

COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

TUESDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER, 1931

Vol. II—No. 2

OFFICIAL REPORT



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SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1931

Price: Five Annas

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, 15th September, 1931.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Viceregal Lodge at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the Second Session of the Third Council of State, pursuant to section 63D (2) of the Government of India Act. The Honourable the President (the Honourable Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith, Kt., C.I.E.) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN :

- The Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar K.C.I.E. (Law Member).
The Honourable Mr. John Collard Bernard Drake, C.I.E., C.B.E. (Commerce Secretary).
The Honourable Mr. Miles Irving, C.I.E., O.B.E. (Punjab: Nominated Official).
The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Chimman Lal (United Provinces : Nominated Official).
The Honourable Mr. Richard Littlehales, C.I.E. (Educational Commissioner).
The Honourable Mr. Howard Denning, C.I.E. (Finance Secretary).

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I have a Message for the Council from His Excellency the Viceroy. The Message is as follows :—

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

“ In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63A of the Government of India Act, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, hereby nominate the following Members of the Council of State to be on the Panel of Chairmen of the said Council of State :

In the first place the Honourable Mr. Philip Henry Browne; in the second place, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das; in the third place, the Honourable Sardar Bahadur Shivdev Singh Uberoi; and lastly, the Honourable Mr. Ganesh Srikrishna Khaparde.

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,

Viceroy and Governor General.”

SIMLA,

The 13th September, 1931.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Under Standing Order 76 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I am required at the commencement of each Session to constitute a Committee on Petitions consisting of a Chairman and four members. The following Honourable Members have at my request kindly consented to preside over and serve on the Committee. I accordingly have much pleasure in nominating as Chairman of the Committee the Honourable Mr. G. A. Natesan, and as members, the Honourable Sardar Charanjit Singh, the Honourable Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti, the Honourable Mr. Ali Baksh Muhammad Hussain and the Honourable Mr. Syed Abdul Hafeez.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TREASURY BILLS, ETC.

1. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will the Government lay on the table the following statement from 1st January, 1931 to 31st July, 1931 :—

- (a) maturities of Treasury Bills with dates ;
- (b) the issue of Treasury Bills with dates and specifying the 3, 6 and 9 months separately ;
- (c) the place of maturities and issues ;
- (d) the amount held in the Paper Currency Reserve ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : (a), (b) and (c). The statements are being sent to the Honourable Member as they are too voluminous to be printed in the proceedings of the House.

(d) The informat on which the Government of India are required to publish under the Indian Paper Currency Act is given in the weekly statements issued by the Controller of the Currency. The Government of India regret that they cannot give any further information.

SECURITIES HELD IN THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.

2. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will Government lay on the table a statement of—

- (a) securities now held in the Paper Currency Reserve ;
- (b) securities held in the Paper Currency Reserve on 31st March, 1930 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply just given by me to part (d) of the previous question.

SILVER BULLION IN THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.

3. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will Government state how they value the silver bullion in the Paper Currency Reserve and what would be the sale value of the silver bullion at the present English market rate of the silver bullion in the Paper Currency Reserve on 31st July, 1931 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The silver bullion now held in the Reserve was obtained by melting silver coin and is valued at the rate of one rupee for 165 grains troy of fine silver under clause (a) of sub-section (8) of section 18 of the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, as amended by the Indian Paper Currency (Amendment) Act, 1923. The value of the silver bullion in amount (69,008,481 tolas) held in the Reserve on the 31st July, 1931 is about £1,402,000 at 13d. per standard ounce.

SALE OF SECURITIES HELD IN THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.

4. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will the Government state at what profit or loss from the book value the securities held in the Paper Currency Reserve were sold and what amount was paid as commission to the brokers during the present year ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : No securities held in the Paper Currency Reserve have been sold in the current year.

WEIGHT OF GOLD AND SILVER BULLION IN THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.

5. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM : Will Government state the weight of gold and silver bullion in the Paper Currency Reserve on the week ending 21st June, 1931 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The weight of gold bullion held in the Paper Currency Reserve on the 22nd June, 1931, was 8,712,080 tolas fine and of silver bullion 67,549,684 tolas fine.

RETRENCHMENT ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

6. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
1. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of hands that have been retrenched within the last six months on the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

2. Will Government be pleased to specify in the statement the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Anglo-Indians, Europeans and other nationalities, that have been so retrenched ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the principle on which this retrenchment has been effected ?

4. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of different posts that have been abolished in the Dacca Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

5. Will Government make a statement regarding the hands that have been retrenched in the Dacca Section specifying the length of their service, their salaries and the terms of their appointment ?

6. Will Government be pleased to state if there are any men in service junior to those that have been retrenched ?

7. If so, will Government be pleased to state why senior men were selected for retrenchment instead of the junior hands ?

8. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table those resolutions of the Railway Board according to which these retrenchments were effected ?

9. Are Government satisfied that the spirit of the resolutions referred to above have been strictly adhered to ?

10. If not, will Government be pleased to take steps to cause an inquiry into the circumstances ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : 1 and 2. A statement is laid on the table.

3. The principles adopted were as follows :

Those who were inefficient were first to be discharged ; next those who were the least efficient ; next those who had short service and then those nearing the age of superannuation.

4. A statement is laid on the table giving all available information.

5. A statement is laid on the table.
6. The reply is in the affirmative.
7. The retrenchment was made in accordance with the principles mentioned in answer to part 3 of the question.
8. The Railway Board's letters on the subject are laid on the table.
9. Yes.
10. Does not arise.

—————

Statement showing the number of persons discharged within the last six months on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Hindus	1,147
Muslims	292
Europeans and Anglo-Indians	24
	1,463

—————

Statement showing the number of posts abolished in the Dacca District of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Department.	Staff retrenched.	
Traffic	Guards	2
	Station staff	45
	Goods and Transhipment staff	28
	Yard staff	3
	Menials	70
		148
Locomotive	Store Munshies	2
	Workshop staff	137
		139
Engineering	Sub-Inspectors of Works	2

Statement showing the number of permanent men discharged in the Decca District of the Eastern Bengal Railway as a result of economy campaign from 1st January, 1931 to 30th June, 1931.

	1	2.	Other employees.				Total.
			3	4	5	6	
		Employees engaged on a temporary footing, i.e., purely temporary purpose or against temporary appointment irrespective of length of service.	With less than one year's service.	With service of one year and over but less than three years.	With service of three years and over but less than ten years.	With service of ten years and over.	
	1	2.	3	4	5	6	7
Traffic	A. B. C. D.	A. B. C. D.	A. B. C. D.	A. B. C. D.	A. B. C. D.	84
Engineering	7
Locomotives	137
Total	225

A.—Denotes subordinates on scale of pay rising to Rs. 250 and over.

B.—Rs. 100 and over but less than Rs. 250.

C.—Rs. 50 but less than Rs. 100.

D.—Less than Rs. 50.

No. 683-E.G.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD.)

New Delhi, dated the 3rd March 1931.

To

THE AGENT,

BURMA RAILWAYS.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Reduction in staff.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to state that the Railway Board desire that the following general principles should be followed by State-managed Railways in carrying out reductions in staff as a result of the present economy campaign.

2. The main principle in selecting individuals for discharge should be to discharge men in the following order :—

- (a) those who are inefficient ;
- (b) those who are the least efficient ;
- (c) those who have short service. Among them permanent men should ordinarily be retained in preference to temporary employees but men who hold temporary appointments but who have completed 12 months' continuous service, should be regarded as having equal rights with permanent employees ;
- (d) those who are nearing the age of superannuation.

3. The Board also wish that all practical steps should be taken to see that the unfortunate necessity for reducing staff does not operate to the detriment of communities not at present adequately represented in railway services.

4. It may often happen in applying these principles that employees whose posts are abolished have a better claim to retention than others holding posts on a lower scale of pay. The latter would then make room for the former who should as an alternative to a discharge be offered employment in the lower posts.

5. With a view to eliminating all avoidable hardship, the Board desire :—

- (1) That an employee who in the circumstances explained in paragraph 4 is retained in a lower post will rank in seniority above men holding similar posts drawing the same rate of substantive pay as that allowed to him on reversion and will subject to continued efficiency be considered, when a suitable opportunity offers, for promotion to the class or grade in which he was formerly employed or to a post of equivalent or lower rank.

- (2) That employees discharged from the services on reduction of establishment should be granted all leave on full or average pay at their credit subject to a maximum of 4 months, provided that if such leave at their credit is less than one month, they should in lieu of it be allowed one month's pay in lieu of notice. When, under these orders, leave of not less than one month is granted, it should be made clear to the employee that his service will not be required on the termination of his leave and that he will not be entitled to a further notice of discharge or pay in lieu of such notice.

As an exception to the above, temporary staff engaged for seasonal traffic should on discharge to the extent such staff would be discharged under normal conditions be treated in respect of leave or notice pay under the existing procedure in force on your railway. When, however, owing to the present serious fall in traffic and the uncertainty whether the traffic prospects of the next busy season will be normal further reductions in the working strength of Transportation and Commercial staff are required to be made as a temporary measure, employees who are not required for duty may be allowed leave or notice pay as prescribed above or, when it is considered probable that a particular employee's services will again be required after a short time or at short notice, leave on half pay for such period as the Agent may deem reasonable but not exceeding 6 months irrespective of whether such leave is due or not. Provided that leave not due should in no case be sanctioned unless the conditions governing the grant of such leave are complied with.

- (3) That employees discharged under clause (c) of paragraph 2 should be borne on a common waiting list for the whole railway and be appointed to any suitable vacancy occurring on the railway in the future in preference to others. No outsider should, therefore, be appointed in any department, division, district or office of the railway so long as a suitable man is available from this waiting list or next after that from among the Great Indian Peninsula Railway strikers who are still out of employment. If an employee who was discharged is re-employed in a lower post, he should, subject to good work, be considered for promotion when a suitable opportunity offers to the class or grade in which he was formerly employed or to a post of an equivalent or lower rank. If, however, he refuses an offer of employment in a somewhat lower post with the prospect of recovering his former position after a time, he will be liable, at the discretion of the authority which offered him such post, to have his name removed from the waiting list.
- (4) When an employee who is retained in a lower post is subsequently promoted to his former grade under the provisions of clause (1) or when an employee who is discharged is subsequently employed in his former grade under the provisions of clause (3) due consideration should be paid to the length and character of his previous service in determining his pay on such promotion or employment.

6. The foregoing instructions are not intended to apply to:—

- (a) employees whose substantive pay at the time of discharge does not exceed Rs. 30 per mensem.

In respect of such employees the Agent of the Railway will determine the procedure to be followed, and

- (b) Workshop employees, including press employees, in respect of whom the Railway Board will issue separate instructions, as the conditions of their retention in the service are special.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) F. J. BLACKWOOD,

Secretary, Railway Board.

No. 683-E.G.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD.)

Dated New Delhi, the 3rd March, 1931.

To

THE AGENT,

ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.
 BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.
 MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.
 SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.
 BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.
 BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.
 ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to forward, herewith, a copy of the Railway Board's letter No. 683-E.G. dated 3rd March, 1931, which states the principles which the Railway Board have laid down for State-managed Railways in carrying out reductions in staff as a result of the present economy campaign.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. F. BLACKWOOD,

Secretary, Railway Board.

D. A.—Copy of letter referred to.

No. 683-E.G.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD.)

Dated New Delhi, the 6th March, 1931.

To

THE AGENT,

BURMA RAILWAYS.
 EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.
 EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.
 GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.
 NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Reduction in Workshop Staff.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to state that the Railway Board desire that the following principles should be followed by State-managed Railways in carrying out reductions in Workshops staff as a result of the present economy campaign.

2. Individuals should be selected for discharge in the following order :—

- (a) those who are inefficient ;
- (b) those who are the least efficient ;
- (c) those who have short service. Among them permanent men should ordinarily be retained in preference to temporary employees ;
- (d) those who are nearing the age of superannuation.

These principles should be applied separately for each distinct category in order that the strength of each category shall not be in excess of actual requirements.

3. The Board also wish that all practical steps should be taken to see that the unfortunate necessity for reducing staff does not operate to the detriment of communities not at present adequately represented in railway services.

4. It may often happen in applying these principles that employees whose posts are abolished have a better claim to retention than others holding posts on a lower scale of pay. The latter would then make room for the former who should as an alternative to a discharge be offered employment in the lower posts.

5. The Board desire that Workshop employees discharged from the service in consequence of retrenchment should be granted one month's pay in lieu of notice. Those who have completed 3 years' service should be allowed in addition a bonus equal to the leave-salary which they would draw if they were given leave on full pay due to them, subject to a minimum of half a month's pay and a maximum of 20 days' pay. I am directed to convey the sanction of the Governor General in Council to the payments involved. Leave should not be granted to Workshop employees discharged from the service.

6. As an exception to the above, temporary staff engaged for special jobs or otherwise should on discharge to the extent such staff would be discharged under normal conditions be treated in respect of leave or notice pay under the existing procedure in force on your railway, provided that such treatment does not in any case result in a temporary employee being given privileges exceeding in monetary value those that would accrue to him under the provisions of paragraph 5.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. F. BLACKWOOD,

Secretary, Railway Board.

No. 683-E.G., dated the 6th March, 1931.

Copy forwarded for information to the Chief Accounts Officers, Burma, East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways and Director of Railway Audit (with 5 spare copies).

(Sd.) T. K. NANA RAO,

for Financial Commissioner of Railways.

No. 683-E.G. Pt.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

(RAILWAY BOARD.)

Dated New Delhi, the 6th March, 1931.

To

THE AGENT,

ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed to forward, herewith, a copy of the Railway Board's letter No. 683-E.G., dated the 6th March, 1931, which states the principles which the Railway Board have laid down for State-managed Railways in carrying out reductions in workshop staff as a result of the present economy campaign.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. F. BLACKWOOD,

Secretary, Railway Board.

D. A.—Copy of letter referred to.

HOURS OF WORK OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

7. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state the number of hours for which a continuous railway servant works ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the number of hours for which an intermittent railway officer works ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the maximum number of hours fixed for the railway workers by the League of Nations at Geneva ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state if the Geneva regulations in regard to the conditions of labour on the Railways are being observed ?

5. If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : 1. According to the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, a railway servant, other than one whose employment is essentially intermittent, is, subject to certain exceptions, not permitted to be employed for more than 60 hours a week on the average in any month. In actual practice on the North Western and East Indian Rail-

ways, to which Railways the Act has been applied, about 30 per cent. of such servants are not employed for more than 48 hours a week, while a further 30 per cent. are not employed for more than 54 hours a week.

2. According to the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, a railway servant whose employment is essentially intermittent is subject to certain exceptions, not permitted to be employed for more than 84 hours in any week.

3. The Washington (Hours of Work) Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference lays down for British India the principle of a 60-hour week. Its application to Railways is limited to such branches of railway work as may be specified by the competent authority.

4 and 5. The provisions of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, in the matter of the grant of weekly rest to railway servants, are being strictly applied on the North Western and East Indian Railways and to an increasing extent on other Class I Railways. The Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Railway Servants' Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, will be applied to other railways as quickly as financial circumstances permit.

DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE.

8. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH [CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state what they have done to develop Horticulture in India ?

2. Is it a fact that the Bengal Government has put up a scheme to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the development of Horticulture in Bengal ?

3. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of that scheme ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES: 1. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has recently appointed a Fruit Committee to sift schemes of fruit research for all-India and to make proposals. The Committee will meet during the next session of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to be held about January, 1932.

2 and 3. Yes. A copy each of the two schemes received from the Government of Bengal is placed on the table.

Proposal for the appointment of a Horticultural Officer in Bengal.

For several years the Bengal Agricultural Department has been endeavouring to develop fruit culture in the Darjeeling district. Owing to shortage of funds this work has necessarily been limited but, even so, the results obtained have indicated that fruit culture in the district has a promising future. Varieties of oranges and pineapples introduced have not only been taken up by local cultivators, but are to be found in the neighbouring states of Sikkim and Bhutan. The cultivation of peaches and plums is extending, whilst a pear, one of many introduced, is bearing high class fruit.

It is now proposed that a Horticultural Officer be appointed to determine the kinds and varieties suited to the Eastern Himalayas, and to investigate problems of shoot and root pruning, manuring, propagation, etc.

Land and office accommodation is available on the Kalimpong Farm.

It is proposed that the pay of officer should be Rs. 250—20—330 per mensem with a Field Assistant on Rs. 50—2/8—60 per mensem. There will be no initial expenditure.

The recurring cost will be—

	First year. Rs.	Second year. Rs.	Third year. Rs.	Fourth year. Rs.	Fifth year. Rs.
Horticultural Officer	3,000	3,240	3,480	3,720	3,960
Field Assistant	600	630	660	690	720
Peon	180	180	180	180	180
Chemicals and apparatus	100	100	100	100	100
Seeds, manures and implements	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Labour	720	720	720	720	720
Travelling allowance	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	8,100	8,370	8,640	8,910	9,180

Rs. 43,200

RAMNA (DACCA),

ROBERT S. FINLOW.

The 16th April, 1931.

Proposal for the establishment of a Horticultural Station on the plains of Bengal.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture emphasised the great importance of research on fruit in India because fruit, whether grown on an orchard basis or as a subsidiary crop, is a potential source of revenue to the cultivator.

A scheme for the establishment of a Horticultural Station on the plains of Bengal was submitted to and approved by the Government of Bengal as long ago as 1922, but owing to lack of funds it has never been possible to commence work.

