Skeen Report. No Indian can look with composure and equanimity at this attitude. In the first place, it is difficult to get a Committee appointed for a purpose like this, and then its personnel is in the hands of the authorities. Then there may be minority and majority reports. Then the Government may or may not accept these reports. But, Sir, in the present case the fates decreed a course from which every Indian expected a harvest of good to his country. And on this occasion, the rub seems to have come from a quarter from which it was least expected. The disillusionment, I can assure you Sir, will be quite great. Sincerity will be put to a great test and all this jargon of equal partnership and fellow-citizenship will be mainly judged by the conclusions arrived at in this connection.

Sir, to any impartial student of the Budget, especially its military portion, it is absolutely plain that the racial discrimination of which we hear so much is warp and woof woven into its fabric. The British soldier costs as much as about seven times his Indian compeer. There are the artillery, tank and engineering services which are the monopoly of the British. The Royal Air Force is not open to Indians. Look at the provision for the schooling of the children of British sepoy. Is there a similar provision for the children of Indian sepoy? Look at the kit and clothing and other dietary arrangements and other things. This talk of equality is a huge farce. In the military Budget one sees the real foreign domination and the mailed fist at equality. Sir, what is the reason for all this? Why are Indians not substituted? Why should this unproductive excess in expenditure not be reduced? There is one formula which to my mind rightly diagnoses the situation—"Distrust of Indians". I cannot believe that Roy and Patwardhan can prove reliable and useful air pilots in war and Afghanistan and as soon as some of them aspire to serve their country they lose the qualification. If Indians can rise to the highest posts in civil engineering why cannot they in military engineering? If the bravest deeds can be performed by Indians in the battlefield and they are capable of handling the most delicate of machines, why cannot they be employed in the artillery and tank services? Sir, the mistrust of Indians is the real cause. In the daily papers we read of a five lakhs reduction in the military expenditure of Great Britain with all its responsibilities and commitments. And what do we find in the Indian Budget? Again, there is an increase of 18 lakhs. Again, look at the Indian Navy Bill. What a sad commentary on the budget of relations between Great Britain and India and the people of India. One post in the Navy and crores of rupees subsidy. Can that be called just? Look at the Reserve Bank muddle. Have the Reserve Bank built at the cost of concentrating all power in the hands of the Government and making it thoroughly irresponsible. Again, look at the ratio question and the appreciation of the currency.

Sir, the Government of India and the British Government are not doing justice to India and in the scales of the relations between the people of India and the Government there are three very weighty items on the Government side which solve all its difficulties and make our position intolerable. Faith, hope and patience are trotted out in reply to every demand from the Indian side. But, Sir, in the balance you must realise that trust, mutual trust, is the pivot on which the balance hangs. If that trust is gone the balance topples and brute force and injustice hold sway. Remember Britain does not trust India and, as a consequence, India cannot trust Britain. Indian and Britisher do not at present stand on the same footing. Britishers are in a position to foster and produce a sense of trust and since you are in a favourable position it is your duty to so conduct the situation as to inspire trust. If you fail to do so, the blame does not lie with India.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum** (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Do Hindus and Mussalmans trust each other?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava**: If this question were to be answered categorically in the way the question is put, I would simply say, they do trust each other, and if still it appears that they do not trust each other, there is the third power, which is responsible for this distrust.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum**: How do you know about the third power? Why should you not trust one another. Leave the third power alone.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava**: It is clear to everybody that in our budget for Swaraj in relation to the Government of Great Britain, there is no question at present of surpluses or deficits, no complaint of weighted dice and different standards. To me it seems the pivot of the balance is unhinged and all the balance is gone. It is now for Britishers to build up the balance again and inspire trust and justice into the budget of our relations and there is no doubt, if your efforts are genuine, we shall certainly respond.

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

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

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**Mr. S. C. Mukherjee** (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I must thank you for having given me the privilege of speaking on this important occasion so early. I wholeheartedly associate myself in the chorus of praise bestowed upon the Honourable the Finance Member for presenting a surplus budget for the fifth time in this House. Our regret—sincere regret—is that India will no longer be benefited by having his valuable services for the betterment of her finances. It is a misfortune to us and a great loss to India. Closely following upon years of depression it rarely falls to the lot of a country to recover so soon as India has been able to improve her drooping finances under the able management of the Honourable the Finance Member. It is indeed a great achievement to be able to produce surplus Budgets successively for five years, to place the Indian finances upon a sure footing, to inaugurate a policy of debt redemption, to recover India's credit from the debility of recent years both at home and

[Mr. S. C. Mukherjee.]

abroad at favourable terms, and to remit entirely the provincial contributions, which for the year stood at 258 lakhs. Surely any of these achievements is sufficient to entitle the Honourable the Finance Member to the everlasting gratitude of India. India is proud of him, as he is undoubtedly her great friend, sincere well-wisher and real benefactor.

Sir, the budget of a country is just like a mirror which shows at a glance the policy pursued in governing the said country. It should show the economic, social, religious and political advantages secured for its people. It should be remembered that India is an agricultural country and her economic salvation lies in the steady growth and advancement of her agriculture. Now what does the Budget before us show? It is more industrial than agricultural. The country whose finances are now under consideration is extremely poor. The bulk of my countrymen live in a chronic state of squalor and poverty. They do not care for imports or exports. They do not know what the reforms are. What have you proposed to ameliorate their condition? I find no adequate provision made for irrigating their lands. But on the other hand I find that poor man's salt is continued to be taxed, he is not allowed to manufacture earth-salt without restriction. It is common knowledge that the salt tax is pressing very hard upon the poor people and it will surely go a great way to ameliorate their sad lot if a portion of the present surplus be applied to the remission of the salt duty. Again I find the postal and telegraph charges continue as high as before. The poor people cannot pay for them. The cheapening at least of postage stamps is urgently called for to enable them to carry on their correspondence.

Sir, the system of issuing cash certificates is intended to induce a habit of thrift amongst the people and the success it has achieved is highly gratifying. The value of these certificates have to be returned in full with interest. A big liability is accumulating for the future and in the case of sudden withdrawal it will tell heavily on the finances of the country if no provision is made in time in the Budget to meet such contingencies. No provision has, however, been made in the Budget.

Sir, I have one other point to refer to. I once again offer my sincerest congratulations to the Honourable the Finance Member on the total remission of the provincial contributions. I hail from Bengal and the finances of my province are now being discussed in the local Council and are shown to be in a deplorable condition. While we are here exulting over a surplus budget Bengal is weeping over a deficit budget. Bengal, once prosperous Bengal, has now no money to combat preventable diseases, to drive away the scourge of malaria which claims an unusually heavy toll every year. Rivers, once navigable, are being silted up. Famine never fails to make its yearly visitation. Floods sweep away villages almost every year. People are subjected to various other untold miseries. And all this is due to want of funds at the disposal of the Provincial Government. Government cannot alleviate all these sufferings of the people and the people drag on their weary life as best they can on outside vicarious charity. This is all due to the award of the Meston Committee which by an irony of fate and by a mysterious manipulation of figures has landed Bengal, the wealthiest province in the Empire, in an extreme position of financial difficulty. The award is entirely one-sided and has not allowed

Bengal even sufficient revenue to meet her normal expenditure. It is a settlement which Bengal refuses to stand by and demands an immediate revision. Bengal claimed an interest in the proceeds of taxes on income and the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech last year said that any special claims Bengal might have urged in this connection had been liquidated by the relief already accorded from the payment of any part of her annual contribution of 63 lakhs for 5 years. But, Sir, this relief has not in the least improved the financial position of Bengal. Bengal grows jute. It is her indigenous product. It is not understood why the duty on jute is exclusively appropriated by the Central Government and is not even shared with Bengal. Bengal lays claim to this duty as she is entitled to it by the law of inheritance, possession and equity. It is hoped that the Government of India will see their way to transfer the duty on jute to the Bengal Government for expenditure on urgent necessary reforms in the Province.

I once again thank the Honourable the Finance Member for his prosperity budget and join fervently with him in his prayer "that no storm from without or from within may descend upon India to disturb the bright prospects of financial well-being to which she seems to-day to be justified in looking forward".

**Khan Bahadur Nawabzada Sayid Ashrafuddin Ahmad** (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity of making my speech on this occasion,—an occasion on which we have come to discuss and consider the Budget so ably framed and presented by my Honourable friend, Sir Basil Blackett.

Sir, I rise to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member. I rise to congratulate him not because I must but because I should. I rise to say a few words of praise for the wonderful achievements of Sir Basil Blackett in Indian finance, though these achievements are nothing in comparison to his genius. For there is nobody in this House, I believe, who can deny the uncommon aptitude of Sir Basil, his financial skill and ability, his wise and prudent guidance of India's finances. Beginning his career at a time when Indian finances were passing through a period of crisis, he has, as he has rightly claimed himself, steered the national finances clear out of danger zones. It is quite within the memory of the House when the deficits in our Budgets went up by leaps and bounds even to the extent of 93 crores. And Sir Basil has not only done away with deficits but has for five successive years shown a clear and successful surplus.

But that is not all, Sir. He has budgeted for a surplus of no less than 263 lakhs for 1928-29 in spite of a sure and anticipated deterioration in Railways, revenue, reserve fund, opium, civil administration and military services. And yet no new taxes have been imposed on the people. His manipulation of the Exchange Ratio has steadied Indian finance and his great success of the recent sterling loan speaks well for his zealous devotion to India's finances and her credit abroad. But the last and the noblest achievement is no doubt obliteration of the inequities of the Meston Award. Sir, when I remember all these his achievements I cannot but comment in strong terms of approval the Budget that has been presented to this House by the Honourable the Finance Member. Personally I feel his retirement very much, as he is not only a great man, but also a good

[Nawabzada Sayid Ashrafuddin Ahmad.]

man. He carries therefore our good wishes for his future prospects and prosperity in England.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Sir, although Sir Basil Blackett's last Budget is a featureless Budget and does not disclose any striking phenomenon, yet it would be highly unjustifiable if I did not pay him my humble quota of tribute for his successful handling of the finances of this country. When Sir Basil Blackett took up the charge of the Finance Department of the Government of India 5 years ago, the financial condition of the country was far from being satisfactory, and Sir Basil Blackett, in presenting his fifth prosperity Budget in the House on the 29th February, must have felt with great relief and pride that he has been able to fulfil the arduous task which was entrusted to him, with singular ability followed by singular success. Nothing can be more gratifying to a public servant than to find, at the end of his term of office, that he leaves a striking mark on the sands of time, which his successors will deem it an honour to follow. During the last four years, since I have been a Member of this House, although the occasions on which I could not see eye to eye with Sir Basil were not infrequent, nevertheless no one in this House can complain that our difference of opinion was ever reflected in our social relations with Sir Basil Blackett. His great courtesy and his smile of welcome never failed, and therefore his impending retirement, which also implies his departure from this country, is a matter of regret to us, and in saying good-bye to Sir Basil Blackett I wish to assure him that his name will be remembered in this country with great admiration for a long time to come.

Coming to the Budget itself, I have already stated that there is nothing striking in it. The most noticeable feature of the Budget is the total extinction of the provincial contributions which, I hope, will help the provinces in spending more money on nation-building departments. It is a pity that in some provinces most of the savings of the provincial contributions are taken up by reserved departments and little attention is paid to primary education, sanitation and hygiene. I am confident that in the United Provinces with the advent of the new Governor the old order will also change and His Excellency Sir Alexander Muddiman, whose genial disposition, breadth of vision and sympathy with the people of this country are well-known to this House, will be able to infuse new life and create new avenues of activity for the well-being of my province. It will be remembered that last year the Honourable the Finance Member proposed the abolition of the hides and skin duty, but unfortunately the motion was defeated in this House by the casting vote. It is very disappointing indeed that the Finance Member could not see his way to propose the abolition of this pernicious duty this year which is slowly but surely ruining this branch of Indian industry and trade. (*An Honourable Member:* "Question.") We have been in receipt of so many telegrams from hides and skin merchants all over the country that this fact cannot be questioned. There is a great feeling in the country on account of the non-abolition of this duty and I would strongly urge upon the successor of Sir Basil Blackett to take the earliest opportunity of removing this grievance.

The attitude of the Government towards the aspirations of the people of this country has been a source of real complaint during the second half



of the last year. The exclusion of Indians from the Statutory Commission has given rise to a tremendous storm of protest in the country and it is generally felt by the self-respecting and thinking people of this country that India has been denied the fundamental right of participation in framing its constitution, and it is generally believed that even a good-natured, well-meaning and well-intentioned Viceroy like Lord Irwin could not save the honour of the country. The feeling of resentment on this matter is very great and real in India and the artificial nature of the manoeuvred and dictated campaign of co-operation with the Commission in its present state can only deceive the blind and the ignorant. As one who considers the connection of England with India beneficial to both countries for a long time to come; I am constrained to think that the British politicians have in this respect shown a great bankruptcy of statesmanship and far-sightedness for which they will be held responsible for the decay and downfall of the British Empire by the future historian of the world.

Turning to the internal management of the Government of India, I cannot refrain from mentioning that the expenditure on the Bureau of Public Information is being ruthlessly increased. I want the Honourable the Home Member to explain the increase of Rs. 8,000 in the pay of officers. Is it intended to add any other officer to this department and to extend the scope of its activity? An increase of about Rs. 7,000 under the other heads of this department is also noticeable. I also want the Honourable the Home Member to explain the scope and the nature of the work of this department and its utility for the public weal of the country.

It never struck me, Sir, that by making friendship with Sultan Ibn Saud of Hedjaz the Government of India would also imbibe his habits of vandalism. It is simply shocking to the feelings of a large number of people in this country that the Government of India had decided to demolish the historic wall round the Delhi of Shah Jahan. One of the great evils of the British system of Government is its slavery to the so-called expert opinion. I really fail to understand what effect on the health and climate of the town can be exercised by the existence of this wall. On the other hand the beautiful town of Shah Jahan would be shorn of one of its most distinguishing features by the demolition of the wall. It is surprising that while the old walls of Paris are preserved as being worthy of respect, the Government of India is bent upon depriving Delhi of its historic necklace. I would strongly urge upon the Government of India the necessity of reviewing their decision in this matter.

Having had my say, I would conclude my remarks with a strong note of protest against the Government's attitude in the matter of the separation of judicial from the executive. For many years the unanimous voice of the country is agitating on this question. Resolutions were passed by the Legislature and questions were asked in nearly every session to inquire what progress was made in the matter, but Government seems to have taken no notice of what is going on in the country and being sure of the impotence of the Legislature in this country, they can very well afford to ignore and even to despise public opinion. I earnestly appeal to the Government to realise the delicacy of the situation and take immediate steps to bring about this overdue reform in the system of administration of justice in India.

**Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural):** Sir, I wish I could congratulate the Honourable



[Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah.]

the Finance Minister on his Budget especially on the eve of his saying good-bye to this country; but I regret I cannot do so as I am unable to share with him the satisfaction which he has in presenting this year's Budget.

He stated in his Budget speech that both the Government and the people were pleased with the Budget and he added that it was a prosperous and sound Budget. It may be that the Government is pleased with the Budget. It may also be that the Government thinks it is a sound Budget, but, from the people's point of view, it is neither a prosperous Budget, nor is it a Budget which pleases the people. The present Budget is certainly not a poor man's Budget. Nor is it a Budget that brings any relief to the middle classes. Nor does it satisfy the rich. In fact, Sir, it gives relief to none. The only redeeming feature of this Budget is the remission of the provincial contributions. Even this does not create much enthusiasm in the people. It does not reduce taxes in a direct manner, and in spite of this remission, we find that several provincial budgets are deficit budgets. Further, the provincial contributions were practically remitted last year, though part of it was remitted as a temporary measure; and this year the only thing that was done is, that its temporary character has been abolished and it has been made permanent. The Honourable the Finance Minister in his speech in paragraph 30 says:

"Although a portion of this, namely, 258 lakhs, was stated to be definitely temporary I do not think that either the Assembly or the Government of India would care to face the storm of protest which would greet us from the provinces if the final extinction of the Provincial Contributions, which we have undertaken to remit at the earliest possible moment, were not effected now and preference were given to remission of Central taxation or even to new expenditure."