The districts of Malda, Murshidabad and Nadia are famous for mangoes and litchis. There are numbers of varieties, some with local reputation whilst others are known all over India. It is desirable not only to examine these varieties with a view to determining their value from the point of view of palatability and yield but to experiment on methods of culture including cultivation, pruning and propagation.

Apart from mangoes and litchis, there is great scope for the introduction of improved types of guavas, custard apples, mangoosteens, citrus fruits, etc. Owing to financial stringency the Government of Bengal is unable to allot funds for the development of fruit culture and it is hoped that the scheme may be subsidised by the Imperial Council.

It is proposed that the station be in charge of an officer on Rs. 250—20—330 per mensem with a Field Assistant on Rs. 50—2/8—60 per mensem and a clerk on Rs. 30 per mensem. Provision is also made for peons and malis.

Land will be provided by the Government of Bengal at Krishnagar in the district of Nadia. The Government of Bengal is not, however, at present in a position to provide other capital expenditure. The Horticultural Officer and clerk can reside in the town of Krishnagar, but the Field Assistant must be resident on the station. Quarters must also be provided on the station for malis and coolies.

The estimated cost will be—

	Non-recurring.	Rs.
Laying out and fencing	..	5,000
Field laboratory and office	..	5,000
Quarters for Field Assistant	..	3,000
Quarters for malis, peons and coolies	..	2,400
Bullock shed	..	1,000
Pottery shed	..	250
Bullocks, six pairs	..	1,500
Implements and apparatus	..	1,000
		<u>19,150</u>

		<i>Recurring.</i>				
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
		year.	year.	year.	year.	year.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Horticultural Officer	..	3,000	3,240	3,480	3,720	3,960
Field Assistant	.. ..	600	630	660	690	720
Clerk	.. ..	360	360	360	360	360
House rent—						
Horticultural Officer	..	300	300	300	300	300
Clerk	.. ..	60	60	60	60	60
2 Peons	.. ..	312	312	312	312	312
4 Malis	.. ..	720	720	720	720	720
Labour	.. ..	960	960	960	960	960
Feed of cattle	.. ..	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Contingencies	.. ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Travelling allowance	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
		9,812	10,082	10,352	10,622	10,892
		Rs. 51,760				

ROBERT S. FINLOW.

RAMNA (DACCA),
The 16th April, 1931.

APPOINTMENT OF A TOBACCO EXPERT.

9. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
1. What are the functions and personnel of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ?

2. What agricultural schemes has this Council advanced during the year 1929-30 and with what result ?

3. Is it a fact that this Council has been considering the desirability of appointing a tobacco expert for the whole of India ?

4. If so, will Government state the functions of this officer and where it is intended to post him ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : The functions of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are set out in paragraph 2 of its Memorandum of Association, an extract of which is placed on the table. The Council consists of two parts, namely, the Governing Body and the Advisory Board. A list showing the personnel of each part is laid on the table.

2. A statement showing the agricultural schemes sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research during 1929-30, with information as to the results, is placed on the table.

3 and 4. A scheme has been received from the Government of Bengal recommending *inter alia* the appointment of a cigar-curing and blending expert for India generally and specially for Madras, Bengal and Burma. The scheme

was considered by the Advisory Board of the Council at its meeting held in June last and one of the points discussed was the province in which the expert, if appointed, should be stationed. No decision has yet been taken ; as other provinces are also interested in tobacco research they have been invited to submit similar schemes and on receipt of them the question of framing a co-ordinated scheme for all-India will be considered.

Memorandum of Association of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

* * * * *

2. The objects for which the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is established are :—

- (a) To aid, develop and co-ordinate agricultural and veterinary research in India by promoting scientific (including technological research), instruction and experiments in the science, methods and practice of agriculture (including the marketing of agricultural produce) and by promoting veterinary research and instruction in veterinary science, by the diffusion of useful information and by such other means as appear calculated to develop agricultural and veterinary research.
- (b) To act as a clearing house of information not only in regard to research but also in regard to agricultural and veterinary matters generally.
- (c) For the purposes of the Society to draw and accept and make and endorse discount and negotiate Government of India and other promissory notes, bills of exchange, cheques or other negotiable instruments.
- (d) To invest the funds of, or money entrusted to, the Society upon such securities or in such manner as may from time to time be determined by the Governing Body and from time to time to sell or transpose such investments.
- (e) To purchase, take on lease, accept as a gift or otherwise acquire, any land or building, wherever situate in India, which may be necessary or convenient for the Society.
- (f) To construct or alter any building which may be necessary for the Society.
- (g) To sell, lease, exchange and otherwise transfer all or any portion of the properties of the Society.
- (h) To establish and maintain a research and reference library in pursuance of the objects of the Society with reading and writing rooms and to furnish the same with books, reviews, magazines, newspapers and other publications.
- (i) To do all other such things as the Society may consider necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

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2. The Principal Administrative Officer of the Council nominated by the Government of India. *Vice-Chairman (ex-officio).*

The Ministers of Agriculture for the time being or the members of the Governor's Executive Council in charge for the time being of the portfolio of Agriculture in

3. Madras.
4. Bombay.
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6. United Provinces.
7. The Punjab.

8. Burma.
9. Bihar and Orissa.
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Two members of the Advisory Board elected by the Board.
18. } K. Hewlett, Esq., O.B.E., Principal, Veterinary College, Bombay.
19. } P. H. Carpenter, Esq., Chief Scientific Officer, Indian Tea Association, Tocklai, Assam.
20. The Revenue Member of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Executive Council, Hyderabad, Deccan.
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Mr. M. S. A. Hydari, I.C.S., Secretary.

The Advisory Board.

1. The Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. (*Chairman*).
2. The Agricultural Expert, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
3. The Animal Husbandry Expert, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
4. The Director, Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Pusa.
5. The Director, Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar.
6. The Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
7. The Director of Agriculture, Madras.
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11. The Director of Agriculture, Punjab.
12. The Director of Agriculture, Burma.
13. The Director of Agriculture, Bihar and Orissa.
14. The Director of Agriculture, Central Provinces.
15. The Director of Agriculture, Assam.
16. The Director of Veterinary Services, Madras.
17. K. Hewlett, Esq., O.B.E., Principal, Veterinary College, Bombay.
18. The Director, Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal.

* The Council of State has been asked to elect a representative *vice* the Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., who ceased to be a member of the Governing Body on his ceasing to be a member of the Council of State.

19. The Director, Civil Veterinary Department, United Provinces.
 20. The Director of Veterinary Services, Punjab.
 21. The Director of Veterinary Services, Burma.
 22. The Director of Civil Veterinary Department, Bihar and Orissa.
 23. The Director of Veterinary Services, Central Provinces.
 24. The Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Assam.
 25. W. Robertson-Brown, Esq., Agricultural Officer, North West Frontier Province, representing minor administrations under the Government of India.
 26. A. D. Blascheck, Esq., Inspector General of Forests, Dehra Dun, representing Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.
 27. G. K. Devadhar, Esq., M.A., C.I.E., Representative of the Co-operative Movement.
 28. The Secretary, Indian Research Fund Association (representative of the Indian Research Fund Association).
 29. Dr. N. N. Gangulee, B.Sc., Ph.D., C.I.E., Khaira, Professor of Agriculture, Calcutta University.
 - *30. Vacant.
 31. C. T. Mudaliyar, Esq., F. L. S.
 32. Dr. L. K. Hyder, B. A., Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
 33. P. H. Carpenter, Esq., Chief Scientific Officer, Indian Tea Association, Teoklai, Assam (representative of the Indian Tea Association and the United Planters' Association of Southern India).
 34. S. D. Saklatwala, Esq., Vice-President, Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay (representative of the Indian Central Cotton Committee).
 35. The Director of Veterinary Services in India, Simla.
 36. The Chief Publicity Officer, Indian State Railways.
 37. S. M. A. Shah, Esq., Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, North West Frontier Province, Peshawar.
 38. The Chief Agricultural Officer, Sind.
 39. The Director of Agriculture, His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government, Hyderabad, Deccan.
 40. The Director of Veterinary Department, His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government, Hyderabad Deccan.
 41. The Director of Agriculture, Mysore State, Bangalore.
 42. The Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Mysore State, Bangalore.
- Mr. M. S. A. Hydari, I.C.S., Secretary.

} Representatives of the Inter-University Board, India.

Statement of the agricultural schemes sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research during the year 1929-30 with information as to results.

	Rs.
(i) Grant to Shahjahanpur Research Station for a detailed examination of new seedling canes	6,000
(ii) Grants of Rs. 8,000 each to United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa and Punjab for experiments in the designing of a satisfactory small power sugarcane crushing mill.	

* Steps are being taken to fill up the vacancy.

(iii) Grant to Deccan University for research work on the Mechanical analysis of soils and for investigations on the assimilation of nitrogen by the rice plant	24,000
	(3 years).
(iv) Grant to Dr. K. C. Mehta, Professor of Botany, Agra College, Agra, for investigation of the cereal rusts of wheat and barley	45,000
	(3 years).
(v) Grant to the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore, Rs. 1,25,000 (non-recurring) for the provision of an experimental sugar plant at the Institute and Rs. 20,000 per annum recurring for 5 years for the maintenance of the plant	2,25,000
	(5 years).
(vi) Deputation of a Chemist to Bhopal to test Khan Bahadur Hadi's open pan process of manufacturing sugar	1,500
(vii) Grant to Professor P. Parija, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, for research work on water Hyacinth	5,826-6-0

Schemes Nos. (i) and (ii) though sanctioned by the Council in 1929-30 were actually commenced in 1930-31 and reports on the results thereof are awaited. Those numbered (iii), (iv) and (v) extend over a period of years and are still in progress. It is, therefore, premature to say anything about their results. As regards item (vi) the Chemist's report has been received and the results obtained have also been tested under commercial conditions at Bilari. The report on the latter tests is under consideration. Lastly, in regard to item (vii) an interim report has been received which shows that further investigation is necessary before final conclusions can be arrived at; it has, therefore, been decided to continue the work for another year.

GRANT BY THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TO THE DACCA UNIVERSITY FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

10. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Is it a fact that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has granted a lump sum of money to the Dacca University for agricultural research ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of this sum ?

3. Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the work already done in this connection by the Dacca University ?

4. Is it a fact that the Dacca University has asked for a fresh grant on the subject from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : 1. and 2. Yes. The Imperial Council granted the Dacca University in 1930 a sum of Rs. 24,000 spread over a period of five years on account of staff and Rs. 6,518 on account of apparatus, etc.

3. A copy of the report of the Agricultural Research Section of the Department of Chemistry, Dacca University, for the year 1930-31 is laid on the table.

4. Yes.

Report of the Agricultural Research Section of the Department of Chemistry, Dacca University, for the year ending the 31st March, 1931.

DETAILED REPORT.

General.—I joined my appointment on 1st June, 1930. The Senior Assistant Mr. P. K. De and the Junior Assistant Mr. J. N. Chakraborty joined their respective appointments on 11th August, 1930.

On 25th May, 1930, i.e., before I actually joined my appointment, I submitted a list of apparatus to the Head of the Department of Chemistry for favour of transmission to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research through the Provincial Research Committee for approval and sanction of necessary cost. The list was approved by the Provincial Committee and finally by the Imperial Council with some modifications. Unfortunately however the University did not receive the money for making necessary purchases until December 1930. The progress of work during the period under review was therefore greatly hampered for want of apparatus, etc., and also for want of a pot culture house. It may be mentioned here that during the first two months I had to go to Tejgaon to work in the Government Research Laboratory since no proper facilities for the type of work needed to be carried out were available here. After the Assistants were appointed in August, work was begun in this laboratory. Some fittings had to be made in the laboratory during the month of October which took over three weeks. This impeded the progress of work considerably. Again the want of a fume cupboard where Kjeldahl digestions could be carried out satisfactorily was felt from the very beginning and it was after the receipt of grant from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research that I could find money for the construction of a proper cupboard which has just been completed. A pot culture house is also on its way to completion now. Orders for apparatus necessary for our works have been placed soon after the receipt of the grant from the Research Council. When these have arrived the progress of work is expected to be more rapid. I should like to mention here that we want another room very badly. At present there is not even enough space for our ordinary routine works and consequently it will be impossible to find room to work with the microscope, incubator and other apparatus which are expected shortly.

A note on the lines of work which this section proposed to follow was drawn up and shown to the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, for criticism, who fully approved it. A summary of this note was forwarded to the Registrar of the University for favour of communication to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in August 1930.

In conclusion, I want to express my thanks to Messrs. Finlow and Carbery, the Director of Agriculture and the Agricultural Chemist, Bengal, for trying to help me in every possible way whenever I approached them for advice, for experimental plots to be placed at my disposal or for the purpose of borrowing apparatus, etc.

ASHUTOSH SEN,

Research Fellow in Agricultural Chemistry, Dacca University.

The 4th April, 1931.

Details of work done by Dr. A. T. Sen, Research Fellow in Agricultural Chemistry, Dacca University, in collaboration with Messrs. P. K. De and J. N. Chakraborty, Senior and Junior Assistants.

1.—Mechanical Analysis of Lateritic Soils.

It was proposed to try at first a few existing methods of mechanical analysis on a number of lateritic soils with a view to find which gave the maximum dispersion without being drastic and without consuming undue time and labour. On the existing methods the one revised by A. E. A. (England) in 1928 now known as the International pipette method has been very widely adopted. The dispersion of soil in this method is effected by a preliminary treatment with H_2O_2 to remove organic matter followed by an acid treatment to destroy carbonates and finally by shaking a suspension of the treated soil made alkaline by ammonia. Since tropical soils contained very little organic matter, it has been suggested by many that H_2O_2 treatment was unnecessary for such soils. The peroxide treatment has therefore been omitted while using this or other methods in this laboratory. A number of people, however, object even to the acid treatment and notably amongst them are Dr. Joseph and Dr. Puri who advocate the use of Na_2CO_3 and $NaCl$ (with little $NaOH$) respectively as the dispersing agent. The clay in the soil is thus converted into Sodium clay which both these authors claim, and right so, to be far more easily dispersible than Ammonium clay. The two methods will be termed Na_2CO_3 and $NaCl$ methods.

As regards the division of soil into fractions the Atterburg scale has now been universally adopted which is as follows :—

Coarse sand 2.0 mm. to 0.2 mm.,

Fine sand 0.2 mm. to 0.02 mm., silt 0.02 mm. to 0.002 mm. and clay below 0.002 mm. This scale in grouping the fractions was also adopted in this laboratory.

In the International and NaCl methods the pipette technique is employed to obtain the silt and the clay fractions. Dr. Joseph, however, finds the technique unsuitable for Sudan soils which refuse to disperse completely at one operation. He, therefore, advocates the extraction of clay and silt by sedimentation. The repeated treatments involved in the latter process further disperse soil particles not fully dispersed in the first operation. But the principal objection to analysis by sedimentation is that it takes considerable time to be completed, so that unless it is found absolutely necessary the rapid pipette technique should be adopted wherever possible. When this work was going to be begun in this section, mechanical analyses of a few typical Bengal soils including a lateritic soil from Dacca were being conducted at the Agricultural Chemist's Laboratory at Dacca, using the 1906 sedimentation, the Na₂CO₃ sedimentation and the International pipette methods. Consequently it was decided to postpone the trial of Na₂CO₃ method until results of these analyses were available. Meanwhile analyses of a number of samples of Dacca soils were begun by the International and NaCl methods. The results of complete analysis of six of them are given on the next page.

It is evident from the table that in four out of six cases both methods gave equal amounts of clay while of the remaining two cases the International method gave once one per cent. more and once one per cent. less clay than that given by the NaCl method. Again, the average differences in the amounts of silt and fine sand obtained by the two methods are not very much larger than the standard errors. It is clear, therefore, that both methods dispersed the soil more or less to the same extent. There was of course some loss by solution as a result of acid treatment in the International method. This loss was found to average at 1.3 per cent. for the above samples. If the average of the total percentages of the various fractions (last column) obtained by the two methods is calculated, it will be found to be 96.1 per cent. for the International and 97.3 per cent. for the NaCl method respectively. The lower value for the International method is obviously due to the loss by solution. Apart from the defects the International method appears to be as suitable as the NaCl method for Dacca soils.

TABLE I.

Various fractions as percentages of air-dry soil by the International and NaCl methods.

Sample from—	Clay.		Silt.		Fine sand.		Coarse sand.		Total.	
	Inter.	NaCl.	Inter.	NaCl.	Inter.	NaCl.	Inter.	NaCl.	Inter.	NaCl.
1. Khoskhana, Dacca	22.3	22.3	31.5	31.7	38.2	36.1	2.8	3.3	94.8	93.8
2. Ditto ..	24.3	24.2	32.2	33.8	36.0	36.1	2.7	2.9	95.2	97.0
3. Ditto ..	25.3	25.4	31.4	33.4	35.9	36.2	2.8	3.1	95.4	98.0
4. N. Hazi, Dacca	18.4	17.4	27.6	31.3	38.2	36.8	10.4	11.3	94.6	96.8
5. Ditto ..	18.4	18.8	32.7	34.1	38.1	36.5	9.6	9.8	98.8	99.2
6. Ditto ..	16.9	18.2	32.8	32.5	37.7	37.7	10.5	11.0	97.9	99.4
Average difference between International and NaCl results ..	0.45		1.35		1.09		0.43			
Standard error ..	±0.62		±1.01		±0.71		±0.19			

To avoid fluctuations in temperature effecting the results a thickwalled air-tight wooden box was used in which the suspensions were allowed to stand for the requisite number of hours before clay fractions were pipetted. When the room temperature changed by 5 degrees the temperature inside the box altered by less than one degree. The slight variation in temperature did not affect the result. This was because 70 per cent. of the clay in the Dacca soils have diameters below .001 mm. Further, a longer period of shaking in the International method and also 24 hours' shaking in the NaCl method were employed without consequent gain in the amounts of clay and the silt fractions. Obviously the maximum amount of dispersion possible by either method was obtained by the prescribed treatment for each.