I am glad that the Government of India have learnt at last to yield to the protests of the people supported, as they have been, by the Local Governments. I cannot imagine what they would have done if the protests had proceeded merely from the people, unsupported by the Local Governments.

Sir, the Finance Member stated in the beginning of his speech that he regarded railway earnings as an important barometer of trade. In the same way, I consider that the contentment of the people and relief from oppressive taxation are the barometer of the prosperity of a country. Unfortunately, the reading of the barometer has always been very discouraging. Instead of a rise, it has always showed a fall from year to year. For the first five years from the year 1918, we were told there were deficits in the Budgets. We were therefore told that taxation cannot be reduced. In some cases even fresh taxation was proposed. Coming to the next five years beginning from 1923, we were told there were surplus Budgets and this House has been uniformly—thanks for the correction by my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta—not uniformly but by a large number in this House congratulating the Finance Minister on these Budgets. But the question is, have these surplus Budgets improved the condition of the people in any way? The only reply I can give to this question is an emphatic "No". The position of the people has continued to be the same. It did not improve a bit. What do people care, Sir, whether these are surplus Budgets or deficit Budgets, so long as the same taxation continues and people cannot keep their bodies and souls together? This state of affairs leads the more intelligent section of the people to doubt whether the budget figures are real or make-believe figures. The cleverer the

Finance Minister, the better skilled he is in the jugglery and manipulation of figures. This is not the opinion of the man in the street but it is the opinion of financiers like the late Mr. Gokhale. He often complained of the jugglery of figures and the way in which the Budgets are made up.

In considering a Budget, Sir, we have to consider, in the first instance, the condition of the country and how the lot of the poor can be improved. As regards the condition of the country, it is admitted on all hands that India is one of the poorest, if not the poorest, in the world. As for improving the lot of Indians the Finance Department must find ways and means to do so in framing its Budgets. This can be done only by relaxation of taxation. Has this Budget done that? It has done anything but that. But the question arises as to whether the Finance Minister or the Government can do anything at present? I think the Finance Minister can do a lot, provided he is sincere and does his duty, even now, before he leaves this country, in a fearless and honest manner, without fear or favour. He may yet reduce the salt tax which has been pressing so heavily upon the people. He may bring the postage to its original rate. He may increase the maximum of the taxable income for income-tax and issue directions to the officers for a sympathetic administration of the income-tax. He may do all these things and help materially the lot of the poor Indian.

In this connection it may be asked, Sir, where is the wherewithal to make both ends meet in case these taxes are reduced? One method is to appropriate a part of the surplus that he shows in the Budget towards the reduction of some of these taxes, and the other and more effective method is to reduce the military expenditure and suggest to Whitehall the ways and means by which it can be effectually reduced. Does the Finance Minister do this? Instead of doing this, he finds arguments for not doing this and supports the existing system. For, in his speech, paragraph 23, he points out that the expenditure on the Military Department was 69·81 crores in the year 1921-22 and now it is 55·21, and he says:

"I warned the House a year ago that there was no immediate prospect after the big reductions since 1921-22 of further substantial savings in military expenditure."

And what are these big reductions he refers to? These reductions amount to about 15 crores within the last 7 years from the year 1921 to 1928. I wonder why he selected the year 1921, in special, for comparison, and why he did not take the figures of the previous years? A reference to the figures of the previous years show, Sir, that the military expenditure has gone up by leaps and bounds. Within the last 40 years it has gone up by 40 crores; that is, on an average at one crore of rupees a year. This increase has no parallel in any part of the civilised world. As has been pointed out, the Brussels Conference suggested that the highest proportion of military expenditure to the revenue of a country should be 20 per cent. and we find that even in a rich country like England, when the proportion went up to the 20 per cent. the people raised a hue and cry and the Ministers were literally besieged, until they assured the people that they would reduce the percentage in a short time. Half truths such as this, *viz.*, that there was a big reduction in the expenditure as referred to in the speech in a public document such as the Budget, are, I submit, to be strongly condemned.

If the Government Indianized the army, even in its lower ranks, a lot of money could be saved and used for the purpose of reducing the level

[Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah.]

of taxation. It is admitted, Sir, that so far as the Indian sepoy is concerned, he is as brave as and as good as a European soldier. If so, why not employ Indian sepoys in substitution for European soldiers? There would thus be a lot of saving which could be used for giving relief to the poor. It has also been repeatedly pointed out by competent authorities that the present excessive number of troops is not required for the defence of the country, and a large part of it, certainly one half of it, has been maintained for the benefit of the Imperialism of Britain which requires it for purposes other than Indian. If so, why not ask the British Government to contribute a proportionate amount of the charges? That would go a long way to help in the reduction of taxation. The greatest impediment in the way of making such proposals is not, be it said to its credit, however unwilling it is to reduce the Army or Indianise it, the India Government which in the past, oftentimes, protested and strongly protested, against the additions to the already heavy expenditure; but it is the Secretary of State who tamely submitted to the unreasonable proposals of the British War Office and forced the hand of the India Government. All the same the blame rests with the India Government because it has not been standing firmly to its guns in the matter of reducing the expenditure.

Again, Sir, attention was drawn in this House only the other day during the discussion of the Railway Budget to the disproportionately high salaries paid to the higher officers in the railway administration compared with those in all other civilised countries. The proportion was about 5 to 1. By economies such as these, if really the Government want to do their duty honestly by the country they can bring satisfaction to the people.

I would like to refer the House to one other point before I close my remarks, and, that is about the sedulous encroachment by the Government on the powers of this House. In the ordinary course, Sir, Members of this House expect that not only should they be given an opportunity to discuss all items in the Budget but that the entire Budget should be submitted to their vote. As a matter of fact, some years ago this House decided with the concurrence of all even the non-official European Members that all matters which are referred to in the Budget should be subjected to its vote. But the Government have paid no regard to this decision of the House. It is humiliating enough that we are discussing items in a Budget on which we have no power to vote. What is worse is, that even in matters on which we have the right to vote, our decisions are made infructuous. Sometimes our budget cuts are restored; Bills rejected are certified and Resolutions passed are not given effect to. The worst of all is that even the items which were votable only two years ago, have been withdrawn from the category of votable items and are not now subjected to our vote. This, I submit, is a very dangerous move on the part of the Government and an invasion on the privileges of this House which should be carefully guarded against. I therefore strongly protest against this curtailment of the powers of the House by the Government.

**Mr. B. Das:** Sir, it is always sad at parting. Many of us on this side will miss the twinkling humour and the genial countenance of Sir Basil Blackett. I have been associated with him as a Member of this House for the last four years and I will miss him. Sir Basil Blackett came here to deprive the Civil Service of one of its most coveted posts, namely, the Finance Membership of the Government of India. It has been the

tradition of that Service, that it can occupy any post from the head of the Postal Department to the head of the Commerce Department, and they can even be Finance Members and play ducks and drakes with our finances. When India's finances were at their worst, when through mismanagement India's millions, nearly 40 crores of India's money were thrown into the dust, at that moment Sir Basil Blackett came to us to stabilize Indian finance and the Indian Budget. Well, how far he has done it is for history to record its judgment, and I am not going to say how far he has restored that stability. (Mr. M. S. Aney: "What is your view?") I must concede that he has restored a certain stability to the Budget of the Central Government and Indian finance, but how far he has brought contentment and happiness to the masses, that history will record.