Next complete analyses of 18 samples of lateritic soils and sub-soils from the districts of Sonthal Parganas and Hazaribagh in Bihar were made using the NaCl method. Most of these samples were taken from paddy fields but one sample was collected near the side of a hill where laterisation had taken place *in situ* and the granulated structure of the soil so common to laterites was clearly evident. After examination of the results of analysis, four samples were selected which were considered typical of the different parts of the two lateritic districts. These four samples were then analysed again by the International and the Na_2CO_3 methods using the pipette technique in the latter case. Since Na_2CO_3 would come into the clay fraction, the theoretical amount of Na_2CO_3 present in 20 c.c. of the pipetted volume was deducted from the weight of the evaporated amount to give the actual weight of clay. An error is introduced in this way since the H ions exchanged for Na ions will cause some loss of carbonic acid during evaporation. This loss, however, is small and therefore negligible in the case of lateritic soils. Besides the International and Na_2CO_3 methods, a new method which will be termed NaOH method was tried. In this method 10 c.c. of N/10 NaOH were added to a suspension of 20 gms. of soil in 100 c.c. water (about 7 to 8 c.c. were found to make the suspension alkaline to phenolphthalein). The mixture was stirred by means of a glass rod for about 5 minutes and then transferred into a stoppered bottle and shaken overnight with about 500 c.c. of water. The suspension was then made up to two litres after separating the coarse sand and the usual pipette technique was adopted. If in the Na_2CO_3 and NaCl methods the primary intention was to convert the clay into Sodium clay, the NaOH method would very likely do the same. As a start treatment with stronger concentrations of NaOH was avoided for obvious reasons. The concentration used was the same as that in the NaCl method where NaOH is added after removing the excess salt by washing. In the NaOH method, therefore, two operations are saved, *viz.*, the treatment with NaCl and the subsequent washing of excess salt for which extra care has to be taken especially towards the end to avoid peptisation. In addition to the four Bihar soils, two Dacca soils were analysed by the Na_2CO_3 and NaOH methods. Complete analyses were made in all cases in order to check the figures for the clay and the silt fractions by finding the total. The clay and silt fractions are given on the next page.

It is evident from the figures that the NaOH method failed to disperse the soil to the same extent as did the International or the NaCl method. Probably the amount of alkali added (10 c.c. of N/10 NaOH) was too small to convert all the clay into Sodium clay. Further trial with the dispersion is now in progress using slightly higher concentrations of the alkali that will not unduly react with soil constituents effecting loss of silica by solution. It may be of interest to mention here that in the Technical communication No. 17 of the Imperial Bureau of Soil Science a copy of which has just reached this laboratory, one finds that Professor Robinson had proposed the use of NaOH in place of Ammonia in the International method. He observed that the method thus modified gave the best results. In this laboratory it was also thought at first to introduce this modification in the International method, but in view of the prevailing diverse opinion on the desirability of an acid treatment in the mechanical analysis of soils and also in view of the fact that cementing materials such as CaCO_3 are generally present in lateritic soils in very small quantities, it was decided to omit the acid treatment in the NaOH method. Professor Robinson, however, used NaOH eight times more than the quantity used to disperse the soil in the NaOH method.

TABLE II.

Clay and Silt as percentages of air-dry soil obtained by different methods.

Soil from—	Percentage of clay by—				Percentage of silt by—			
	Inter.	NaCl.	Na ₂ CO ₃	NaOH.	Inter.	NaCl.	Na ₂ CO ₃	NaOH.
1. Khoskhana Dacca	25·3	25·4	22·0	21·4	31·4	33·4	36·4	38·1
2. N. Hazi, Dacca ..	18·4	18·8	15·8	16·7	32·7	34·1	37·7	37·5
3. Giridih 1, Hazari- bagh.	21·2	21·8	14·4	17·2	8·2	9·5	14·5	13·4
4. Giridih 5, Hazari- bagh.	30·3	35·0	26·9	29·4	12·5	11·6	16·1	14·5
5. Deoghar 11, S. P.	21·1	21·3	18·8	19·8	15·3	16·9	18·4	17·8
6. Deoghar 15, S. P.	29·2	31·1	27·1	29·1	12·6	13·2	15·9	22·0

What, however, appears to be very striking in the results given in the preceding table is the fact that the dispersion effected by the Na₂CO₃ treatment was the minimum. The amount of Na₂CO₃ used was sufficiently large to convert the whole of the clay into sodium clay. Dr. Joseph's apprehension, therefore, regarding the maximum dispersion at one treatment appears to be justified. Accordingly analysis of the above soil samples are being made again by the Na₂CO₃ method but this time using the sedimentation technique.

In two out of the four Bihar soils more clay was obtained by the NaCl than by the International method. It is probable, therefore, that with different kinds of lateritic soils extent of dispersion by the two methods will be different. Attempt is being made to secure through the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, a number of samples of lateritic soils from all over India. When these have been received and various methods with modifications have been tried on them, it may be possible to suggest a method that would be suitable for all kinds of lateritic soils in India.

2.—The Problem of Nitrogen Supply to Rice Plants.

In an investigation of this kind it is essential to know first of all the cycle of changes that take place in the various nitrogen compounds in paddy fields. Accordingly estimations of total nitrogen, ammonia and nitrate in some of the rice fields in the Dacca Government Farm are being made at different periods from middle of June 1930 onwards.

Method of estimating total nitrogen in soil.

Kjeldahl method or one of its modifications is generally used when the soil contains no nitrogen. When nitrates are present in appreciable amounts precautions are taken to arrest the nitric acid which otherwise will volatilise away thus giving a lower value for

nitrogen. The following three known methods which give total nitrogen including nitrate have been tried and were found to be equally efficient :—

- (1) Combination of Ulches and Kjeldahl method as suggested by Bristol and Page.
- (2) Davisson and Parson's method.
- (3) Salicylic acid method, A. O. A. C.

In the salicylic acid method, thiosulphate has been found to be a more suitable reducing agent than zinc. Moreover, when zinc is used, and excess of alkali has to be added in subsequent operation to dissolve the precipitated $Zn(OH)_2$. Bal's modified method, viz., treating the soil with water to prevent the cementation of heavy particles during digestion was also tried but found to give no higher results, thus indicating that there is no possibility of soil particles being cemented during digestion in the case of Dacca soils.

But in the routine work with rice soils it has been found unnecessary to adopt any of the above methods, Kjeldahl and Gunning method giving equally good results. The reason for this is that rice soils contain no nitrate during the water-logged period and even in dry seasons (up till the writing up of this report) samples containing more than 4 p.p.m. of nitric nitrogen have not been found. Even if it is assumed that the whole of the nitric nitrogen is lost during digestion, the value for total nitrogen will be lowered by 4 p.p.m. thus giving an error which is very smaller than the error due to the inherent defects of the method. Of the three methods stated above, the first two are troublesome and laborious while salicylic acid method is the easiest, although the latter cannot arrest nitric acid quantitatively in presence of sufficient moisture. The salicylic acid method, however, was finally adopted as it arrests at least a part of nitric nitrogen and also because the digestion is quicker in this than in the Kjeldahl and Gunning method. Whether the rapidity in digestion is due to the catalytic action of sulphur formed or to the additional amount of SO_2 evolved by the action of H_2SO_4 on thiosulphate is not known at present. Work, however, is in progress to find an explanation for this. In case the nitric nitrogen increases afterwards, the method of determining total nitrogen will be modified accordingly.

Seasonal changes of total nitrogen in soil.

Three plots, [North Hazi-low, Khoskhana Bye and South Ravina, were selected in the Government Farm at Dacca. All these plots are unmanured rice fields, the first two being cropped and the latter uncropped. Soil samples were brought periodically from the three plots for estimation of total nitrogen. Since the effect of air-drying on the nitrogen content of these soils was not known it was decided to determine total nitrogen both in the first samples and also when they were dried in air. In order to be able to get an idea of the possible error involved in the determination, the latter was always carried out in duplicate. From the differences between the duplicate results the standard error of experiment was calculated and found to be 12 p.p.m. for soils containing nitrogen from 900 p.p.m. to 1,500 p.p.m. of dry soil. By trial it was found that the sampling error was minimum when soils from three or more holes (0'·6") taken at random from the plot were mixed together. The difference between the nitrogen figures for two such composite samples taken on the same day from a plot was not greater than the difference between the duplicate figures of each sample. In spite of this two composite samples are being taken periodically from each of the above plots since that would enable the calculation of the error, if any, due to soil heterogeneity. In the following table the results of analysis of the fresh soil samples from the two cropped plots are given. In the third column of the table the gain of nitrogen in soil since the date of collection of the first sample is given as pounds per acre assuming that half acre foot of soil weighs two million pounds.

TABLE III.

Showing Seasonal Changes in the Nitrogen Content of Rice Fields.

N. Hazi low—Unmanured.

Date.	Total nitrogen in soil p.p.m.	Gain of N. in soil since 21-6-1930 as lbs. per acre.	Remarks.
21-6-1930 ..	925	..	
27-6-1930 ..	910	—30	Aman paddy transplanted on 12-7-1930.
11-9-1930 ..	1,086	322	
12-11-1930	1,112	374	Ears of paddy appeared.
11-12-1930	1,008	166	Paddy harvested on 17-12-1930.
9-1-1931 ..	1,016	182	
11-2-1931 ..	1,014	178	
6-3-1931 ..	1,020	190	

Khoskhana Byde—Unmanured.

21-6-1930 ..	1,400	..	
11-7-1930 ..	1,433	66	Aman paddy transplanted, 9-7-1930.
12-11-1930	1,593	386	Ears of paddy appeared.
15-12-1930	1,567	334	Paddy harvested on 15-12-1930.
16-1-1931 ..	1,543	286	
18-2-1931 ..	1,491	182	
30-3-1931 ..	1,507	214	

It is evident from the above table that the nitrogen content of soils increases considerably under crop, becomes maximum at about the time when the ears of the plants begin to appear and then decreases. Although at the time of writing up this report the total nitrogen in either plot is much higher than what it was in June last year, the content may yet come down during the next two and half months and ultimately become equal to the original amount.

This large gain of nitrogen in soil at time when a decrease would be expected owing to the removal of some nitrogen by the crop is rather striking. From the yields of the plots (which were about 33 maunds of dressed grain per acre), it can be shown that the total amount of nitrogen present in one acre's entire crop (grain and straw) was about 50 lbs. Even if all of this nitrogen came from the soil, the amount would be quite small in comparison with the gain and loss in nitrogen which the soil sustains in the course of one year. Probably this explains why by growing rice year after year for centuries without adding any manure to the soil it has not been possible to deplete the latter of its nitrogen content.

It is difficult to suggest at the moment the cause for the observed gain in nitrogen. The figures in the above table tend to indicate that the crop itself has something to do with the gain, otherwise the latter would not stop so abruptly as soon as the crop matured. If that is so, the results obtained at Pusa claiming the presence of an anaerobic bacteria in paddy roots capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen appear to be well supported. But there are also other possibilities of fixation in these soils. Unfortunately by the time this laboratory was brought into proper working condition, last year's rice season was over. Moreover, for want of apparatus biological works cannot yet be taken up in hands. It is

expected, however, that this part of the problem will be thrashed out more fully during the coming season.

The uncropped plot South Ravina had to be rejected after periodic determinations of nitrogen were continued for a few months owing to the discovery of bad patches of soil in the plot having extremely variable composition. Another plot in East Ravina has been selected in its place. This plot is divided into two portions one of which is being kept fallow and the other will be cropped in due course.

Effect of air-drying.

In the course of the periodic determinations of total nitrogen it was found that the nitrogen content of soil samples changed irregularly when air-dried. In the following table some of the results obtained are given :—

TABLE IV.

Showing the changes in the nitrogen content of soil samples when air-dried.

Soil samples from—	Moisture in fresh sample.	Total nitrogen in—		Difference p.p.m.
		Fresh samples p.p.m.	Air-dried samples p.p.m.	
1. N. Hazi low	27.0	925	962	37
2. Ditto	20.8	1,112	1,157	45
3. Ditto	18.8	1,008	996	—12
4. Ditto	11.5	1,016	1,032	16
5. Ditto	10.2	1,014	1,000	—14
6. Ditto	16.4	1,020	997	—23
7. Khoskhana Byde	33.3	1,369	1,322	—47
8. Ditto	38.8	1,400	1,334	—66
9. Ditto	39.4	1,433	1,400	—33
10. Ditto	43.4	1,593	1,435	—158
11. Ditto	40.5	1,567	1,529	—38
12. Ditto	33.3	1,543	1,510	—33

It is clear from the above figures that during the process of drying certain changes take place in soil conditions involving loss or gain of total nitrogen. Attempt is being made to find out the cause for these changes. The work is of obvious importance since rice fields become practically air-dried in Summer.

Seasonal changes of nitrate and ammonia in soil.

Both Nitrate and Ammonia (free and saline) were determined in the fresh soil samples which were collected periodically for the estimation of total nitrogen. For nitrate Phenoldisulphonic acid method was used and for ammonia McLean and Robinson's method was followed.

The nitrate in soil decreased as soon as water was admitted into the field and practically disappeared when the latter remained submerged for a few days. The reappearance of nitrate took place only after the surface soil had begun to dry up but the accumulation was never large. Up till now (*i.e.*, March) maximum amount of nitric nitrogen in the plots under investigation has not been found to be more than 4 p.p.m. of dry soil. Unless considerable amount of nitrate is formed during the next two months, it appears that the leaching of nitrate is not a factor in the annual loss of nitrogen in the two plots.

On the other hand ammonia was found to increase when the plots remained submerged in water and to disappear gradually as the soil dried up. During the water logging period an average of 15 p.p.m. of ammoniacal nitrogen was present in the soil. The amount has now come down to 5 p.p. m.

From the figures for nitrate and ammonia in the soil, it appears that ammonia is the principal substance from which the rice plants derive their supply of nitrogen. The mechanism of the production of ammonia in water-logged soils is not yet fully understood but a recent work attributes it to the action of an enzyme (deaminase) of the microflora of the soil. Studies in this direction, therefore, appear to be profitable and will be undertaken in this laboratory in due course.

3.—Water Culture Experiments.

These experiments were carried out in the premises of the laboratory building as a separate pot-culture house was not available. The results must therefore be considered as provisional. These experiments will be repeated in the pot culture house which has just been completed and it is hoped that more accurate data will be submitted in the next year's report.

Influence of reaction on the growth of paddy.

Complete nutrient solution, consisting of a mixture of $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, KH_2PO_4 , MgSO_4 , was prepared using fractional gram equivalent of the substances so as to give one atmosphere osmotic pressure. The PH of this solution was 4.6. Other PH's with the solution were obtained by adding different quantities of normal KOH solution and in order that equal amount of potash was present in all, requisite amounts of normal K_2SO_4 solution were added to compensate the deficiency. Solutions having the PH's 4.6, 5.7, 6.2, 7.0 and 8.5 were prepared and taken into two-litre glass jars, two for each PH. Rice plants (transplanted Aman paddy) which were 7—8 weeks old were brought from the field and grown in those solutions, one plant to each jar. 5 c.c. of 0.5 per cent. ferric citrate solution were added from time to time to keep in supply of iron adequate throughout. It was found that plants thrived best at PH 4.6. On the other hand it was also found that in solutions having PH greater than 4.6 some precipitation of calcium and magnesium phosphate took place. Consequently it remains undecided as to whether the best growth at PH 4.6 was due to the favourable influence of the reaction on the plant itself or to the fact that at this reaction more plant food was available. Further water experiments will be undertaken during the coming season to settle this point.

Plant food requirements of paddy.

The purpose of this investigation is to make a systematic study of the effect of all the principal food elements on the growth of paddy. The season for Aman paddy being over experiments were tried with Boro paddy using as a start the following nutrient solutions having one atmosphere osmotic pressure :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---------------|
| (1) Complete nutrient solutions | KH_2PO_4 | + $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ | + MgSO_4 | +Fe | +B+Mn. |
| (2) No Iron solution | .. | .. | .. | B | +Mn. |
| (3) No Boron+Manganese solution | .. | .. | .. | Fe | |
| (4) No Ca, Mg+P solution | .. NH_4NO_3 | + K_2SO_4 | +Fe | +B | Mn. |
| (5) NH_4NO_3 for nitrogen | .. KH_2PO_4 | + NH_4NO_3 | + MgSO_4 | + CaSO_4 | +Fe+B
+Mn. |
| (6) $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ for nitrogen | .. | The same as (5) | but using $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ | in place of NH_4NO_3 . | |

NOTE.—The concentrations of Boron and also of Manganese in the above solutions were 4 p. p. m.