Sir, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; we, that keep constant vigil on this side of the House on the Government of India and the Indian finance,—by various contrivances I have tried to look into the books that have been distributed to us, some blue and some white, find that Indian finance is encased in a transparent but impregnable house which we from this side cannot assail. We can of course have a peep here and a peep there, but the house is impregnable. No weapon in our armoury can penetrate that impregnable house. It is a transparent house and we can see many things in it. I see many small and big houses inside that transparent house. I see one particularly with a big dome, which I think is the military side of the expenditure of the Government of India. It is to the extent of 55 crores, and which we cannot assail. Only at the top I see a little skylight where the Military Secretary sits and that is the only thing I can see of the Military Department. The people of India have no access to any part of that military expenditure. I also see a black crystal, which is under the control of my Honourable friend, Sir Denys Bray. It happens to be the Foreign and Political Department. That crystal has got a certain iridescent halo where I see certain figures clad in dazzling jewelled clothes and golden shoes dancing like moths in the flame. I recognise one or two of them to be the Maharaja of Indore and the Maharaja of Nabha almost burnt in that flame. The other part of that crystal I cannot see. It is a black crystal completely shut out from us. I find another crystal with a figure in misplaced white collar and a black cravat. It is the Ecclesiastical Department, which is supposed to look after the religious conscience of the Government of India. The Government of India by the Queen's Proclamation have no religion, yet the Ecclesiastical Department, whose expenditure I find every year increasing by lakhs, is completely shut out from the scrutiny of myself and the people of India.

I see another crystal to which my Honourable friend, Mr. Birla, referred. It is the Finance Department. It is full of dazzling colours, and the colours are always changing, and variegated, so that we cannot see whether the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Department have millions to show us, or whether they have concealed hoards there by which they can wipe out certain debts to the tune of eighty crores. That is the dazzling crystal of the Finance Department. It can at any time show up a crore or two as surplus but the colours are obliterating them from my view.

[Mr. B. Das.]

I also see, but I have to use a long telescope, the Secretary of State's Department situated 6,000 miles away. It is a crystal where no Indians are permitted, except as advisers, yet where no advice is sought. If there are some Indian advisers to the Secretary of State, no advice is ever asked from them.

These are the conditions that a layman like me looking from a distance sees in the Indian Budget encased as it is in that impregnable fort, where the policy of the alien bureaucracy has all along the control of Indian finance.

I mentioned during the discussion of the Railway Budget that the pink books made me turn blue. But when I read all the Budgets that are presented to us now I find I turn white at the appalling drain on the country. Sir, the Finance Member in the beginning of his speech talked of the balance of trade being in favour of India. I looked aghast at that statement. Is the balance of national indebtedness in favour of India? It might be so in these books—but not in actual practice. The exports are 47 crores or something higher than the imports, but that does not show any balance of national indebtedness in favour of India. We have to look at it from the point of view of the national income of the country. What about the home charges? They stand at the colossal figure of 27 to 30 crores, which India sends out to England every year. What about the huge sums of money which my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches send away every year in salaries and savings? They render of course definite service to India, but that money is a loss to Indian national wealth. Then what about the huge sums of money that the European mercantile community have invested in India, and which they send away as earned profit? If we go to balance the profit and loss account of India in that way, the balance is not in favour of India. It is always against India. I would be delighted to learn from the Honourable the Finance Member, if he could tell me or this House, that the income *per capita* of the people of India, instead of being Rs. 30 per annum, has gone up to Rs. 150 during the five years he was with us and rendered his valuable services to the Indian people. But if I take the income-tax figures as the index of India's prosperity, they have gone down by a crore and a half and they show how the Indian people are day by day losing their earning capacity. During the last two or three years, the Honourable the Finance Member has introduced seven Bills relating to income-tax and each of them has been a stricter one than the one before it; and by these Bills the income-tax officials and the Income-tax Department are going to be more oppressive and exercise greater *zoolum* than the *zoolum* of the Police Department or the C. I. D. That is an index that the national income of the people has not gone up; and, in spite of the Budget of the coming year where it is mentioned that we are going to get half a crore or so more from the income-tax I say that the Government will not get more money. The earning power of the people has gone down by the system of Imperial preference and all that sort of thing, and the Indian industries are not earning much; trade is passing away from India; and the policy of exchange has not also helped Indian industries or the Indian agriculturist. The Honourable the Finance Member has expressed a sort of pleasure that the jute trade has brought in more revenue to the Government; but I find that the price of jute has gone down; it does not fetch the agriculturist that much money that he used to get before, say

in 1914. It may fetch money to my friends, the exporters, Europeans and Indians—the middlemen,—but it does not help the agriculturist, and the wealth of the masses has not increased. Sir, I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Moore, talked about the export duty on jute. I am personally of opinion that we should put an export duty on every raw produce that India produces; we should put export duties on foodstuffs, thereby keeping down the prices for internal consumption while indirectly bringing to Government large sources of revenue; and that will enable the Government to bring down the heavy taxation. Export duties are a necessity for internal prosperity and at the same time they bring large sources of revenue to Government.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee, talked about Delhi's need. I have every sympathy with him, because I come from a part of the country. I mean Orissa, which wants to be created into a new province and I claim that separate provinces, whether created now, as Delhi is or whether they will be created hereafter like Orissa, Andhra, Karnatak, Sindh and others, will have to get more money from the Imperial finances. Some of them cannot be self-supporting. The North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Ajmer-Merwara are all of them not self-supporting.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran: Non-Muhamadan): Then why separate them at all?

**Mr. B. Das**: My friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, who supported me and my friend Pandit Nilakantha Das in the Resolution for the creation of an Orissa province and for the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking peoples, must know that there is always an instinctive and natural desire on the part of every unit race in India to come under one separate administration for development of their race consciousness; and if we only think of what they can collect from the limited sources of revenue granted to provinces at present by the Central Government, we cannot create new provinces. So the Central Government must part with some of its huge income to these provinces, whether it is Delhi or Orissa.

Sir, some of my friends interjected "What is your view on the Budget?" (Laughter.) I will just quote a gentleman whose authority is invaluable to my friends on the European side and also to the Honourable the Finance Member—I mean Sir John Bell who was a Member of the Council of State; I do not know if he is a Member of that body now. He was interviewed by the *Statesman* and he said:

"I think that when the first burst of enthusiasm over the remission of provincial contributions has passed away and the public have had time to think things out, there will be certain amount of disappointment that in view of the heavy direct and indirect taxation at present imposed in India, it has not been possible to announce more than a remission of provincial contributions."

Sir, that is also our point; there is no reduction of taxation. I shall just quote another line—I will not tire the House. (*Cries of "Go on."*) Sir John Bell again says:

"It is not difficult to balance a budget or even to create a surplus, if the Finance Member and the Government have the power to impose taxation to any extent, and too much should not be made of that."

Sir, there are only a few occasions when I am in complete agreement with the opinions expressed by my European colleagues whether inside this Chamber or outside; but here I entirely agree with these remarks of Sir John Bell.

**Munshi Iswar Saran** (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, even the worst critic of the Honourable the Finance Member will not be prepared to withhold from him the just tribute of admiration to his great knowledge, skill and driving power. In the provinces his name for many a long day will be honourably associated with the extinction of the provincial contributions. We listened to his last budget speech the other day and on the eve of his retirement may I assure him that very many of us will remember him as a remarkable man who tried according to his lights to rectify some of the mistakes of the past? If some of the cherished schemes of Sir Basil Blackett have not materialised, the responsibility is not his, nor of this House, but of the masters of the Government of India installed six thousand miles away across the seas. If fortunately Sir Basil Blackett had been let free to manage the affairs of his high office according to his unhampered judgment, I feel confident that he on the one side and this House on the other would have been able to come to some agreement which would have been beneficial to this country and would have further heightened his already high reputation. Take, Sir, the history of the Reserve Bank Bill which is an instance in point. We were proceeding with this Bill till the Secretary of State for India appeared on the scene and brought about, of course intentionally, its wreckage. As long as the Government of India remain subject to the dictation of the authorities in England, so long will it be impossible to avoid these muddles and mishaps in the future.