Boro plants which were about 8 weeks old were brought from the field and placed in the above solutions contained in two-litre glass jars, two for each solution. Except in the no iron series 5 c. c. of 0.5 per cent. ferric citrate were added to the solutions from time to time to keep the supply of iron adequate throughout.

The following observations were made :—

- (1) There was fairly satisfactory growth of plants in all the jars except in the no iron and no Ca, Mg and P series.

(2) Plants in the no iron series showed distinct signs of iron deficiency after about two weeks and in the course of the next few weeks most of the leaves became chlorotic and half dead.

(3) Plants in the no Ca, Mg and P series did not thrive from the very beginning and developed no more roots than what they had when they were brought from the field.

(4) The growth of plants in no B and Mn series was as good as that in other complete nutrient solutions.

(5) There was no visible difference in the growth of plants in the three different sets of complete nutrient solutions containing nitrogen as NO_3 , NH_3 and NH_4NO_3 respectively.

(6) Analysis of the complete nutrient solution containing NH_4NO_3 showed that of the 105 p. p.m. of each of ammoniacal and nitric nitrogen originally present 25.2 p. p.m. of ammonia nitrogen and 75.5 p. p.m. of nitric nitrogen were left in the solution after the growth of the crop.

From the results of the above preliminary experiment it appears that rice plants can thrive equally well when nitrogen is available in the form of either ammonia or nitrate. Where both are present ammonia is taken up by these plants in preference to Nitrate. Furthermore, that iron is an essential element for the growth of rice plants is fully borne out by the results of the experiment which also show that it is not essential that traces of Boron and Manganese should be present in the medium for the good growth of rice plants. Lastly, the result does not support the recently published observation of Gerric in America that paddy seedlings which have been grown in medium containing the necessary food elements for four weeks can grow subsequently to maturity in absence of Calcium, Magnesium and Phosphorus.

NUMBER OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX IN BENGAL.

11. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax in Bengal ?
2. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of their salaries ?
3. Will Government be pleased to make a statement about the amount of money that these Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax have spent on touring in Bengal during the year 1929-30 ?
4. Will Government be pleased to state the nature of the work that the Assistant Commissioners have actually done in Bengal ?
5. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Income-tax Officers district by district in Bengal ?
6. Who ran the income-tax work in Bengal before the creation of the Income-tax Department ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : 1. The sanctioned strength of Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax in Bengal is 7. But two posts are vacant at present.

2. Two Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax, Calcutta City—Rs. 1,500—100—2,000.

Four Mofussil Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax—Rs. 1,000—100—1,500.

One I. C. S. Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax—Pay in the general line plus Rs. 200 special pay, subject to the maximum of Rs. 1,750, exclusive of £30 overseas pay.

The scale of Rs. 1,500—100—2,000 for the Calcutta posts is personal to the present incumbents. For future incumbents, the scale is Rs. 1,000—100—1,500 *plus* Rs. 250 as special pay.

3. The amount spent on account of touring done by the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax in Bengal in 1929-30 is—

	Rs.
(i) Assistant Commissioner, Calcutta	39-11-0
(ii) Assistant Commissioner, Burdwan Range	1,346
(iii) Assistant Commissioner, Dacca Range	1,945
(iv) Assistant Commissioner, Rajshahi Range	4,624

4. The Assistant Commissioners disposed of the following number of appeals in 1929-30 :—

	Appeals.
(i) Assistant Commissioner, Calcutta	425
(ii) Assistant Commissioner, Headquarters	541
(iii) Assistant Commissioner, Burdwan Range	228
(iv) Assistant Commissioner, Dacca Range	471
(v) Assistant Commissioner, Rajshahi Range	325

The above appeals were disposed of by the Assistant Commissioners mainly at the Headquarters of the districts in which the Income-tax Offices are situated. Besides supervising the work of the Income-tax Officers and Additional Income-tax Officers under their administrative control, the Assistant Commissioners made thorough inspections of the Income-tax Offices twice every year in the case of almost all offices. The number of days spent in touring for the above purposes is—

	Days.
(i) Assistant Commissioner, Calcutta	4
(ii) Assistant Commissioner, Burdwan Range	90
(iii) Assistant Commissioner, Dacca Range	140
(iv) Assistant Commissioner, Rajshahi Range	254

5. A statement showing the number of Income-tax Officers in 1931-32, district by district in Bengal is placed on the table.

6. The Income-tax Department in Bengal was administered by the Government of Bengal.

CALCUTTA.

Range.	Districts.	No. of I. T. Os.	No. of Additional I. T. Os.
(i) <i>Calcutta</i>	(1) Calcutta District I (1)	1	1
	(2) Calcutta District I (2)	1	..
	(3) Calcutta District IV (1)	1	..
	(4) Calcutta District IV (2)	1	1
	(5) Calcutta District IV (3)	1	..
	(6) Companies District II	1	4
	(7) Salary District VA	1	..
	(8) Ry. and Misc. Salaries	1	..
	(9) 24-Parganas	1	..
		9	6
(ii) <i>Headquarters</i>	(1) Calcutta District II (1)	1	..
	(2) Calcutta District II (2)	1	..
	(3) Calcutta District III (1)	1	1
	(4) Calcutta District III (2)	1	1
	(5) Calcutta District V	1	..
	(6) Calcutta District VI	1	..
	(7) Companies District I	1	2
	(8) Salary District III-A	1	..
	(9) Central Salaries	1	1
		9	5
(iii) <i>Burdwan</i>	(1) Hooghly	1	..
	(2) Howrah	1	..
	(3) Midnapur-Bankura	1	1
	(4) Burdwan-Birbhum	1	2
	(5) Murshidabad-Nadia	1	1
	(6) Khulna-Jessore	1	1
		6	5
(iv) <i>Dacca</i>	(1) Dacca	1	1
	(2) Mymensingh	1	1
	(3) Backergunj	1	1
	(4) Chittagong	1	..
	(5) Tipperah-Noakhali	1	1
		5	4
(v) <i>Rajshahi</i>	(1) Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling	1	1
	(2) Rajshahi-Pabna	1	1
	(3) Dinajpur-Maldah	1	..
	(4) Rangpur-Bogra	1	1+1 on leave.
	(5) Faridpur	1	..
		5	4

AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA AND EUROPE.

12. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will the Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the present arrangements regarding the air mail service between India and Europe ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : The Government of India are not directly concerned with the operation of the air mail service between India and England which is conducted under an agreement between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Imperial Airways, Limited. I am not, therefore, in a position to answer the question fully, but for such information as can be given, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th September, 1929 to part (b) of starred question No. 146 by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL AID TO SICK RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

13. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
1. Will the Government be pleased to state if at present there are any arrangements for rendering medical aid to railway passengers falling sick in the course of their journey ?

2. Are the Government aware that passengers falling suddenly sick or meeting with bad accidents are greatly inconvenienced owing to the want of medical aid and sometimes run the risk of their lives ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : 1. A First Aid box containing dressings and other articles required for rendering first aid to the injured is carried in the brake-van of practically all passenger trains on the principal railways.

2. Yes. The possibility of medical aid not being immediately available is incidental to all journeys by railway.

ABOLITION OF THE CREW SYSTEM ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

14. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
1. Will the Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the various Railways on which the crew system prevails for the collection and checking of passengers' tickets ?

2. Is it a fact that the crew system was recently abolished on the East Indian Railway ?

3. If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for such abolition ?

4. Do the Government consider it desirable to continue the crew system on the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : 1. The crew system for the collection and checking of passengers' tickets does not operate on any railway at present. On certain sections of the Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula and South Indian Railways the crew system now operating is confined to the checking of passengers' tickets.

2. Yes.

3. I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 35 to 41, on pages 21 to 25, of the Report of the Committee appointed by the Railway Board to enquire into the working of the crew system on the East Indian Railway. A copy of this report is in the Library of the House.

4. This is under consideration at present.

PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSENGERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

15. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : 1. Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the number of intermediate class passengers that travel daily on an average by the various trains on the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

2. Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the accommodation that is provided for intermediate class passengers ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : 1. On the basis of the figures for the three years ending 31st March, 1931, the daily average was 11,987.

2. On the same basis, the number of intermediate class seats provided daily averaged 14,268.

ANNUAL GRANTS TO THE INDIAN NEWS AGENCY AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA.

16. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : 1. Is it a fact that the Government of India makes an annual grant of money to the Indian News Agency and the Associated Press of India ? If so, what is the amount of this grant ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the purposes for which this grant is made ?

3. Do Government grant any money to the Free Press of India ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : 1 and 2. The Government of India make no annual grant of money to the Indian News Agency and the Associated Press of India. They pay the Indian News Agency on ordinary commercial terms for the supply of news telegrams to selected officers. The amount provided for this purpose during 1931-32 is Rs. 19,000.

3. The Government of India do not subscribe to the news service of the Free Press as they do not consider it necessary to supplement that of the Indian News Agency.

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTON GROWING IN INDIA.

17. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the outturn of cotton in different parts of India ?

2. Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the number of cotton mills in different parts of India ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of cotton that is needed for the consumption of these cotton mills ?

4. What quantity is grown in India and where does the rest come from ?

5. Will Government be pleased to state what steps the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has taken to develop cotton-growing in different parts of the country ?

6. Has the Government of Bengal Agricultural Department undertaken some experiments for developing cotton-growing in the province ?

7. Will Government be pleased to state if the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has taken any steps to encourage these experiments ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : 1 and 2. Statements showing the average outturn of cotton during the last five years and the number of spinning mills in the different parts of India in 1929-30, are placed on the table.

3. Just over two and a half million bales.

4. As shown by the reply to question 1, India produces over five million bales annually ; other cottons used to come from America, Egypt and East Africa.

5. The Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay, and not the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, is concerned with cotton. The work done by the Committee to develop and improve cotton-growing in India is described in a pamphlet entitled " The Present Position of the Research Schemes of the Indian Central Cotton Committee ", a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the Council.

6. Government believe that the facts are as stated.

7. The Indian Central Cotton Committee has not so far given any financial help to the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for work on cotton ; but would be prepared to consider the question if application were made to it.

Statement showing the average outturn of cotton in different parts of India during the last five years.

Province or State.	Estimated average outturn in bales of 400 lbs. net.
Bombay	1,407,000
Central Provinces and Berar	1,150,000
Punjab	677,000
Madras	450,000
United Provinces	264,000
Burma	70,000
Bengal	21,000
Bihar and Orissa	14,000
Assam	15,000
Ajmer-Merwara	14,000
North-West Frontier Province	4,000
Delhi	1,000
Hyderabad	697,000
Central India States	223,000
Baroda	117,000
Gwalior	104,000
Rajputana States	88,000
Mysore	18,000
Total	5,343,000

Statement showing the number of spinning mills at work in different parts of India during 1929-30.

Province or State.	No. of spinning mills.*
Madras	16
Bombay	164
Bengal	11
United Provinces	22
Punjab	2
Burma	1
Central Provinces and Berar	11
Ajmer-Merwara	3
Delhi	3
Bihar and Orissa .. .. .	..
Hyderabad	4
Mysore	4
Baroda	13
Gwalior	3
Central India—Indore	7
Porbandar	—
Rajputana-Kissengarh	1
Cochin	1
Bombay States	1
Western India States	4
Central Provinces State—Rajnandgaon	1
French Settlements	3
Total	275

*Includes weaving mills in which yarn is also spun.

MAINTENANCE OF OFFICIAL QUARTERS FOR MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE IN NEW DELHI.

18. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state who constructed the official quarters for the Members of the Legislature in New Delhi ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state who are responsible for their maintenance ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : 1. The Executive Engineer, VIII Project Division, II Circle, Central Public Works Department.

2. The Executive Engineer, New Delhi " A " Division, II Circle, Central Public Works Department.

PREVENTION OF EROSIONS OF RIVERS.

19. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the approximate damages by the erosions of important rivers in different parts of India during the year 1929-30 ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the approximate amount of money that is involved in these damages ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state if any works of art or valuable monuments have been destroyed by erosions of rivers during the year 1929-30 ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state if any steps have been taken to prevent such erosions ? If so, what is the nature of these steps ?

5. What steps have the Government taken to train the rivers ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : 1 and 2. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to pages 21—28 of the publication entitled " India in 1929-30 " which contain all available information on the subject of damage by floods in the several provinces during that year. Government are not in possession of any further information on the subject.

3. No such destruction is known to have occurred.

4 and 5. Matters relating to prevention of erosions and training of rivers and the steps taken to deal with them are primarily the concern of Local Governments. No such erosions have been reported by any of the Central Administrations for which the Government of India is directly responsible.

DAMAGE BY LIGHTNING TO THE BUILDING IN DACCA KNOWN AS *Hossindalan*.

20. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state the number of buildings and structures province by province that have come under the operation of Ancient Monuments Act ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state who are responsible for their maintenance and repair during the year ?

3. Are Government aware that recently one of the buildings under the Ancient Monuments Act at Dacca known as *Hossindalan* was damaged by lightning ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state if this building was provided with the necessary lightning conductor ?

5. If not, will Government be pleased to state why steps were not taken to protect the building against lightning ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : 1. A statement giving the necessary information is placed on the table.

2. The Archæological Department of the Government of India.

3. Yes, but the building is not a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.

4 and 5. The Government of India have no information.

List of the protected ancient monuments accepted for maintenance by the Central Government.

Burma	92
United Provinces—						
Muhammadan and British monuments	..	..	..	..	339
Hindu and Buddhist monuments	..	..	..	..	355
Punjab—						
Muhammadan and British monuments	..	..	..	..	132
Hindu and Buddhist monuments	..	..	..	..	40
Delhi	..	..	..	..	148
North-West Frontier Province	..	..	..	..	21
Bihar and Orissa	..	..	..	..	59
Central Provinces	..	..	..	..	253
Bengal	..	..	..	..	144
Assam	..	..	..	..	53
Bombay (including Sind)	..	..	..	..	741
Madras Presidency	..	..	..	..	346
Coorg	..	..	..	..	3
Rajputana (Ajmer)	..	..	..	..	10
					Total	2,736

RETRENCHMENT ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

21. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar² Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the schemes which the Eastern Bengal Railway have introduced for effecting retrenchment on their system ;
- (b) the particular departments which are mostly affected by such schemes ;
- (c) the number of persons that have already been discharged or have had their services dispensed with :

- (d) the amount of money that has been paid in getting their discharge or dismissal by way of provident fund dues, gratuity money, etc. ;
- (e) the total amount that is likely to be saved in effecting the proposed retrenchment schemes ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: (a) The schemes introduced by the Eastern Bengal Railway for effecting retrenchment cover a wide field and include adjustment of train miles to the decreased traffic now offering and economies in all phases of railway operations including marshal yard operation, coal consumption, maintenance of rolling stock, consumption of stores, working of departmental trains and annual charges for maintenance and repairs.

(b) The departments most affected are the Transportation and the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Departments.

(c) Up to the end of July, 1931, 1,463 employees had been discharged.

(d) I have called for certain information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

(e) The total saving in salaries for a full year is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 6·74 lakhs.

MOTOR VEHICLES DEPARTMENT ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

22. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the places on the East Indian Railway where there exists a Motor Vehicles Department belonging to the Railway ;
- (b) the name, qualification, pay and emoluments of the person in charge of such department in each of those places ;
- (c) the annual expenditure that is incurred by the railway on such department ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: (a) There is no Motor Vehicles Department of the East Indian Railway. Motor lorries are in use for the transport of cash, parcels or stores at Lucknow, Asansol, Dinapore, Allahabad, Moradabad, Howrah and Calcutta.

(b) A mechanic is in charge of the garage at Howrah, but special staff are not employed for supervising the motor service.

(c) As mentioned in my reply to part (a) of the Honourable Member's question, there is no Motor Vehicles Department. The normal annual expenditure incurred on the running and maintenance of lorries on the East Indian Railway is approximately Rs. 93,000.

POWER HOUSES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

23. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the places on the East Indian Railway where there exist power-houses belonging to the railway ;

- (b) the names, qualifications, pay and emoluments of the persons in charge of those power houses ;
- (c) the total annual expenditure incurred by the system on those power houses.

POWER HOUSES ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

24. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the places on the Eastern Bengal Railway where there exist power houses belonging to the Railway ;
- (b) the names, qualifications, pay and emoluments of the persons in charge of those power houses ;
- (c) the total annual outlay of the railway on those power houses ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 23 and 24 together. Statements giving the information which the Honourable Member requires are being sent to him.

EXPENDITURE ON THE WATCH AND WARD DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY, ETC.

25. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total expenditure incurred by the East Indian Railway on the Watch and Ward Department during 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30 ;
- (b) the saving in expenditure that has been effected by the agency of that department, directly or indirectly, during the same period ;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred by the Railway on the crew system during that period ;
- (d) the enhancement in the income that has been effected by the agency of that system during that period ;
- (e) the total expenditure incurred by the Railway in building and protective projects in furtherance of Watch and Ward of railway stations and yards during that period ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: (a), (c) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given in the Railway Board's letter No. 523-E.G., dated the 29th June, 1931, to question No. 25 asked by him in February, 1931, which was in identical terms.

(b) The activities of the Watch and Ward Department have largely contributed to the claims bill of the East Indian Railway having fallen during the period in question as compared with 1924-25 by nearly Rs. 30 lakhs during 1927-28 and 1928-29 and Rs. 31 lakhs during 1929-30. This Department has also saved large sums of money in the prevention of theft of coal, cinders, engine and carriage fittings, stores and other railway property.