Sir, it is not only in the realm of finance but also in the domains of other departments that the authorities in England impede progress, produce complications and bring about delay. I shall, Sir, cite one or two instances lest some Honourable Members should feel inclined to accuse me of exaggeration. I ask, where is the Report of the Military Requirements Committee? It was submitted to England and in the cold and chilly atmosphere of the India Office or of the War Office, or of both, it met with extinction. Where, I ask, Sir, is the Report of the Indian Sandhurst Committee? The Committee made their report on the 14th November 1926, in which they unanimously recommended that 10 additional vacancies should be reserved at Sandhurst for Indians, thus making the total of vacancies reserved for Indians 20. General Skeen, Mr. Jinnah and other members of the Committee, in the innocence of their hearts, assumed that this increase would take place in the year 1928. We are approaching the middle of March 1928 and I wonder if the authorities in England have been able to make up their minds about it—anyhow, the decision is yet to come. Sir, the Indian Navy Bill was imposed by our masters on us. This House, which is sometimes called India's Parliament, was not even shown the courtesy of being consulted about it. Being contemptuously disregarded, feeling profoundly dissatisfied with some of its fundamental provisions, this House took, I venture to submit, the only course which any self-respecting body in similar circumstances would have done. Sir, what is the remedy for all this? My answer is clear, and I venture to submit that this is the only correct answer. The Government of India should cease to be a subordinate Government and the present system with the real power vested in the Secretary of State for India in Council should be abolished and the sooner it is abolished the better.

It is, Sir, not without real trepidation that I ask your permission to make a few brief observations on the military affairs of this country. I



know that by some I shall be dismissed as an irresponsible critic while there is the danger of being stigmatised as an office-seeker. The *New Statesman* of London, in one of its recent issues, has said that:

"Most of the Indian nationalist leaders are office-seekers who vainly hope to displace the British civil administration while retaining the British Army and their service, without which they cannot exist."

Sir, allow me to make our position clear. We are out not to displace the British civil administration alone: we are out to Indianise the entire machinery and thus become masters in our own household.

Sir, the military budget as usual is hope-killing. Its reduction to 50 crores is regarded as a pious aspiration while in the well-considered opinion of the Inchcape Committee this figure of 50 crores is more than the tax-payer should be called upon to pay. We find that a considerable part of the present reduction below 57 crores is attributable to the present favourable rate of exchange, the Retrenchment Committee having worked on a basis of £s. 4*d.* equal to a rupee. It is obvious, therefore, that on the basis of calculation adopted by the Retrenchment Committee, the budget estimate would be much more than 55.10 crores and this at a time like this with a clear sky and with no military complications of any shape or kind. One trembles to think of what this country would have been required to pay if there had been the least cloud on the horizon. In view, particularly, of the fact that the figure this year is larger than the figure of last year, the question that stares us in the face is, are the military authorities giving effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee in the spirit in which they have been made?

I shall not be so rash as to permit myself to refer to the recent reductions in the military budget of rich England. The conditions in the two countries, I shall be told, are entirely different, and further I do not lose sight of the difference in the character and status of the two Governments, the one indigenous and supreme and the other foreign and subordinate. I shall, however, take courage to ask the authorities to remember that we know what is being done in other countries and we draw our own conclusions.

The taunt that we are unable at this moment to defend our country enters into our very soul and an ancient and sensitive country with a magnificent past and with unlimited resources in men and material like ourselves feels the misery and degradation of the position which no language of mine can adequately describe. And, Sir, look at the tragedy of the situation. We are burning with a desire to wipe off this stigma as quickly as we can and we are eager to make every conceivable sacrifice with the object of preventing even Lord Birkenhead from indulging in the cruel sneer, but we are not allowed to move forward on one pretext or another. May I ask the House to note the steps that have been taken in the self-governing Dominions in order to prepare themselves for their military defence. The time at my disposal is short and I am therefore compelled to refer only to one or two instances in order to demonstrate the vast difference that there is between the way in which things are managed in subject India and in the free Dominions.

In 1909 a system of universal training was made compulsory in Australia. Lord Kitchener had visited Australia in 1909 and he suggested 214 areas to be again distributed amongst 21 groups, each group constituting territory from which a mixed brigade would be trained. There was a deficiency in



[Munshi Iswar Saran.]

respect of trained staff, and he proposed to establish a Staff Corps consisting of 350 officers. In 1913, Major General Kirkpatrick reported steady and satisfactory progress in Australian military training. A new system of universal training was adopted in New Zealand and the Governor announced that under the new system youths between the ages of 14 and 21 had been registered and were being medically examined for service in the Senior Cadets and Territorial Forces of the Dominion. The results of this registration, we are told, were satisfactory, and the spirit shown by the people was highly commendable. At the Imperial Conference of 1907 Mr. Moore, speaking on behalf of the little Colony of Natal, was able to claim that his colony stood in the vanguard with regard to defence. It possessed a compulsory system as regards militia and, also a very capable cadet system in connection with the public schools. The South African Defence Bill of 1911 recognised the liability of every citizen to assist in the defence of the country. It was however felt that to train the whole population would create a greater force than was reasonably required, would impose too heavy a financial burden and would probably not lead to efficiency. A discretion was therefore left to the Government in the decision of the number to be called up. General Smuts on 26th March, 1912, could proudly claim that "South Africa was doing a great deal for its defence and was going to do a great deal more in the immediate future." How I wish we could make the same proud claim! But this is by the way.

Before I take leave of this part of the subject I shall crave the indulgence of the House to make a slight and brief reference to an oriental and Asiatic country, the spiritual daughter of India, namely, Japan, which, in the words of a Japanese writer, fifty years ago was *terra incognita* or at least a geographical name, but to-day is a respected member of the great comity of nations. It is not my purpose to dwell on her achievements during the last fifty years nor of India during over a hundred and fifty years of British rule. I wish only to point out how she is preparing her sons for the defence of their country. From the academic year beginning with April 1925, military training was introduced into the regular curriculum of secondary schools, the law for the purpose having been passed in the 50th session of the Diet. Altogether over 1,500 Government and public institutions came under the new system apart from private schools which have been given a free choice in the matter. The military drill is given 3 hours per week in normal schools, 2 at middle, high and special schools, besides four or five days' field exercise. The educational authorities are contemplating to place boys in general under this system.

I have, Sir, devoted the few moments at my disposal to the discussion of this question because in our humble judgment this is the fundamental question which transcends all other questions in gravity and importance. And may I say this to my Honourable friends opposite that their military policy is the test by which either they must stand or fall? If they are sincere in their professions, if Britain is sincere in its professions, then it is up to Britain and up to its representatives in this country to see that the stigma that India at the present moment is unable to take up her defence is wiped off as soon as possible.

Sir, when you study the military questions, you are irresistibly drawn to the conclusion that it is based either on self-interest, or on suspicion or on a doubt of our capacity.

**Mr. D. V. Belvi** (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): All these things put together.

**Munshi Iswar Saran**: Let us examine every one of these. If it is based on self-interest, then I shall leave our trustees to settle their account with their conscience because we cannot sue them in the Court of Chancery. If it is based on suspicion, then, Sir, I can only say that once for all this suspicion was removed by our mingling our blood with yours in the Great War. Perhaps some might say that I am taking an exaggerated view of the part played by us during the Great War. May I invite their attention to the speech which was delivered by the then Viceroy at the War Conference held in Delhi? This is what the Viceroy said:

“The tale of India's share in the Great War would form no unworthy page in her glorious annals. Her sons have fought not without glory on every front. In East Africa, in Palestine, in Mesopotamia, they have borne away victorious laurels.”

I hope, Sir,—I am sure, Sir,—that these words were not spoken at the time with any policy, but that these words of the most exalted representative of the British Government in this country were true and sincere. Why then, I ask, Sir, are we excluded from so many departments in the Army? Are we really barbarians emerging to-day under the benign influence of our trustees from darkness into light?

Sir, one sometimes begins to think of the basis of British rule in this country, and different people come to different conclusions. I wish to ask, is there any truth in what the *Morning Post* of London says? I shall beg my Honourable friends on the other side to listen to it. This extract is not from any extremist newspaper in India. It is from the *Morning Post* which is considered, I suppose, to be a very respectable organ of public opinion in England by a good many people either in this House or outside it:

“We have a direct concern in India, because it is one of the chief markets of the world. We went there as traders and despite all the fine talk of our modern high brows, that is still the material basis of our rule which might be put in the sentence—‘We give you protection’, and ‘you buy our goods.’ If we abandon India it will not be only the Indians who suffer, but the 12 million people of Lancashire, and indeed our whole industrial system which will be affected. After all, when all is said this nation (British) must live. That is the first consideration and we see no other way in which this nation can live upon those little islands save by industry and trade.”

**Lala Lajpat Rai** (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Every word is true except what is said about India's fate after the British have withdrawn.

**Munshi Iswar Saran**: Some one says that every word is true . . . . .

**Lala Lajpat Rai**: Except what is said about India's fate after the British have withdrawn.

**Mr. President**: Order, order. The Honourable Member must now conclude his observations.

**Munshi Iswar Saran**: I have already resumed my seat, Sir.

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai**: The transition, Sir, from high military policy to the very trivial requirements of Delhi is in the nature of an anti-climax, and if I inflict this anti-climax on the House it is because I owe an explanation to my friend Mr. Chatterjee whose lament this morning about the privations of Delhi was, I am sure, listened to with great sympathy. Mr. Chatterjee thought me, Sir, very hard-hearted indeed in having given him

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

glimpses of Paradise from time to time and not having actually led him into Paradise. Well, Sir, I do not pretend to be a Messiah. I do not lead any one into Paradise. But I will deal with the three points which he raised this morning.

The first point which he mentioned was related to some letter which he said the Department of Education, Health and Lands sent out in 1926 in regard to the allocation of a sum of Rs. 50,000. I have been at great pains to ascertain where this mysterious letter emanated from, and I find that it did not emanate from the Department of Education, Health and Lands at all. The position is that in the annual budget of Delhi a provision is made of a sum of Rs. 50,000 to enable the Chief Commissioner to make grants for sanitary purposes. Presumably the letter to which my Honourable friend referred emanated from the Chief Commissioner. So, if my Honourable friend has any grievance as regards what he described as the unaccountable disappearance of the offer which was made to the Delhi Municipality, that complaint should be addressed to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, and, I submit in all humility, not to the Department of Education, Health and Lands. However, I am quite prepared to make enquiries into that point if my Honourable friend Mr. Chatterjee so wishes.

The second point which my Honourable friend Mr. Chatterjee raised was that Delhi had benefited not at all by the transfer of the Capital from Calcutta to what is now the Imperial City. That, Sir, is inviting me to enter very delicate ground indeed. It is very delicate ground to traverse with the champions of Calcutta sitting on my right and the champions of Delhi sitting behind me, and it will be presumptuous of and possibly dangerous to me to enter the lists of this particular controversy. The fact nevertheless remains that in the course of the last few years a very modest sum of Rs. 13,82,000 has been given from Central revenues to the Municipality of Delhi for certain schemes of improvement. If that is a sign of neglect on the part of the Government of India of the Municipality of Delhi, I am quite sure many municipalities in India would be glad to be similarly neglected.

Then, Sir, there is another point which is the last one. My Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee, complained that we had, from time to time, issued letters to the Administration of Delhi and asked them to submit proposals which would enable us to beautify and improve the amenities of Old Delhi, and open up the slums. It is perfectly true that we did ask the Administration of Delhi to submit certain proposals, but we did not single out Delhi for this favour. We asked all areas directly administered by the Government of India to submit proposals for a programme of sanitary expansion, which programme we intended to examine in the light of such resources as might be available to us. We first got the programme from the Chief Commissioner of Delhi late in 1926. We examined it and we found that the resources of the Government of India for the ensuing year would not permit of our examining with any sympathy at all the very expensive proposals which the Chief Commissioner had put forward. For the current year also we invited the Chief Commissioner to make proposals, and he availed himself of that opportunity to send up the estimates to something like Rs. 60 lakhs in 1927-28. It was also suggested that of the sum of Rs. 60 lakhs a small slice of Rs. 25 lakhs should be made available in the ensuing financial year, namely, 1928-29, for expenditure in Delhi. If I had the philosopher's stone I should have gone to the Finance Member

and said—I did not know that he was going to have a surplus of Rs. 5 lakhs—I shall touch the five lakhs if you will give them to me, with my philosopher's stone to convert them into so much gold and from that I shall be able to meet the requirements of Delhi". As it is, even if I had claimed the whole of that Rs. 5 lakhs it would not have gone any way at all to meet the requirements of Delhi. However, I would say this, that we are anxious to do what we can to improve the amenities of Old Delhi and to improve the conditions under which a certain section of the population of Delhi lives; and I hope that whereas last year and this year it has unfortunately not been possible for the Government of India to earmark or allot funds at all in any appreciable measure to meet the requirements of Delhi, when the proposals of the Chief Commissioner are received in the course of this year we may have better prospects for next year. More than that, Sir, it is not possible for me to say at present.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (Agra Division: Non-Muhammudan Rural): I find the concluding passages of the Honourable the Finance Member's speech of absorbing interest. I fear, however, that they suggest reflections which are not altogether of a pleasant character. The Honourable Member has certainly been able to present a balanced budget after making a remission of provincial contributions to the extent of Rs. 258 lakhs, but we have to consider, in the light of the observations which he has made with regard to the future, not what the Budget is this year but what our financial position is likely to be in the future.

The Budget, as presented to us, shows a revenue and an expenditure of about Rs. 129½ crores, but this figure exaggerates both the income and the expenditure as I pointed out last year. If the railway figures are taken net—and I submit that they should be since the Railway Budget has been separated from the General Budget,—and the same course is taken with regard to irrigation, posts and telegraphs, interest and currency and mint figures, we shall find that our true revenue and expenditure amount to about Rs. 92½ crores. Of this revenue of Rs. 92½ crores nearly Rs. 80 crores is the yield of certain sources of taxation which are technically known as the principal heads of revenue. Now among these principal heads there are not many on which we can depend for a regular increase. One of these in particular, namely, opium, is a dwindling source of revenue, and as the Honourable the Finance Member has told us, it is now the settled policy of the Government of India that the opium revenue should be decreased every year by Rs. 32 lakhs. We have to fall back on customs and income-tax which are, so to say, the backbone of our revenues. The Honourable the Finance Member has in the Budget for the year 1928-29 taken a yield for income-tax which is about Rs. 1½ crores higher than what he expects to get in the current year. A few figures in this connection may be of interest to the House. In the year 1923-24 our revenue from income-tax amounted to about Rs. 18½ crores. For the year 1924-25 a revenue of the same amount was budgeted for, but the revised figures fell considerably short of the budget estimate and the actuals were even less than the revised estimate amounting to only about Rs. 16 crores. There was thus a difference of about Rs. 2½ crores between the budget and the realised figures. If we take the figure for 1925-26 we again find a large discrepancy between the budget figures, the revised estimates and the actuals. The budget figures amounted to about Rs. 17½ crores while the actual yield came to only Rs. 15·9 crores. In the year 1926-27 the same tale is repeated though there is not the same discrepancy between the budget and

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the actual figures. There is however discrepancy howsoever small it may be. While the Honourable the Finance Member expected that income-tax would yield about Rs. 16.15 crores the actual yield was only Rs. 15.65 crores, that is, the actuals fell short of the budget figures by about Rs. 50 lakhs. The figures relating to the current year are well known