(d) It is not practicable to isolate the effect of the crew system on the passenger earnings of the railway from the operation of other factors, such as economic condition of the country traversed, periodical *melas*, road motor competition and passenger fares.

PURCHASE BY THE STATE OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

26. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons for which the purchase of the Assam Bengal Railway was postponed last year ;
- (b) the results of the negotiations between the Government and the Company to arrive at some arrangements for the termination of the Company's management at an early date ;
- (c) the average price of the Company's stock as quoted in the market ;
- (d) the nature of the difficulty in purchasing out the stock in private hands by the State gradually at the market price ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : (a) The purchase would have been most disadvantageous financially, and it was not possible to find the money for it.

(b) The Company were not prepared to agree to an extension of Government's option to purchase the line on the 31st December, 1931.

(c) The price quoted about the end of July last was 54½.

(d) At present the money could not be found for any such operation, even if it were feasible without largely raising the market price.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIAN SETTLERS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

27. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) in detail how far the provisions of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Alienation Act have been modified to suit Indian interests since March last ;
- (b) what steps the Government of India have adopted to safeguard the rights and interests of the Indian settlers ;
- (c) the details of the correspondence that the Government of India have had with the Transvaal Government on the subject ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure (Amendment) Bill. The Government of the Union of South Africa were good enough to postpone consideration of the Bill pending a Conference which is arranged to be held in Cape Town in January next between the representatives of the Union Government and of the Government of India. The business of the Conference will include the consideration of the position in the Transvaal with which this Bill was intended to deal.

(c) There was no official correspondence between the two Governments on the subject of the Bill.

ANNUAL EXODUS TO SIMLA.

28. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in adumbrating their schemes for retrenchment in the Central Government the subject of the annual Simla exodus was ever dealt with ;

If so—

- (b) the conclusions that have been arrived at on that subject by the Central Committee ;
 (c) the final decision of the Government of India on that subject ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The Government of India have at various times considered the net financial effect of the annual Simla exodus. Certain material has been placed before the Retrenchment Sub-Committees now at work, and it is understood that they will make recommendations in the matter. When these are received the Government of India will take them into consideration.

RESTRICTION OF THE PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF THE TARIFF BOARD AND THE IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

29. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in their attempts to economise the expenses of the Government of India there were proposals before the Retrenchment Committee concerned for restricting the present activities of the Tariff Board and the Imperial Agricultural Research Department ?

If the answer is in the affirmative—

- (b) the nature of the proposals with details ;
 (c) the recommendations made by the Committee ;
 (d) the conclusions arrived at by the Government ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : I regret that I cannot make any statement regarding the proposals under consideration by the Retrenchment Committees until Government have received and considered their reports.

LEE CONCESSIONS.

30. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the several Retrenchment Committees under the Central Government found the Lee Committee recommendations for the increase of salaries and emoluments, etc., of the Imperial Services a great stumbling block in their way ?

If the answer is in the affirmative—

- (b) the way in which such a difficulty was got over ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : (a) and (b). The exact meaning of the question is not clear. There is nothing to prevent the Committees making recommendations as to the pay, allowances and conditions of service of the Services to which the Lee Concessions were granted.

IMPORT AND EXPORT DUTIES ON FOREIGN WHEAT AND RICE.

31. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an import duty on foreign wheat ;

If so, the rate therefor ;

(b) whether there is an import duty on foreign rice ;

If so, the rate therefor ;

(c) whether there is an export duty on foreign wheat ;

(d) whether there is an export duty on foreign rice ;

If so, the rates therefor ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the publication issued by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, entitled "Indian Customs Tariff," copies of the latest issue of which have been placed in the Library.

(c) As far as Government are aware, the principal countries from which wheat is imported into India do not levy any export duty.

(d) The countries from which rice is imported into India in any appreciable quantities are the Straits Settlements, Siam, Indo-China and Japan. As far as Government are aware, there is no export duty on rice in the Straits Settlements and Japan. Export duties on paddy and rice are levied in Indo-China and Siam and for convenience I give their approximate equivalents in Indian currency and weight :—

Indo-China.

						Rs.	A.	P.
Paddy and rice cargo containing more than 33 per cent. paddy	..	..	..	..	Per maund	0	4	5
Rice cargo containing less than 33 per cent. paddy	..	..	..	..	„	0	3	9
White rice					„	0	3	6
Broken rice	..	..			„	0	1	9
Flour	..	..			„	0	0	9

Siam.

Paddy	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	6
Cargo rice	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	2
Cargo broken rice	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	2
Cargo meal	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	2
White rice	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	1
White broken rice	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	1
White meal	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	1

REPATRIATION OF INDIAN SETTLERS FROM BRITISH COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS.

32. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the British Colonies and possessions where the scheme of repatriation has lately been adopted for Indian settlers ;
- (b) the details by which such scheme is being worked in each of those places ;
- (c) whether they have had any intimation of such a scheme before it came into actual operation in those places ;
- (d) whether they have considered any manner of retaliation in respect of those places where the rights and privileges of Indian settlers are being ignored ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (a), (b), (c) and (d). Indian labourers who emigrated to Fiji, British Guiana, and other countries, under a system of indenture were generally entitled to a free return passage in accordance with the terms of their agreement. Many of them avail themselves of this right. In South Africa an Assisted Emigration Scheme was brought into force as a result of the Cape Town Agreement. Any Indian wishing to avail himself of this scheme is granted a bonus in addition to a free passage. In Ceylon and Malaya, economic depression principally due to the fall in the price of rubber, has led to the discharge of a large number of Indian labourers who are being repatriated free of cost. The Government of India have remained in close touch with the situation in all its stages. The Honourable Member will observe that repatriation is not compulsory. The question of adopting retaliatory measures does not arise.

PURCHASE FROM ABROAD OF STORES FOR STATE RAILWAYS.

33. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any orders for railway stores and materials have been sent abroad on behalf of the State Railways during the present year ;

If so,

- (b) the particulars of such orders ;
- (c) the total value of such orders ;
- (d) the time by which such orders are to be completed ;
- (e) the countries to which such orders have been sent ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : I am afraid the particulars for which the Honourable Member asks are not available ; but the position is as follows. Railways have always to send a certain amount of orders abroad for articles, such as locomotives, electrical plant, wheels, tyres and axles, which are not manufactured, and ordinarily cannot be obtained in India unless some agent of a foreign firm holds a stock of them in India. Every endeavour is

made by State-managed Railway Administrations to see that the orders placed abroad are kept down to a minimum and indents from State-managed Railways on the Director General of Stores in London are carefully scrutinised by the Indian Stores Department in consultation with the Railway Board to see that this policy is carried out. Details of the value of imported materials are also shown every year in the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways.

CANCELLATION OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY, ETC.

34. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of passenger trains that the East Indian Railway has already scrapped for the sake of retrenchment of expenses ;
- (b) the number of goods trains that the system has cancelled for the purpose ;
- (c) the amount that is likely to be saved by the adoption of that retrenchment scheme ;
- (d) the number of stations that have been closed down with that end in view ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : The information required has been called for from the Agent, East Indian Railway, and will be communicated to the Honourable Member when it is received.

CANCELLATION OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAINS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY, ETC.

35. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of passenger trains that the Eastern Bengal Railway has scrapped for bringing about economy in expenditure ;
- (b) the number of goods trains that the system has cancelled for similar purpose ;
- (c) the proportion in which increases have taken place in passenger fares and goods rates on that system ;
- (d) whether the system was run at a loss before the present economic depression set in ;
- (e) the total amount that the system expects to save by their retrenchment activities ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : (a) The running of 56 passenger trains has been discontinued.

(b) The number of goods trains run is regulated entirely by the volume of traffic offering.

(c) The enhancements that have been made in fares and rates recently are estimated to increase earnings by 1·05 per cent. on passenger traffic, 15 per cent. on luggage and parcels and 2·87 per cent. on goods traffic.

(d) No.

(e) Rs. 26,00,000 during the current financial year.

RETRENCHMENT OF SUPERIOR AND SUBORDINATE OFFICERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

36. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of covenanted officers that the State Railways have had to discharge or have had their services dispensed with, with a view to introduce retrenchment ;
- (b) the number of Indian officers of the superior grade on State Railways that have had such discharge or dismissal up till now ;
- (c) the number of Indian officers of the subordinate grade on State Railways that have been discharged or had their services dispensed with for the sake of retrenchment up till now ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : I have called for certain information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

AMALGAMATION OF THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT DEPARTMENTS OF STATE RAILWAYS.

37. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Accounts and Audit Departments of State Railways will be amalgamated for the sake of economy in expenditure ;
- (b) whether operations of machine accounting will be kept suspended for the present for the same reason ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : (a) The question is at present being investigated.

(b) Most of the experiments started by Mr. Scott with regard to mechanised accounting have been suspended, but there is no proposal at present to suspend such processes of machine accounting as have passed the experimental stage like the Clearing Accounts Office.

RETRENCHMENT ON COMPANY RAILWAYS.

38. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the ways in which the Company Railways are introducing economy in their expenses ;
- (b) the total amount that they expect to save by their processes of retrenchment ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: (a) The more important measures of economy adopted by the five principal Company Railways are :—

Abolition of posts.

Holding posts in abeyance.

Reduction in allowances.

Closing down, or working short time in workshops.

Closing down stations, permanently or at night.

Reduction in train mileage and shunting hours.

Reduction of stores and use of cheaper form of stores.

Reduction in the supply of consumable stores, uniforms, tools and plant, stationery and telephones.

Reclaiming and reconditioning scrap material.

Extending the time between repairs of both rolling stock and structures.

(b) The total amount that these five Companies at present expect to save this year is about *Rs. 1,60,00,000*.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

39. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (on behalf of the Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha): Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the schemes which the Indian Postal Department has adopted for effecting retrenchment ;
- (b) the schemes that the Indian Telegraph Department has introduced for the same purpose ;
- (c) how many officers of the Department, superior or subordinate, have been pensioned, discharged or dismissed with that end in view ;
- (d) what posts or services are to be amalgamated, abolished or kept suspended for the same purpose ;
- (e) the total amount that is expected to be saved by the Post and Telegraph retrenchment schemes ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE: The whole question of possible schemes of retrenchment in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department is under examination by the Retrenchment Advisory Committee. No decisions have yet been reached and it is regretted that the information desired by the Honourable Member cannot therefore be furnished.

APPOINTMENT OF MUHAMMADAN I. C. S. OFFICERS AS SECRETARIES AND JOINT SECRETARIES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

40. THE HONOURABLE MR. SYED ABDUL HAFEEZ: Will Government be pleased to give the names of the Moslem members of the Indian Civil Service of 18 years' service and over who have had Secretariat experience in Government of India or Provincial Secretariats, with their length of service and present position. If there are any such Moslem officers will Government

be pleased to state whether they have ever been offered the position of Secretary or Joint Secretary to the Government of India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : As far as the Government of India are aware, the following Muslim members of the Indian Civil Service of 18 years' service or more have had Secretariat experience, namely, Shaikh Asgar Ali, C.B.E., Bar.-at-law, and Mr. Alma Latifi, C.B.E., LL.D., LL.M. Neither of these gentlemen has held the post of Secretary or Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

PROVISION OF RESTAURANT CARS ON IMPORTANT TRAINS FOR INTERMEDIATE AND THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS.

41. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state if the restaurant cars running with important trains are available for use by intermediate and third class passengers ? If not, will Government state the arrangements that have been made for catering for the needs of third and intermediate class passengers ?

2. Is it a fact that not seldom the food and the sweets' sold by the vendors on the station platforms are rotten and unsuitable for use ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : 1. Restaurant cars in which food is cooked in European fashion are not available for use by intermediate and third class passengers for whose needs refreshment rooms at stations and platform vendors cater. On some railways restaurant cars provide meals cooked exclusively in Indian fashion on certain trains, and a compartment with a travelling vendor is provided on certain other trains for all classes of passengers.

2. No.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

42. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Superintendents of Post Offices ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the nature of their duties ?

3. Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the scale of salary drawn by these officers ?

4. Is it a fact that the work done by the Superintendents of Post Offices is almost the same as the work done by the Inspectors of Post Offices ?

5. If so, will Government state why Superintendents are at all necessary ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHORE : 1. The number of Superintendents of Post Offices in charge of Divisions is 115.

2. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by Mr. H. A. Sams on the 5th March, 1930, to part (a) (i) of Mr. N. C. Keikar's unstarred question No. 191 in the Legislative Assembly as also the reply given by Sir Geoffrey Clarke on the 9th February, 1925, to part (b) of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's unstarred question No. 97 in the same House.

3. The scale of pay is Rs. 300—20—600—25—750.
4. No.
5. Does not arise.

REDUCTION OF THE WAGES OF INDIAN COOLIES IN CEYLON.

43. THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ceylon Estate Wages Board have been considering the question of reducing the wages of Indian coolies working in Ceylon ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES: Yes.

SAVINGS EFFECTED BY THE AMALGAMATION OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE WITH THE POST OFFICE.

44. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH: Will Government state the annual savings effected under heads—establishment, haulage and travelling allowance—by the amalgamation of the Railway Mail Service with the Post Office ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHORE: Establishment—Rs. 12,400 approximately.

Haulage—not affected.

Travelling allowance—scarcely affected.

It is regretted that actual information is not readily available.

SAVINGS EFFECTED BY THE AMALGAMATION OF TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING WITH THE POST OFFICE.

45. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH: Will Government state the annual savings effected under heads—establishment, maintenance of lines and travelling allowance—by the amalgamation of Telegraph Engineering with the Post Office ?

NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS OF DIRECTORS, TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING ABOLISHED.

46. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH: Will Government state the number of appointments of Directors, Telegraph Engineering, abolished consequent on the amalgamation of Telegraph Engineering with the Post Office ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHORE: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 45 and 46 together.

The object aimed at in the unification was increased administrative efficiency and not immediate economy. Maintenance of lines is not affected. Travelling allowances is scarcely affected. Information is not available to show how establishment was affected. No appointment of Director was abolished.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

47. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Is it a fact that the Audit Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is outside the scope of inquiry of the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Sub-Committee and, if so, will Government state the reasons therefor ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The Posts and Telegraphs Accounts and Audit Department is under the administrative control of the Auditor General and the Finance Department and comes therefore within the scope of inquiry of the Public Works Department and Audit and Accounts Retrenchment Sub-Committee, which has considered the question of economy in this Department.

PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT TO THE TOTAL REVENUE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

48. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Is it a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is regarded as a commercial Department ? If so, is the expenditure on audit also incurred on a commercial basis and does it bear the same ratio to the expenditure on general heads as in big commercial firms like the Tata Iron and Steel Works in India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The position is not quite as stated by the Honourable Member. The Posts and Telegraphs is a public utility department on a commercial basis and which is expected on the whole to pay its way. As far as I know, the ratio between the expenditure on audit and on general heads in private commercial undertakings varies but, in any case, the functions of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts and Audit Department are far wider than those of the auditor of the accounts of private commercial concerns and no comparison between the two is therefore valid. The percentage which the total expenditure on accounts and audit bears to the total revenue of the Department is shown in the Appropriation Accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department which is scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee.

SUBORDINATES IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT OFFICES.

49. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Has Government considered the desirability of replacing subordinates in the Posts and Telegraphs audit by a cheaper class of workers as in the Posts and Telegraphs ? If not, will Government state the reasons therefor ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The work done by subordinates in the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts and Audit offices is different in character from that done by subordinates in the Posts and Telegraphs offices, and the scales of pay are therefore different.

EXPENDITURE ON THE AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

50. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Will Government state what proportion of the expenditure on the Air Mail

Service between India and foreign countries is borne by the Government of India and whether the service has been self-supporting? If not, what amount of deficit is borne by the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : The Government of India bear no part of the expenditure on services referred to by the Honourable Member.

EXPENDITURE ON RUNNING IMPERIAL MAIL TRAINS.

51. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Will Government state the expenditure on running Imperial Mail trains and the foreign mail services and whether it is met from the revenue earned from the foreign mails?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : The cost of running Imperial Indian Mail trains in connection with outward and inward foreign mails is Rs. 2,14,344 per annum. Information regarding the cost of all the foreign mail services is not readily available and could not easily be collected.

The whole expenditure is met from the general revenues of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. As no separate account is kept of income earned exclusively from foreign mail matter, it cannot be stated precisely whether the expenditure is covered by the revenue earned from such matter, though that is probably the case.

EXTRA STAFF EMPLOYED AT BOMBAY FOR THE SORTING OF INWARD FOREIGN MAILS.

52. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : What extra staff is employed at Bombay for the sorting of inward foreign mails?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : The strength of the staff which is detailed to perform this work varies with the volume of the mails having to be dealt with but is subject to careful check within the limits of the admissible expenditure. The average weekly number of all ranks is approximately 835.

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES CLOSED IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA CIRCLE.

53. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : How many post offices have been closed in the Bihar and Orissa Circle?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : 12 since April 1931.

HOUSING OF SUBORDINATES OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT AT JHARIAH.

54. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Is it a fact that house rent at Jhariah and in its near vicinity has considerably increased of late and, if so, what steps have Government taken for housing the subordinates of the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With respect to the second part, the question of constructing quarters for the clerical staff has been under consideration,

but owing to the present financial position it has not been found possible to proceed with the proposal. I would add that the postmen and inferior servants are granted house rent allowance at Rs. 2 each.