4 P M. to the House. A yield of about 17 crores was budgetted for, but there is a difference between the budgetted and revised figures of about a crore and 30 lakhs. Now, the Honourable the Finance Member for next year again supposes that the income-tax would yield about 17 crores, the sum budgetted for during the current year, and he gives various reasons for his optimism. Now it may be, owing to the fact that the current year has been better for the jute and cotton trade than last year, that a revised method has been brought into force of assessing income-tax on the companies, that the machinery for the collection of the tax is being tightened up and that new income-tax legislation is being undertaken that the hopes of the Honourable Member might be realised; but the question is whether our revenue will in future remain at this figure. It is impossible at present to say whether it will or will not, but our experience in the past does not justify us in being optimistic with regard to the future. The other major source of revenue, namely, customs has gone on yielding an ever increasing revenue. In 1923-24 the total yield amounted to a little under 40 crores and in the current year the yield is expected to be about 48.6 crores. There has thus been an increase of about 9 crores and during this period we have made two large remissions of duty, one of Rs. 1½ crores in connection with cotton excise and the other last year of Rs. 85 lakhs in order to give relief to the textile industry of India. There is no doubt that the customs revenue has shown a remarkable power of expansion, but that very fact suggests that in the future it may not be possible for it to expand as it has done in the past. At any rate there is ground for caution here and any one who looks at the figures in the light of the facts that I have mentioned, although he may find no ground exactly for pessimism will find no ground for being unduly optimistic.

Now, Sir, while this is the state of our finances, it certainly behoves us to look to our expenditure. I associate myself with my Honourable friend Mr. Birla with regard to the need for a fresh scrutiny into our expenditure, but it is not my purpose to speak of expenditure as a whole. I wish to refer only to military expenditure about which I had certain observations to offer last year also. The Honourable the Finance Member, as the guardian of our revenues, told us last year that, unless the strictest vigilance and economy were exercised, the military expenditure would show a tendency rather to rise than to fall. His prophecy is, I fear, going to be amply fulfilled. While in the current year the net expenditure was about 54.92 crores, for next year the sum of 55.10 crores has been taken. This certainly includes ten lakhs on account of expenditure on the formation of urban battalions. Even so the expenditure is somewhat higher than it is for the current year, but we do not know whether this net expenditure really represents the normal cost of the maintenance of the Army. As the House knows the normal cost of maintenance is annually disturbed by certain factors. We have to make certain payments or are able to make savings by drawing on surplus stores every year, and that either increases or decreases the normal burden imposed on us by the Army. Unfortunately, the Explanatory Memorandum of the Financial Secretary, contrary to the

practice in previous years, gives us no information on that point. It enables us only to know what the net expenditure on the defence of the country will be during the year 1928-29; but I will take it that this represents also the normal level of military charges. This, however, is not all the money that we are going to spend on the Army. The Honourable the Finance Member told us in 1926-27 that there were certain economies in view, notably because of the revision of the pay of officers and soldiers. This was expected to yield about 12 lakhs in 1927-28 and an increasing sum in future amounting to about 80 lakhs, according to the Finance Member, in 1930-31, and about a crore and quarter in 1933-34. Thus in three years there was to be an increase in savings of about 68 lakhs. Now, if the increase in savings is uniform, we should save about 23 lakhs a year. If we turn to the Memorandum of the Financial Secretary for the year 1926-27 we come to a similar conclusion. We find there a statement to the effect that while the initial savings would be about 12 lakhs in 1927-28, the savings would mount up to 60 lakhs in 1929-30. In other words in two years we should save about 48 lakhs or 24 lakhs per year. We should naturally have expected that that saving would be taken account of in the Budget and would lead to a reduction of the military charges; but looking at the military estimates for the coming year I find that there will be a saving in the pay of soldiers mainly on account of the reduction in pay sanctioned in 1925 to the tune of 36½ lakhs. We must add this figure to the net expenditure in order to arrive at a true estimate of the military burden that will be imposed on us during the year 1928-29. We thus see that the charges will really stand in the neighbourhood not of 55 but of 55½ crores including the ten lakhs that are to be spent on the new urban battalions. When I pointed out last year that the index number relating to prices had fallen during the last two or three years, the Honourable the Finance Member was quick to point out that the index number for cereals and pulses, which was after all the figure that mattered most to the Army, had not gone down. Now, I have examined the figures for the year 1927 and I find that the index number even for cereals and pulses so far as I can judge from the *Bombay Labour Gazette* has fallen by about four points during the last calendar years.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** With what year is the Honourable Member comparing that?

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** If the Honourable Member had not interrupted me, he would have found that I had anticipated that point. The Honourable Member inquires as to whether there has been a reduction since the Inchcape Committee reported. What I was going to point out was that our expenditure instead of decreasing had increased as compared with last year, although the index number for cereals and pulses had fallen by 4 points, and I trust that is a point which the Finance Member will bear in mind.

Just one word more, Sir, before I sit down. If one could isolate one single fact and dwell upon it to the exclusion of all others, I have no doubt that the extinction of the provincial contributions would be a matter of sincere satisfaction to this House. But, as the Honourable the Finance Member knows, the extinction of these contributions does not settle all the questions outstanding between the Supreme Government and the Provincial Governments. I will only refer to one of these points which is

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of considerable interest. Under Devolution Rule 24 the capital sums spent by the Governor General in Council upon the construction in the various provinces of productive and protective irrigation works and all such other works financed from loan funds as may from time to time be handed over to the management of the Local Governments shall be treated as advances made to the Local Governments from the revenues of India. Now, we know, Sir, that most of the money spent on protective irrigation works came out of the general revenues. The money was not borrowed by the Government of India and they therefore pay no interest on it. It is reasonable therefore on the part of the Provincial Governments to ask that they should not be required to pay any interest on a sum on which the Supreme Government themselves pay no interest whatsoever. This is a small matter so far as the central exchequer is concerned, but a matter of considerable importance to the Provincial Governments. I believe all the Provincial Governments taken together are paying something in the neighbourhood of about three-quarters of a crore as interest on account of sums spent on protective or unproductive irrigation works. Even if the whole of this sum is remitted, probably the Provincial Governments would not be able to get more than 10 or 12 lakhs apiece. But in view of the straitened circumstances of the Provincial Governments and the small resources that they have for future expansion, even a sum of 10 to 12 lakhs is not a small thing to them. I trust, Sir, that, if in spite of what we fear at present the central revenues are found to be in a flourishing condition hereafter the Government of India will bear this point prominently in mind.

Sir, I have just spoken of military expenditure and compared the expenditure for the current year with that for the coming year. But there is one fact more which I should like to bring to light in connection with this matter. The Honourable the Finance Member is, if I may say so, our watch dog, who last year asked us to exercise the strictest vigilance if we wanted to keep military expenditure within bounds, but it is surprising that he made no mention during his budget speech this year of the fact that the Royal Air Force is going to be increased by two squadrons. Now, the cost of these two new squadrons will fall upon the Indian revenues only from the 1st January, 1929. I think the Honourable the Finance Member does not accept the statement.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I think there were some charges in the current year, but I am not quite sure.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Sir, I can go only by what I find in the budget estimates for military expenditure. It is pointed out on page 279 of the military estimates that the number of officers and men will be about 224 officers and 1,705 air men, etc., from the 1st April, 1928 to the 31st December, 1928. But from the 1st January, 1929, it is said, the Royal Air Force will be re-organised on a station basis and its establishment will be 268 officers, 1,861 British other ranks, etc.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I think if the Honourable Member will permit me to interrupt again I can clear up the point. There is no difference of opinion. It is true that the charges for officers and men will not come into course of payment till about the date the Honourable Member mentioned, but some additional charges for barracks have been or are being incurred already.