REVISION OF PAY OF SECTIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

55. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Is it a fact that the sectional Superintendents in the office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs lately obtained a revision of pay and that the Superintendents of Post Offices have had none ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : The pay of sectional Superintendents in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, was revised in April 1930 on the reorganisation of the office as an attached office of the Government of India, coupled with reductions of establishment, resulting in a substantial net saving. There is no connection between the case of such Superintendents and that of Superintendents of Post Offices. The pay of the latter officers was raised in 1926, independently, at additional cost to the Government.

COST OF EMBOSSED ENVELOPES SOLD BY THE POST OFFICE.

56. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Is it a fact that the rise in the price of embossed envelopes sold by the post office has led to a fall in the sale and a rise in the use of envelopes of private manufacture ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : There has been a fall in the sale of embossed envelopes, but it is not possible to state whether it is due exclusively to the increase in the price of such envelopes or to the decrease in postal traffic generally. Government have no information showing whether there has been a corresponding rise in the use of envelopes of private manufacture.

.SUICIDES DUE TO UNEMPLOYMENT.

57. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Has the attention of Government been drawn to reports published in Calcutta papers about suicides committed, as alleged, by unemployed young men in a state of utter despair ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 57, 58 and 61 together.

Under the existing constitutions the matter is one which is primarily the concern of Local Governments and I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by Mr. Shillidy to question No. 70 asked by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das on the 9th July, 1930.

MITIGATION OF THE EVILS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

†58. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Have Government considered the need of the adoption of prompt and effective measures to mitigate the evil of unemployment ? If so, what have they decided to do in that direction ?

† *Vide* answer to Question No. 57.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR INDIA.

59. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Do Government propose to introduce a system of Unemployment Insurance and start a Fund, on the lines of the Unemployment Insurance Fund in Britain?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHORE : No. I would, in this connection, invite the Honourable Member's attention to the last paragraph of Chapter III of the Report of the Royal Commission on Labour where the view is expressed that a national system of insurance is not feasible at present in India.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY FIT.

60. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Do Government possess statistics showing the number of the unemployed amongst persons physically and mentally fit for work and the causes of their unemployment?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHORE : The answer is in the negative.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO THOSE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY UNFIT FOR WORK.

***61. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH :** What do Government propose to do to give relief to such of the unemployed as happen to be so, due to their being physically and mentally unfit for work?

EXPRESS TRAINS NOS. 41-UP AND 42-DOWN ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

62. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Do Government propose to extend the course of the Express trains (41-Up and 42-Down) at present running between Howrah and Mokamah Junction and *vice versa* so as to make them run between Howrah and Delhi or at least to Dinapore and *vice versa*?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to this question and to question No. 63 together.

It is not possible for Government to take any part in the arrangement of time tables. I will, however, bring the Honourable Member's questions to the notice of the Agent, East Indian Railway.

DIVERSION OF ONE OF THE EXPRESS TRAINS *via* THE SAHIBGANJ LOOP ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†63. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Do Government propose to divert one of the through Express trains at present running *via* the Main line or the Grand Chord so as to make it run *via* the Sahibganj Loop?

LEE CONCESSIONS.

64. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state what is the total amount payable per annum under the different kinds of allowances recommended by the Lee Commission, in all departments of the Central Government and in the provinces?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : The information is being collected.

* *Vide* answer to Question No. 57.

† *Vide* answer to Question No. 62.

LEE CONCESSIONS.

65. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Have the Lee Concessions been awarded only on the recommendations of the Government of India or have they in any cases been granted on the initiative of the Secretary of State for India ? If so, may such cases be kindly laid on the table.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer the Honourable Member's questions Nos. 65 and 66 together.

I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the grant of Lee Concessions to officers who were not members of the All-India Services and other Superior Services proper which came under the recommendations of the Lee Commission Report. In paragraph 61 of their Report the Commission recommended that specialist officers and officers holding miscellaneous appointments whose status and emoluments might be generally comparable with those of the Superior Services should receive parallel treatment to that proposed by them for the latter. The extension of Lee Concessions to the officers whom the Honourable Member has in mind was made in pursuance of this recommendation on an inquiry ordered to be undertaken by the Secretary of State in Council, and in response to claims which officers were allowed to submit on the basis of that recommendation. No grant was made where a claim was not submitted, and many claims were rejected.

LEE CONCESSIONS.

***66. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Have the Lee Concessions been awarded only when such concessions have been claimed by the members of the different services, or have they in any cases been granted even without being originally claimed ? A list of such cases and the circumstances under which concessions in these cases have been granted, may kindly be laid on the table of this Council.

CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LEE COMMISSION.

67. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state on whose initiative and under what circumstances was the Lee Commission appointed ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : I would refer the Honourable Member to the Royal Warrant appointing the Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India and to Chapter I of the Commission's Report. The Royal Warrant is reproduced in the Lee Commission's Report, a copy of which is in the Library.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE LEE CONCESSIONS.

68. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Is it a fact that the Lee Concessions were granted in view of the fact that the prices and the cost of living had risen high ? Do such conditions still prevail ? Have Government considered the question of withdrawing Lee Concessions in view of the fact that prices have fallen heavily and that cost of living is lower ?

* *Vide answer to Question No. 65.*

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : I would refer the Honourable Member to Chapters VI and VII of the Report of the Lee Commission from which he will see that the increased cost of living was only one of several factors that were taken into account by the Commission in making their recommendations. The Government of India consider that the withdrawal of the Lee Concessions would not be equitable method of reducing the emoluments of Government officers.

CONTINUANCE OF THE WHEAT (IMPORT DUTY) ACT, 1931, FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

69. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Is Government considering the desirability of extending the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, for another year ? Do Government propose to enhance the import duty on foreign wheat or to stop its import altogether ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : The conditions which rendered it necessary to pass the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, in March last unfortunately still exist, and unless there should be a material change of circumstances during the next three or four months, it will be necessary to continue the Act for a further period. No reasons for enhancing the rate of duty or for prohibiting the import of wheat have yet been placed before Government.

PROPORTION OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES EMPLOYED ON EACH OF THE STATE RAILWAYS.

70. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state on what basis the proportion of minority communities in the different services is fixed on each of the State Railways ? Does Government in recruitment take into consideration the population proportions of the different communities for the whole of India or of different provinces traversed by such railways ? The exact proportions thus fixed for each community on each State Railway may kindly be stated. It may also be stated whether this proportion applies only to officers, subordinates and clerks, or whether it also applies to the employees in the various workshops, and running and station mechanical staff. If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : As a rule one-third of the vacancies filled by direct recruitment are reserved for the redress of marked communal inequalities. In making appointments under this rule, regard is paid to the population strength of each important community in the area traversed by each railway in the case of subordinate staff who are recruited by each railway for its own requirements and in the areas traversed by all the State Railways in the case of officers who are recruited by a central authority.

The rule regarding the reservation of one-third of the vacancies cannot be closely observed in the case of workshop employees and other semi-skilled labourers and persons in inferior service, who are recruited in accordance with local conditions and the aptitude of the candidates offering for employment for the particular class of work.

PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

71. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT : (a) With reference to the assurance given by Government in February last, will Government be pleased to state if they are ready with the Provident Fund scheme ? If so, when will it be brought into force ?

(b) If the answer to the first part of (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the scheme is exactly like the one that prevails on State Railways? If not, will Government be pleased to lay it on the table for the information of the House?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the scheme will be given effect to retrospectively? If not, in what way do Government intend to give relief to the families of the persons who die before retirement?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : (a) The assurance given by Government in the Council of State on the 18th February 1931 was that they would come to a decision on the question of modifying the existing pension system within a year. The new scheme is not yet ready, and Government are unable to say when it will be brought into force.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An option will probably be given which will enable all pensionable employees of Government in service at the time of the introduction of the scheme to make provision for their families.

IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

72. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD : (a) What are the functions of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research?

(b) What is the amount spent annually on this body?

(c) What is the amount spent annually (i) on the establishment and staff of this body, (ii) on the salaries and travelling allowances of its members, and (iii) on the grants this body annually disburses to other agricultural bodies or individuals?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (a) As stated by me in the reply to part 1 of question No. 9 asked by the Honourable Mr. J. C. Banerjee, the functions of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are set out in paragraph 2 of its Memorandum of Association.

(b) and (c). A statement containing the required information is placed on the table.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred in connection with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research since its establishment in June 1929.

	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A. Administration			
1. Budget provision	1,40,000	2,55,000	2,76,000
2. Actual expenditure	1,33,901	2,25,571	64,922
			(upto 30-6-'31).
B. Grants for Research*	15,00,000	15,00,000	5,00,000
		(including Rs. 10,00,000 for encourage- ment of sugar cultivation).	

*The Council has an entirely free hand in regard to the expenditure of the grants made to it for research purposes subject to the condition that it incurs no liability in respect of such matters as leave or pension contributions after the research for which the grant is given has been completed.

(i) Expenditure over the Secretariat of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research (including officers and establishment) was as follows :—

	Rs.
1929-30	1,29,873
1930-31	2,22,722
1931-32 (upto 30th June 1931).	61,833

(ii) With the exception of the Vice-Chairman and the two wholtime experts attached to the Council, no members of the Council—official or non-official—are paid any salaries by the Council. The expenditure on account of travelling allowance of non-official members amounted to:

	Rs.
1929-30	4,028
1930-31	2,849
1931-32 (upto 30th June 1931).	3,089

Official members draw their travelling allowance from their respective Governments.

(iii) The total amount of the grants sanctioned by the Council from its research funds is as follows :—

	Rs.
1929-30	35,821
1930-31	17,60,435
1931-32 (upto 31st August 1931).	24,75,318
	42,71,574

The schemes for which these amounts have been sanctioned will be spread over a number of years and the money will be disbursed by the Council from time to time as it is required.

PROTECTION OF INDIANS SETTLED IN BURMA.

73. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD :

(i) Is it a fact that a deputation of Burma Indians waited on His Excellency the Viceroy on July the 1st, 1931, on the subject of the plight of Indians in Burma ?

(ii) Will the Government of India be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken to protect the life and property of Indians settled in Burma ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : (i) Yes.

(ii) I would first invite the Honourable Member's attention to the report of the Government of Burma, dated the 8th May, 1931, a copy of which has been placed in the library. Since then we have received a further report, a summary of which is laid on the table.

Summary of a report received from the Government of Burma.

The trouble between Burmans and Indians took an active form towards the end of February in the country lying on either side of the border between the Pegu and Toungoo districts. This local outbreak was not at first of a serious character, but communal feeling was inflamed by exaggerated accounts of it that appeared in the Press and elsewhere, and as a result a further outbreak occurred in this locality and later spread to Hanthawaddy district and to several districts of the Irrawaddy Division. The local Government and the District Officers took all measures possible to cope with the trouble. It must, however, be understood that the local conditions make it a matter of great difficulty to deal promptly

and effectively with sporadic acts of the nature that were committed. Lower Burma is comparatively sparsely populated. There are few villages, and these villages are separated by large tracts of paddy land. Dotted about among these paddy lands are small thatched huts occupied by cultivators of lands lying far from the village, and also stacks of straw which provide fodder for the cattle. It was, therefore, a simple matter for two or three Burmans to slip out on dark nights into the paddy fields and to apply a torch to these field huts and straw stacks. Preventive action was a matter of great difficulty as was also the detection of the culprits. Moreover, owing to the rebellion the forces at the disposal of the local Government were necessarily limited. Nonetheless the District Officers of the districts affected spent the greater part of their time on tour and did all that was possible to allay communal feeling. Military Police were placed at their disposal and, as a result of the measures taken, the trouble has been suppressed. Where this was considered desirable action was taken under the Village Act and collective fines were imposed on villagers.

Communal trouble has now largely died down and, although there are occasional attacks by Burmans on Indians and also on Chinese, there is reason to believe that the object of these attacks is not so much to satisfy communal feeling as to obtain loot. For the time being, confidence appears to have been restored among the Indian community, but they are naturally apprehensive in regard to what may happen in the future. The local Government will take every possible precaution to prevent a further outbreak.

2. The figures collected by the police up to the end of August show that in the districts affected there were 107 cases of dacoity and 65 cases of murder, in which the victims were Indians as compared with 27 dacoities and 14 murders for the whole of 1930. The outbreak was, therefore, a serious one, though fortunately it did not attain the dimensions attributed to it by some sections of the Press. In particular, the effect on emigration of Indians from Burma has not been so large as is generally supposed. A careful comparison of statistics shows that during the first 7 months of this year 187,000 Indians left Burma in comparison to 184,000 in the corresponding period of 1929.

PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

74. THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI: Will Government be pleased to state what decision, if any, they have arrived at in regard to the institution of a contributory Provident Fund for the benefit of Government servants?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING: Government have not yet come to a final decision, but certain tentative conclusions have been arrived at and a detailed examination is now proceeding.

DISCHARGE OF MR. H. N. SINHA, HEADMASTER OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY HIGH SCHOOL AT KHAGAUL.

75. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK: (1) Is it a fact that Mr. H. N. Sinha, Headmaster, Khagaul, East India Railway High School (Dinapore), was discharged at a month's notice?

(2) Is it a fact that no charges were framed against him and that no explanation was demanded of him as required under the Board rules?

(3) Is it a fact that the Inspector of Schools, Patna Division, to whom the appeal was preferred, disapproved of the Committee's action and sent the case on to the Board of Secondary Education, Bihar and Orissa, for final decision?

(4) If the answers to the above be in the affirmative, would Government be pleased to state what action, if any, they intend to take in this connection?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: I have called for the information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE HELD AT POONA, IN APRIL 1931.

76. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : Will the Honourable Member in Charge be pleased to state whether he received copies of the resolutions passed at the All-India Medical Conference, Seventh Session, held at Poona on 25th, 26th and 27th April, 1931, concerning questions affecting medical services, public health and medical research? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take in regard to the resolutions?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : Yes. The resolutions are under consideration.

ALL-INDIA MEDICAL COUNCIL BILL.

77. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : (1) Will the Honourable Member in Charge kindly state when Government proposes to introduce the Indian Medical Council Bill? Has the draft Bill been circulated for public opinion?

(2) Is it a fact that the Indian medical profession represented by the Indian Medical Association was not consulted or invited to the Conference, which was held by Government regarding this Bill?

(3) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a resolution passed by the All-India Medical Conference regarding the composition and functions of the Council?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (1) Government have drafted a Bill and circulated it to Local Governments for opinion. Further progress will depend on the nature of the replies received.

(2) Yes, but Medical Faculties of Indian Universities, on which the independent medical profession is represented, were requested to send representatives to the Conference, and three of those who attended it on behalf of those Faculties were actually independent medical practitioners.

(3) Yes.

RESOLUTION OF THE ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE HELD IN APRIL, 1931, SUGGESTING THE APPOINTMENT TO ANY SERVICE IN INDIA OF THOSE ONLY WHO ARE ON THE INDIAN MEDICAL REGISTER.

78. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : Has the attention of Government been drawn to Resolution No: 4 passed at the All-India Medical Conference held at Poona on 25th, 26th and 27th April, 1931?

(2) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what steps Government proposes to take in the matter? Will the attention of the representatives nominated by Government to the Round Table Conference be drawn to this matter?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (1) Yes.

(2) Government hope to establish shortly an organisation to look into the minimum standards of instruction, examination and qualification and if

it is created, it will take up this question. No action can be taken in the meantime.

STATUS OF LICENTIATES OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF INDIAN PROVINCES OR STATES.

79. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : Is it a fact that the Licentiates of medical schools in the different Indian States are not given the same status as the Licentiates of medical institutions in British India ?

If not, will Government be pleased to state what the difficulties are to prevent their having the same status ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : Government have no information. Each Local Government determines for itself the status which is accorded in the territories to the Licentiates of Medical Schools of Indian provinces or States. It is for them to consider the points which this question raises.

RESERVATION OF POSTS IN THE MEDICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT FOR OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

80. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : (1) Will Government be pleased to state how many posts in the Medical Research Department have been reserved for members of the Indian Medical Service ?

(2) Is it a fact that at the Conference held in Simla in July, 1930, on the question of the creation of the Central Medical Research Institute, the reservation of posts for Indian Medical Service officers in the Medical Research Department was unanimously opposed by the non-official representatives attending the Conference ?

(3) Is it a fact that in the resolution moved by Mr. Jayakar in the Assembly, in accordance with which the above Conference was held in Simla in July, 1930, the question of the appointment of officers in the Indian Medical Research Department was one of the matters which was referred to the Conference for discussion ?

(4) Is it a fact that Sir Frank Noyce who presided at the Conference declined to allow the Conference to discuss the question of the posts in the Medical Research Department reserved for the I. M. S. officers ? Is it a fact that a large number of members at the Conference differed from the Chairman in regard to his ruling in this matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (1) 18.

(2) The question was not discussed as it was ruled out of order.

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes. I may add that no undertaking was given that the question of the reservation of certain posts in the Medical Research Department for the members of the Indian Medical Service would be open to discussion and that when the point was raised at the Conference it was held that it was beyond the terms of reference to it.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED CENTRAL MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

81. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK: Will the Honourable Member in Charge be pleased to state what steps Government have taken in regard to the re-constitution and establishment of the Central Medical Research Institute as proposed by the Fletcher Committee?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES: Some steps were taken and retraced, and now it appears that the scheme for the establishment of a Central Medical Research Institute will have to be postponed until the financial situation improves.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION.

82. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether, and if so what, steps have been taken to reconstitute the Governing Body of the Research Fund Association as recommended by the Conference held in Simla on July 21st and 22nd, 1930? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES: The recommendations have been examined and proposals as to reconstitution framed.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE HELD IN POONA IN APRIL, 1931.

83. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK: (1) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Resolutions passed at the All-India Medical Conference?

(2) If so, what action do they propose to take thereon?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES: (1) Yes.

(2) The resolutions passed by the All-India Medical Conference are under consideration.

RELEASE OF THE LARGE STOCKS OF QUININE HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

84. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what steps are being taken to release to provincial Governments the large stocks of quinine lying with the Government of India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES: The question of reducing the Government of India's stock of quinine is under consideration. It is hoped that Local Governments will be addressed shortly.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INDIA.

85. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether Government contemplate the appointment of a committee to investigate and formulate a scheme of National Health Insurance for India?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOPE : The Royal Commission on Labour has recommended the appointment of a Committee to examine the possibility of a Health Insurance Scheme for industrial workers. This recommendation will receive consideration by Government, but there is no proposal for a general scheme of National Health Insurance.

UTILISATION OF THERMAL SPRINGS IN INDIA.

86. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to utilise thermal springs in India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : Government have no information as to the steps taken to utilise thermal springs in India. The matter is one for the Local Governments.

ABOLITION OF THE POST OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

87. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : 1. Will Government be pleased to state if the Inchcape Committee recommended the abolition of the post of Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India ?

2. If so, will Government be pleased to state why the post has not yet been retrenched and also why the grade of the post has been raised from that of a Colonel to that of a Major-General with its added emoluments ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : 1. The Inchcape Committee recommended the amalgamation of the post of Public Health Commissioner with that of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service.

2. The recommendation was not accepted in view of the very great importance of the duties of the post of Public Health Commissioner, which were considered to necessitate its continuance as a separate post. It is not a fact that the post has been raised from the grade of Colonel to that of Major-General with higher emoluments. It carries a rate of pay which was fixed in March, 1921, and has not been altered since, though the present incumbent was promoted in 1929 to the supernumerary rank of Major-General, with consequent title to higher pension, as it would otherwise have been necessary to make him available for the post of Surgeon General, Bombay, which carries with it Major-General's rank.

DEPUTATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONER OUT OF INDIA DURING THE YEARS 1929 AND 1930.

88. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : Will Government be pleased to state how often the Public Health Commissioner has gone out of India, either on deputation or otherwise, during the years 1929 and 1930, respectively, giving the period of his absence out of India on each occasion and the reason thereof ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the deputations of the Public Health Commissioner out of India during the years 1929 and 1930.

Year.	No. of deputations.	Period of absence on each occasion.	Place of deputation.	Reasons for absence.
1929 ..	2	(1) 28 days	America ..	To arrange (in America) on behalf of the Secretary of State for India for the Rockefeller gift of 17 lakhs towards the Public Health Institute, Calcutta.
		(2) 20 days. from 8-2-29 to 27-2-29.	Singapore ..	To attend a meeting of the Advisory Council of the Eastern Bureau, Singapore (as Chairman).
1930 ..	3	(1) One month and 8 days. From 6-2-30 to 13-3-30.	Java ..	To attend, as Chairman, a meeting of the Advisory Council of the Eastern Bureau, Singapore, which took place in Java at the invitation of the Dutch East Indies Government.
		(2) 2 months and 25 days. From 17-4-30 to 11-7-30.	Paris, Geneva and Algiers.	Deputation to the Office International d'Hygiene Publique in Paris, and Health Committee, Geneva, and to the International Malaria Conference at Algiers.
		(3) One month and 4 days. From 28-11-30 to 31-12-30.	Bangkok and Singapore.	Deputation to Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine Congress, the Leprosy Commission of the League of Nations at Bangkok and to the Advisory Council, Singapore.

NOTE.—1930 was exceptional in that two annual meetings of the Singapore Advisory Council were held in one calendar year (January and December); the International Malaria Conference and the two meetings at Bangkok were all extraordinary meetings. These were timed to follow each other so as to allow of attendance within as short a period as possible.

PARAGRAPH 34 OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE SEVENTH ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE HELD IN POONA IN APRIL, 1931.

89. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : Has Government's attention been drawn to paragraph 34 in the Presidential address delivered at the 7th All-India Medical Conference, held in Poona in April, 1931 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : Yes.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION.

90. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : (i) Will Government be pleased to state (a) if they have come to any conclusion with regard to the constitution of the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association, and (b) if not, whether they intend to enlarge the representation of the Medical Faculties, the independent medical profession and of non-medical scientists on that body as recommended at the Conference held at Simla on the 21st and 22nd July ?

(ii) Will Government be further pleased to state when they hope to bring the matter up for the consideration of this House ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (i) (a) and (b). A final decision on the recommendation made by the Conference held at Simla in July, 1930, with regard to the constitution of the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association has not yet been reached.

(ii) It does not appear necessary to have the details of the constitution of the Governing Body discussed on the floor of the House.

DIRECTOR OF THE HAFFKINE INSTITUTE, BOMBAY.

91. THE HONOURABLE MR. S. C. GHOSH MAULIK : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) if the Director of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, is appointed by or on the recommendation of the Department of Education, Health and Lands ?

(b) if it is true that eight different I. M. S. officers acted as Director of that Institute during the course of nine years, from January, 1921, to December, 1929, there being 11 changes of Directorships during this period, and on 8 out of these 11 occasions the Directorship was held by different officers for periods of not more than 10 months' duration at a time ; and

(c) if so, will Government be pleased to explain why such frequent changes were permitted ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : (a) Appointments to the post of Director, Haffkine Institute, Bombay, are made by the Governor General in Council.

(b) Yes, except that the post was held on four occasions by the same officer for 10 months or more.

(c) The frequent changes have been due to leave or to the selection of incumbents of the post for other important duties. Such changes are particularly liable to happen in the case of a Department with as small personnel as the Medical Research Department. These particular changes could not be avoided, but every effort will be made to reduce them in future.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES OR SUB-COMMITTEES ON RETRENCHMENT IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

92. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR P. C. DUTT: 1. How many Committees or Sub-Committees have been formed by the Government of India to advise it on retrenchment of Central expenditure ?

2. Who selected the members of the Committees ?

3. Are all the Provinces represented on the Committees ?

4. What is the number of members Province by Province taking all the Provinces together ?

5. What allowances and remuneration are granted to the members ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING: 1. Seven. The main Advisory Committee and six Sub-Committees.

2. The main Committee was selected by the Legislative Assembly and the members of the Sub-Committees by the main Committee.

3. All except Burma and Assam.

4. Madras	..	..	..	6
Bombay	..	..	..	4
Bengal	..	..	..	10
United Provinces	..	..	..	6
Punjab	..	..	..	4
Bihar and Orissa	..	..	..	2
Central Provinces	..	..	..	1
North-West Frontier Province and Other Minor Administrations	..	..	..	2

5. Travelling allowance at 1-3/5 first class railway fares and daily allowance at Rs. 20 for halts on committee work.

DELEGATES TO THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

93. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR P. C. DUTT: (i) What is the number of delegates invited to the Round Table Conference from British India ?

(ii) What is the number of delegates Province by Province ?

(iii) Has any request been received by the Viceroy or the Government of India for additional representation from Assam ?

(iv) Is the delegate invited from Assam and Assamese Hindu ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : (i) to (iv). I place on the table a statement showing the names of the members from British India nominated by the Prime Minister to attend the resumed meetings of the Indian Round Table Conference in London and their places of residence in India. Those against whose names an asterisk has been placed were not members of the last Conference. The selection of delegates for the Round Table Conference is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council.

List of Members nominated by the Prime Minister to attend the resumed meetings of the Indian Round Table Conference.

Names.	Places of Residence in India.
1. H. H. the Aga Khan, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O. ..	Bombay.
2. Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum Khan, K.C.I.E.	Peshawar.
3. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K.C.I.E.	Madras.
4. *Sir Saiyid Ali Imam, K.C.S.I.	Patna.
5. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar	Bombay.
6. U Ba Pe	Rangoon.
7. Srijut Chandradhar Barooah	Jorhat (Assam).
8. Mr. J. N. Basu	Calcutta.
9. *Mr. E. C. Benthall	Calcutta.
10. Sir Shah Nawaz Khan Bhutto, C.I.E., O.B.E. ..	Larkana (Sind).
11. Rai Bahadur Kunwar Bisheshwar Dayal Seth ..	Biswan (Sitapur, U. P.).
12. Sir Hubert Carr	Calcutta.
13. Mr. C. Y. Chintamani	Allahabad.
14. *Sir Manakji Dadabhoy, K.C.I.E.	Nagpur.
15. Maharajadhiraja of Dharbhanga	Dharbhanga (B. and O.).
16. *Maulana Shafi Daudi	Patna.
17. *Dr. S. K. Datta	Calcutta.
18. Sir Oscar deGlanville, C.I.E., O.B.E.	Rangoon.
19. Mr. Fazl-ul-Huq	Calcutta.
20. *Mr. M. K. Gandhi	Ahmedabad.
21. Mr. M. M. Ohm Ghine	Rangoon.
22. Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi	Calcutta.
23. Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah	Bombay.
24. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney	Calcutta.
25. *Sir Padamji Ginwala	Bombay.
26. *Mr. V. V. Giri	Madras.
27. Khan Bahadur Hafiz Hidayat Husain	Cawnpore.
28. *Sir Muhammad Iqbal	Lahore.
29. *Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar	Madras.
30. Mr. B. V. Jadhav	Bombay.
31. Mr. M. R. Jayakar	Bombay.
32. Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Junior), K.C.I.E., O.B.E. ..	Bombay.
33. Mr. M. A. Jinnah	Bombay.
34. Mr. T. F. Gavin Jones	Cawnpore.
35. Mr. N. M. Joshi	Bombay.
36. *Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya	Allahabad.
37. *The Hon'ble Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayed Muhammad Mehr Shah	Jhelum District.

*Those against whose names an asterick has been placed were not members of the Conference last year.

Names.	Places of Residence in India.
38. The Hon'ble Sir P. C. Mitter, C.I.E. ..	.. Calcutta.
39. Mr. H. P. Mody .. ..	.. Bombay.
40. Dr. B. S. Moonje .. ..	.. Nagpur.
41. Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar ..	.. Madras.
42. The Hon'ble Captain Nawab Sir Muhammad Ahmad Said Khan, Nawab of Chhitari, K.C.I.E., M.B.E.	Lucknow.
43. Sir Muhammad Shafi, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. ..	.. Lahore.
44. *Mrs. Sarojini Naidu .. ..	.. Bombay.
45. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath ..	.. Lahore.
46. Dr. Narendra Nath Law .. ..	.. Calcutta.
47. *The Hon'ble Sayed Muhammad Padshah ..	.. Madras.
48. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam ..	.. Tanjore.
49. Raja of Parlakimedi .. ..	.. Parlakimedi (Madras Pre- sidency).
50. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro .. ..	.. Madras.
51. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao ..	.. Ellore (Madras Presidency).
52. Sardar Sampuran Singh .. ..	.. Lyallpore (Punjab).
53. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, K.C.S.I. .. ..	.. Allahabad.
54. The Right Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri, C. H. ..	.. Madras.
55. Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, K.C.I.E. .. ..	.. Bombay.
56. Sir Pheroze Sethna, O.B.E. .. ..	.. Bombay.
57. Dr. Shafat Ahmad Khan .. ..	.. Allahabad.
58. Begum Shah Nawaz .. ..	.. Lahore.
59. *Maulana Shaukat Ali .. ..	.. Bombay.
60. Captain Raja Sher Muhammad Khan of Domeli	.. Jhelum District.
61. Mr. B. Shiva Rao .. ..	.. Madras.
62. M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur R. Srinivasan Avl.	.. Poonamallee Cantonment (Madras Presidency).
63. Mrs. Subbarayan .. ..	.. Madras.
64. Sir Sayed Sultan Ahmed .. ..	.. Patna.
65. Mr. Shripad Balwant Tambe .. ..	.. Nagpur.
66. U Aung Thin, K.S.M. .. ..	.. Mandalay.
67. *Sir Purahotamdas Thakurdas, C.I.E., M.B.E.	.. Bombay.
68. Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh .. ..	.. Mianchannu (Punjab).
69. Sir Edgar Wood .. ..	.. Madras.
70. Mr. Zafrullah Khan .. ..	.. Lahore.

*Those against whose names an asterick has been placed were not members of the Conference last year.

NUMBER OF THE ASSAMESE AND BENGALI SPEAKING POPULATION OF ASSAM.

94. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR P. C. DUTT: What is the number of Assamese speaking and what is the number of Bengali speaking people in Assam according to the Census of 1921 and according to the Census of the present year ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON: The Assamese and Bengali speaking population in Assam numbered 1,725,860 and 3,525,923

respectively in 1921. The figures at the present census are not yet ready as the compilation by language has not been completed for Assam.

EXTENSION OF PASSAGE CONCESSIONS TO NON-SUPERIOR OFFICERS OF NON-ASIATIC DOMICILE UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

95. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will Government kindly state whether they have recently notified the extension of concessions similar to those granted to the Superior Services on the report of the Lee Commission? If so, what is the scheme of such concessions? How much additional expenditure would it involve? Why was the scheme not held over pending the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON: The Honourable Member is evidently referring to the orders contained in the Home Department Office Memorandum No. F.-10/4/30-Establishments, dated the 6th August, 1930, a copy of which has been placed in the library. These orders give to certain classes of non-superior officers of non-Asiatic domicile serving under the Central Government passage benefits on the lines of those granted to Superior Services on the recommendation of the Lee Commission, but at lower rates. I am afraid it is not possible to give an estimate of the cost, because the number of officers who will be eligible is not known and because the number of passages to which an eligible officer may be entitled depends upon his age and domestic circumstances. The scheme was sanctioned several months before it was decided to appoint a Retrenchment Committee.

RETRENCHMENT ON STATE RAILWAYS.

96. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will Government kindly state how many (a) officers, (b) subordinates, (c) clerks from each of the communities, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Parsis and Europeans have been retrenched on each of the State Railways during the present financial year from 1st April, 1931 to 1st August, 1931? Out of them how many from each community were temporary hands, and how many permanent hands have been made to retire before the completion of 30 years' service or of 55 years of age?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: I am seeing what information can be obtained from railway administrations without imposing on them too much labour and will communicate later with the Honourable Member.

RETRENCHMENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

97. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Is it a fact that the retrenchment on the North Western Railway was carried on in such a way that the proportion of Muslims in the services was sought to be increased by retaining in service even temporary hands belonging to the Muslim community and confining retrenchment operations more or less to the non-Muslims. If the answer be in the affirmative, the principle on which this retrenchment has been carried out may kindly be explained.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Retrenchment has been carried out on the North Western Railway in such a way as to leave the relative strength of the various communities practically at what it was before the

retrenchment. A statement giving the number of men of various communities discharged is being sent to the Honourable Member.

ERRORS IN THE SURVEY OF THE BAHAWALPUR AREA OF THE SUTLEJ VALLEY IRRIGATION PROJECT.

98. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Is it a fact that the survey done by the Survey of India Department in the Bahawalpur Circle of the Sutlej Valley Irrigation Project in the Punjab has proved erroneous and that as a result of this the Punjab Irrigation Department has suffered a loss of a couple of lakhs of rupees? Will Government kindly state whether they have taken or intend taking adequate steps to prevent such errors creeping into surveys in future?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : Such information as Government already possess on this subject is to the effect that certain errors were made in this survey but that they are not nearly so serious as this question suggests. The matter is being enquired into, and any action which may be necessary will be taken.

IMPORT OF FOREIGN WHEAT INTO INDIA.

99. THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDRI MUHAMMAD DIN : Will Government kindly state :

- (a) The amount of foreign wheat imported free of duty during the current financial year?
- (b) The amount of Australian wheat imported into Calcutta since 1st April, 1931?
- (c) The amount of wheat imported into Calcutta from the Punjab during the same period?
- (d) Do Government propose to take steps to stop the import of foreign wheat?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : (a) 116,461 tons of foreign wheat were imported into India free of duty during the period from the 20th March, 1931—the date when the Wheat (Import Duty) Act came into force to the 20th August, 1931.

(b) 80,669 tons up to the 5th September, 1931.

(c) The total quantity of Indian wheat imported into Calcutta from the 1st April to the 5th September was 54,059 tons. Most of this wheat came from the Punjab.

(d) The effect of the Wheat (Import Duty) Act has been to stop imports of foreign wheat other than the wheat exempted under section 3.

PURCHASE OF STORES FOR STATE RAILWAYS THROUGH THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

100. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD : (a) Has the Southern India Chamber of Commerce in the course of a memorandum addressed to the Government of India, submitting proposals for effecting economy in the railway administration, suggested that all railway administrations should pass their orders for the purchase of stores through a central

agency, say the Indian Stores Department, as this would enable them to dispense with a great deal of establishment ?

(b) Through what agency do the administrations of State-managed railways at present make their purchases ?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government of India to ask the Agents of the State-managed railways to make their purchases through the Indian Stores Department both in the interests of economy and the development of indigenous industries ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE : (a) No. But in an interview which they had with a Member of the Railway Board the Southern India Chamber of Commerce suggested the extended use of the Indian Stores Department, more particularly by the two Company-managed Railways in the south of India.