**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Well, if that is so we have a grievance in that the last year's estimates did not give us any information on that point. Even the Finance Member himself was silent. It is for the first time that we have come to know that the strength of the Royal Air Force is being increased by two squadrons. A part of the expenditure in this connection might have been incurred in the current year, but since the Finance Member has drawn attention to important matters in his speech, and he also drew our attention pointedly to the growth of military expenditure last year. I should have thought that this would be a matter worthy of his attention, a matter to which he would have been the first to direct our attention instead of leaving us to disinter this fact from these musty white books distributed to us. I will not go further into this matter at this stage. We shall have an opportunity of discussing it on the Army Department vote, but

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** May I again interrupt? In my budget speech last year I mentioned that a certain saving was counter-balanced by the extra provision necessary for the expansion of the Air Force.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** I leave the House to determine whether the cryptic announcement made by the Finance Member gave it any idea of what was going to happen. Is there any Member, Indian or European, who was not taken aback by the facts I have quoted from the white book on military estimates?

**Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal: European):** Sir, I rise to answer immediately the question of my friend Mr. Kunzru and to say that I am under the impression that I remember last year a distinct reference being made to the fact that our Air Force would be increased by two squadrons. I was under no misapprehension on that point.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural):** Where was it mentioned?

**Colonel J. D. Crawford:** I have not had time to go and look it up, but I am quite convinced that during the debate on the Budget I was left with that impression.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** May I know if the Army Secretary can support that statement?

**Colonel J. D. Crawford:** Anybody who has taken the trouble in the very least little bit to study the question of air defence along our North West Frontier must be at least anxious as to the provision which we in India have made for our air defence. It is to my mind one of very considerable difficulty and I am myself far from satisfied that we are securing that measure of effective military protection which our military commitments justify. Dr. Moonje in the debate on the Sken Committee pointed out what those commitments were; and although to my mind he somewhat overpainted the picture, there is no doubt that we are faced with very definite military risks, and our paying out any money on defence at all is to make ourselves reasonably certain that we shall not be called upon to pay far greater military expenditure at some future date in the case of definite military operations.



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I always feel that when we discuss military expenditure we sometimes, as tax-payers, neglect that fact, and that in the long run we have to put our hands very much deeper into our pockets than we would have done if we had made adequate provision during peace time for military emergencies. Whilst I would congratulate the Finance Member on all that he has done for India's finance during his tenure of office as Finance Member, I do feel that he has not left the Army in exactly a satisfactory position. The late Lord Rawlinson, who, I am sure everybody in the House will admit, was a most brilliant soldier, when he accepted the reductions called for by the Incheape Retrenchment Committee, stated as follows:

" . . . I have been influenced primarily by the financial considerations which must have an important bearing in determining the general policy of the Government. The Finance Member has described very graphically the perils and dangers of our financial position, and I have been greatly impressed by the paramount need of balancing our Budget this year. I further realise that conditions, both internal and external, have much improved during the past twelve months, and that we are justified in taking risks which we should have been wrong to incur a year ago."

Further on he said:

"I recognise, on the other hand, that India's first necessity is to achieve a balanced Budget and that no substantial advance can be made in other departments of the State until the financial position has been stabilised. There are times when risks must be taken. The reductions which have been proposed and to which I have agreed do involve a certain degree of risk from an exclusively military point of view, but they are risks which, in my opinion, the Government are justified in taking when confronted with the financial disaster which an unbalanced budget would force upon this country."

The late Lord Rawlinson, therefore, felt that when he was reducing his military expenditure to the sum which it has now reached, he was definitely, from the military point of view, incurring risks, but those risks were justified in the then state of finances. To-day, by a careful husbanding of our finances, we are in a more satisfactory position, and whilst I desire to see economy in military expenditure I yet want to see that our military forces are sufficient for their task. There is no denying that for the tasks which our military forces are called upon to perform, the defence of a thousand miles of the North-West Frontier, the defence of thousands of miles of seashore in addition to our North-East Frontier, our Army is maintained at a minimum rate of strength, and the Commander-in-Chief assures us that he is justified in keeping the Army at that strength, provided it is at the highest state of efficiency. Now what is the position as regards the efficiency of the Army? With my past connection with the Army, I am possibly in closer contact with it than many of the Honourable Members sitting opposite. But I can assure them that if they could hear military officers talking of the position of the Army to-day, they would be far from satisfied. We are told that in regard to the Air Force there are only two squadrons sufficiently up-to-date to fit parachutes to. All the rest are so antiquated that they cannot be fitted with parachutes. Our forces which went to China had no anti-aircraft, and I would not like to ask how many gas masks are available in India in case of a gas invasion by air. Apart from that, I think that most people, who have studied the position, know that a portion of our troops could not be mobilised for want of transport. In addition to that there is all the modernisation and mechanisation of the Army which

is going on abroad, and for which funds are urgently needed. I have always felt that there is a good deal of wastage in military expenditure, due to the financial stringency with which the Army has been faced, that is, we are going on with recurring expenditure which might be very considerably reduced if we only had the necessary capital to put up fresh buildings and to complete and restore much of the equipment of the Army. In these directions expenditure is reported as being far above what it need be, if the military authorities were given the capital now to replace it once and for all.

I have one or two other questions touching military affairs, which I would like to press upon the notice of the Government of India. The position regarding the recruitment of British officers is, I believe, said to be showing some improvement, and if I asked whether there is any shortage of British officers to-day, I would get figures which show that there is no such shortage. But it is a well-known fact that many officers who are shown as with regiments and with troops are in actual practice not with troops, and that to make up their number they have included officers who should not be shown as such. It is also a well-known fact that in many Indian battalions no subaltern has been posted for the last seven years, and that there is a serious shortage in junior British officers to fill the positions of Adjutant and Quarter Master, and Instructors for the rank and file. Then again, the position of British officers for British regiments is also far from satisfactory. Any member of Government who chooses to visit the Army Clubs in London will find that British officers rather than come to India are offering money to get out of their obligations in regard to coming to India. They are offering £300 in the case of a subaltern, £600 in the case of a Captain and £1,000 in the case of a Field Officer, that is to say, British officers in this country are worse off than in England. That is a position which must, I think, leave a considerable amount of anxiety in the mind of anybody who desires to see our military forces maintained in that state of efficiency which the Commander-in-Chief has said is so essential.

Now there are definite directions in which economy can be introduced. We to-day use highly trained regiments for internal security purposes, that is, for police work. I can never understand why the Central Government should be called upon to pay for police work which is the duty of the provinces to do. But anyhow, from the point of view of the taxpayer, it does not make very much difference, as they have to pay taxes in the provinces as well. But why do we employ highly trained troops to do what could be done by the civil police and by military police battalions? Here we find unnecessary extravagance.

One other point in that connection that I would like to make some comment on is this. In Calcutta, during the recent communal riots, the Auxiliary Force was called out, whilst a battalion of Indian troops was left sitting in Alipore. Why is it that the Military Department will not allow Indian troops to be used in cases of communal disturbances. I know one answer that might be forthcoming, but after all your Indian civil police are used to quell such disturbances, and I cannot understand why trained troops with a far higher state of discipline should not be called upon for this duty in preference to calling out civilians who have got their ordinary business to attend to. That is my general complaint regarding military expenditure. I would like to press upon the Government that they

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should see that the efficiency of the Army is maintained at that standard that is necessary for the safety of the defence of this country. I should like to feel assured that where equipment is short it will be made good at once and that we shall know that at least our troops can take the field with modern equipment and fully mobile in case of emergency for which they are kept. Our financial position is a good deal better than in the days when Lord Rawlinson said he was prepared to take risks, and I feel that one direction in which expenditure is necessary is to see that the Army is placed on an efficient footing. There are many points which leave an old army officer like myself with a feeling of distress. We press all through for the treatment of labour employees by commercial employers in order to give them very good treatment. I would ask the Government of India officials who are themselves housed under fairly good conditions, what is the position of the officers of the Indian Army to-day as regards their accommodation? What is the position in Peshawar? What is the position in many another cantonment, where an officer is not able to get accommodation for himself and his family, where his expenses are raised, owing to the fact that he is forced time and again to maintain two sets of establishments? I do feel that these men who live a good number of their years in this country in great discomfort on our frontiers should, when they do come into cantonments, have adequate provision made for the accommodation of themselves and their families.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 8th March, 1928.