(b) (i) The Indian Stores Department.

(ii) The India Store Department, London.

(iii) The Boards of Directors of Company-managed railways.

(iv) Railway Administrations in India.

(c) The policy of Government with regard to the purchase of material for Railways by the Indian Stores Department was described in a speech made by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes in this House on the 24th of February, 1927. Since that date the value of stores purchased by State-managed Railways has largely increased. For information regarding the value of purchases made through that Department I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 78 on page 50 of volume I of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1929-30.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE OWING TO THE FALL IN PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

101. THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDRI MUHAMMAD DIN :
1. Is it a fact that the Provincial Governments had to remit a considerable amount of Rabi land revenue owing to the serious fall in the prices of agricultural produce ?

2. What steps do Government propose to take to enforce a moratorium in respect of the liabilities of agriculturists ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES : 1. Yes, several.

2. The action suggested by the Honourable Member on examination has not been found to be suitable.

EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE RUPEE.

102. THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDRI MUHAMMAD DIN :
(1) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the general complaint that the present exchange value of the rupee has contributed very largely to the deterioration of the economic conditions of India ?

(2) What steps do Government propose to take for stabilizing the exchange value of Indian currency and for improving the price of silver ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DENNING : (1) The Government of India are aware that this erroneous impression exists in certain quarters.

(2) The exchange value of the rupee has already been stabilised by the Currency Act of 1927. As regards silver, a reference is invited to paragraphs 80—82 of the Honourable the Finance Member's speech introducing the Budget for 1931-32.

TRANSFER OF THE CONTROL OF THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF ADEN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

103. THE HONOURABLE MR. H. M. MEHTA : (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India are considering the question of the transfer of the control of the Civil Administration of Aden from the Government of Bombay to the Government of India ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons underlying such a proposal ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : (a) Yes.

(b) I cannot do better than repeat in this House the answer by the Bombay Government to a similar question in the Bombay Legislative Council on 1st August, 1931 :

“ In reply to a question put by Mr. Husseinbhai Laljee in the second session of the Bombay Legislative Council, 1929, on the subject of the transfer of Aden control he was informed as follows :—

‘ The question of the transfer has been mooted and is under discussion with the Government of India. While no decision have been arrived at regarding it the Government of Bombay consider that from the point of view of the administration of Aden and of the finances of the Presidency the scheme has considerable advantages.’ Since then the Government of Bombay have been in correspondence with the Government of India on the subject. The administrative difficulties with which the Resident at Aden and the Government of Bombay have been confronted are summarised in paragraphs 2 and 6 of the memorandum on the Civil Administration of Aden, copies of which have been supplied to the members of the Legislative Council, the Press and certain public bodies in Bombay. A copy of the memorandum is now placed on the Council table.

After consideration of various alternatives, the Government of Bombay have come to the conclusion that the most direct and satisfactory solution of the difficulties arising from divided control is that Aden while retaining its special connection with the Bombay Government to whom it would look, as in the past, for a supply of officers and administrative personnel, should cease to form part of the Bombay Presidency, and should be formed into a Chief Commissionership under the direct control of the Government of India.

Before taking definite steps in this direction it was considered desirable to place all the implications of the position before the public specially interested in the matter and to that end the memorandum on Aden referred to above was prepared and issued to the Press, to all Members of this House and the Associations and bodies concerned both here and in Aden. Apart from the

administrative difficulties which the present arrangement entails, and which are discussed in the memorandum, one of the main considerations for the Government of Bombay at the present time is dictated by the extreme financial stringency which makes it difficult to view with equanimity the probability of an extra two lakhs or more of expenditure being transferred almost immediately from Central to Provincial Revenues under the existing constitution. The delay in placing the full facts before the House has been mainly due to the fact that Aden has no separate budget and that it has been found necessary to prepare special *pro forma* accounts for the purpose.

Now that the financial position has been clarified the Government of Bombay, supported it is hoped by all responsible opinion in the Presidency, propose to press for the transfer of Aden at once under the powers vested in the Governor General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State under section 59 of the Government of India Act."

The Government of India have nothing to add to this statement of the Government of Bombay except that they are in entire accord with that Government. The memorandum referred to in that statement is placed on the table and has appeared in the Press.

MEMORANDUM ON THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF ADEN.

1. *Introductory Remarks.*—Some years ago considerable excitement was aroused in political circles in India by the rumour that the connection between Aden and India, which began in 1839, was to be severed by order of His Majesty's Government and that the control of Aden affairs was to be transferred to the Colonial Office. Assurances were consequently given both in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi and the Bombay Legislative Council that no change in the position affecting Indian interests would be made until an opportunity had been given for discussion of any project which might be under consideration.

2. The connection between Aden and British India began in 1839 when an expedition under Major Baillie took possession of what was then only a barren rock, and founded a Settlement there. This was treated as part of British India and included for administrative purposes in the Presidency of Bombay. But since the Settlement commanded the harbour, which is the natural centre of trade for the adjoining parts of Arabia and Africa, it was impossible for its affairs to be conducted without relation to the Arab tribes dwelling in the hinterland. The Resident at Aden consequently entered into relations with these tribes and with the rulers of remoter places such as Makalla and Shehr, Socotra, etc. To the tribes of the hinterland were extended guarantees of favour and protection in return for reciprocal undertakings. In those days Turkey claimed sovereignty over nearly the whole of the Arabian Peninsula and the development of relations between Aden and the adjoining peoples and rulers consequently brought His Majesty's Government into contact with the Turkish Empire. As a result of prolonged negotiations a joint Anglo-Turkish boundary Commission was appointed and in 1904-05 the boundary of the Hinterland or Protectorate, as it now began to be called, was demarcated. It was agreed on the one side that the Aden authorities should have no dealings with any indigenous ruler under Turkish suzerainty beyond the boundary then fixed, and on the other, that the Turks should not concern themselves with affairs inside that boundary. Matters continued thus until the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, when the Turks invaded the Protectorate and endeavoured to blockade the Settlement. For strategic reasons the direction of operations against this menace was transferred from Army Headquarters in India to the London War Office in 1917 and control of political relations with the Aden tribes and rulers necessarily accompanied this strategic transfer. The civil Administration of the Settlement as part of the Bombay Presidency was in no way affected by this change. After the war it was suggested that this too might be transferred, but the

Indian Government objected and the project was dropped. Matters remained there until 1927, when after much correspondence about the incidence of Aden expenditure, the arrangements of 1917, originally adopted as a war measure, were confirmed, and administrative as well as strategic control of the units composing the Aden garrison was also vested in His Majesty's Government. The present position, therefore, is:—

- (1) the Aden Settlement to which Indian interests are confined, remains part of British India, included in the Bombay Presidency,
- (2) the affairs of the Protectorate, in which India is not concerned, are dealt with by the Resident who is also chief executive officer of the Settlement and Commander-in-Chief of the forces, under orders from the Colonial Office in London,
- (3) administrative and strategic control of the military and air forces in Aden is under the War Office in London.

The Resident is consequently under three authorities, namely:—

- (1) the Government of Bombay,
- (2) the Government of India, and
- (3) His Majesty's Government in London,

an arrangement which makes smooth and efficient working very difficult.

3. The area of the Settlement of Aden is 75 square miles, the population in 1921 was about 53,000. The racial composition of the population is as under:—

Arabs	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,612
Indians	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,594
Jews	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,408
Somalis	—	—	..	..	..	..	6,551
Miscellaneous	—	—	..	..	..	..	4,867
							53,032
							53,032

The Island of Perim has an area of about 5 square miles and a population of 2,075. The Aden Protectorate comprises an area of about 9,000 square miles and has an estimated population of 656,400.

4. *Administration.*—The chief executive officer (i.e., the Resident and Commander-in-Chief) has under him three Assistant Residents, the first and the third being officers of the Indian Political Department, and the second, an officer appointed by the Colonial Office in London, who is also the Protectorate Secretary. Judicial work is performed by a Judicial Assistant who is a member of the Indian Civil Service and is an Additional Sessions Judge. The Police are under the control of an officer of the Indian Police Service. The Island of Perim is also under the administration of the Resident. The civil administration generally follows the lines in force in India.

5. *Finances.*—Until 1900 the entire civil and military expenditure in connection with Aden was borne by India, although as early as 1886, the Government of India urged the propriety of the expense of Aden being divided between Great Britain and India. In 1895 the Welby Commission was appointed to examine the question. They recommended that the equity of the case would perhaps be met if the United Kingdom were to contribute one-half of the military charges. As a result of these recommendations His Majesty's Government made with effect from the 1st April, 1901, a net annual contribution of £72,000 to Indian revenues towards the military charges of Aden, which continued up to 1927. With effect from 1st April, 1927, His Majesty's Government have become responsible for the whole of the political and military expenditure of Aden, subject to an annual contribution of £250,000 from the Government of India for the first three years, to be reduced thereafter to £150,000 or a third of the total cost whichever may be less.

Civil expenditure in Aden is borne partly by the Government of Bombay and partly by the Government of India. The figures of revenue and expenditure (Provincial and Central) are as follows :—

(a) Provincial.

	Accounts.		Revised Budget.		Average.
	1927-28.	1929-30.	1929-30.	1930-31.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts ..	4,29,900	4,73,100	5,20,000	4,78,000	4,75,300
Expenditure ..	3,74,000	4,78,400	4,94,400	5,22,400	4,67,300
Surplus ..	55,900	—5,300	25,600	—44,400	8,000

(b) Central.

Receipts ..	3,16,600	612,700	6,29,600	5,54,600	5,28,400
Expenditure ..	9,95,200	7,44,600	6,72,600	8,75,900*	8,22,100
Deficits ..	6,78,600	1,31,900	43,000	3,21,300	2,93,700

* Includes Hospital Scheme not in budget.

In the above figures "Interest on ordinary Debt"—Central—has been excluded, and due allowance made for pensionary liabilities accruing against Government and for items of expenditure in 1930-31 sanctioned after the Budget was passed.

The Provincial expenditure includes a sum of Rs. 2.26 lakhs (roundly) on police, in addition to which His Majesty's Government have agreed to contribute a sum of £8,000 per annum and the Government of India a sum of Rs. 42,000 per annum towards the reorganised police force. This point will be adverted to later.

The expenditure charged under "Central" includes at present certain heads such as Education, Medical, Public Health and General Administration. These items are being

	Rs.	
1927-28	2,25,920	booked under the head "29—Political". The amount involved in these items varied approximately Rs. 2,26,000 to Rs. 3,65,000 during the years 1927-28 to 1930-31. The propriety of debiting to the Central Government items of expenditure which are really "Provincial" in nature is under consideration, and the adjustments which may become necessary will convert the small precarious Provincial surplus to a substantial deficit varying from 2 to 3 lakhs or more.
1928-29	2,20,283	
1929-30	2,13,447	
1930-31	3,65,380*	

* Including Rs. 60,000 for Civil Hospital under 41 C. W. Central.

sary will convert the small precarious Provincial surplus to a substantial deficit varying from 2 to 3 lakhs or more.

6. *Difficulties of the position.*—As already explained the relation of the Resident to three different authorities leads to delay and diffusion of energy. Moreover the strategic and political importance of Aden renders it obligatory from an imperial point of view that a high standard of civil administration should be maintained there. It is necessary to spend on the Police, in view of the isolation of Aden from the rest of India, and its peculiar geographical position, considerably more than would have been required had Aden been on the mainland of India. A contribution towards this expenditure has no doubt been secured from His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, but the administration of the force involves unnecessary correspondence, as the Resident has often to obtain the

sanction of three different authorities. Proposals for aid from Central Revenues are constantly put forward and although the Government of India are convinced in some of these cases that there is justification for regarding a portion at least of the expenditure as of Central rather than provincial concern, difficulties arise under the present constitutional arrangements as the Government of India cannot incur expenditure on provincial subjects. Experience has shown that the overlapping of responsibilities and functions under the present system can only lead to delay and has resulted in what one authority called "the stagnation of Aden". It is unfair to expect the Government of Bombay, whose interest in Aden arises largely out of historical association, to spend their provincial revenues for the improvement of a distant out-post and raising its administration to a standard befitting a nodal point of the Empire. The present small surplus which the Government of Bombay secures from Aden is doubtful and is likely to be converted into a substantial deficit as a result of the investigation into the classification of some of the items of expenditure now charged to Central Revenues. With the growing demands of Aden, Aden is therefore bound to become an increasing burden on provincial revenues.

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PURCHASE BY THE STATE OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

104. THE HONOURABLE MR. H. M. MEHTA : (a) Is it a fact that under the agreement with the Bengal and North Western Railway the Secretary of State for India has an option to purchase the Railway on 31st December, 1931, on giving 12 months' previous notice ?

(b) Is it a fact that the next option to take over the line under the agreement with the Railway does not occur for a period of 50 years, that is until 1982 ?

(c) Is it a fact that this Railway has in recent years distributed ordinary dividends including bonus as under :

1922-23 at 11%,

1923-24 at 13%,

1924-25 at 14%,

1925-26 at 16%,

1926-27 at 18%,

1927-28 at 19%,

1928-29 at 19% ?

(d) Is it a fact that in addition to paying the above dividends the Company's reserves have, within the last six years, been increased from £1,800,000 to £3,150,000, being actually in excess of its ordinary capital which is £300,000 ?

(e) Is it a fact that various public bodies have drawn the attention of Government to the prosperous condition of this Railway as revealed by the figures in questions (c) and (d) above, and advocated the purchase of this Railway by Government under the option referred to in question (a) ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: (a) The Secretary of State has an option to purchase the Bengal and North Western Railway on the 31st December, 1932, on giving 12 months' previous notice.

(b) The next option is 49 years later, *i.e.*, in 1981.

(c) Yes. I would point out, however, that the ordinary (profit-sharing capital of the Company is only £3 million whereas the total capital outlay is over £8 million, the balance being met from preference capital, debentures and reserves.

(d) This is correct, taking all reserves, including sinking and other similar funds together. The ordinary capital of the Company is £3 million, not £300,000 as stated.

(e) Yes.

(f) A resolution on the subject will be placed before the Legislative Assembly in the course of the present Session.

DEATH OF MAHARAJA SIR MUHAMMAD ALI MUHAMMAD KHAN OF MAHMUDABAD.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Before we proceed to further business I have to ask Honourable Members to associate themselves with me in an expression of our regret and sorrow at the recent death of one of our colleagues. I am referring of course to Maharaja Sir Muhammad Ali Muhammad Khan of Mahmudabad. The late Maharaja had a long record of public service as an official and as a non-official. Upon the conclusion of his period of office as a Member of the United Provinces Government he sought admission to this Council five years ago and he had been a Member here ever since. Possibly owing to pressure of other duties and most certainly owing to ill-health, particularly within the last year or so, the Maharaja was prevented from attending to his duties in this Council with the regularity which I know he would himself have desired. His death occurred when I was in England and I think it was a great tribute to his memory and a remarkable recognition of his public services that within a day or two one of the most prominent English journals appeared with an obituary notice of some considerable length. I am sending to the members of his bereaved family, and I am sure I am doing so with the full concurrence of the Council, a message conveying our deep sympathy.

MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOPE (Industries and Labour Member): Sir, I beg to move that this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects, other than "Roads" and "Broadcasting", dealt with in the Department of Industries and Labour.

The motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES (Educational Commissioner): Sir, I beg leave to move the motion standing in the name of the Honourable Mr. Reid, who is, I regret to say, ill.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The rules regarding procedure with reference to motions of this nature are, as the House knows, very scanty. If this were a matter of a Resolution, I doubt whether it would be within the power of the Chair, except in special circumstances, to allow the motion to be moved by an Honourable Member in whose name it did not stand. But with regard to this motion, particularly having regard to the lack of importance perhaps of the motion, I see no reason why the Honourable Mr. Littlehailes should not place the business before the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. LITTLEHAILES: Sir, I beg to move that this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one Member to sit on the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and its Governing Body in place of the Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.

I would just like to mention that the vacancy has occurred owing to the appointment of the Honourable Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar as a Member of the Governor General's Executive Council.

The motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: With reference to both those motions adopted by the House, I direct that nominations shall be receivable by the office up till 11 o'clock on next Monday morning, September the 21st. An announcement will then be made as to the date of election, should an election prove necessary.

ASSENT OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL TO BILLS.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, information has been received that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to grant his assent to the following Bills which were passed by the two Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Delhi Session, 1931, namely:—

The Punjab Criminal Procedure Amendment (Supplementary) Act, 1931.

The Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1931.

The Gold Thread Industry (Protection) Act, 1931.

The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1931.

The Indian Territorial Force (Amendment) Act, 1931.

The Auxiliary Force (Amendment) Act, 1931.

The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1931.

The Indian Naval Armament (Amendment) Act, 1931.
 The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1931.
 The Vizagapatam Port Act, 1931.
 The Indian Ports (Amendment) Act, 1931.
 The Indian Reserve Forces (Amendment) Act, 1931.
 The Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, 1931.
 The Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931.
 The Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON
 ON THE HONOUR CONFERRED ON HIM.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I am tendering on behalf of the House to the Honourable Mr. Emerson our warm congratulations on the honour conferred upon him on the occasion of His Majesty's recent birthday. (Applause.) The honour of course refers to Mr. Emerson's duties outside this House as well as in ; but here and elsewhere his public services of late have been so prominent that it would be superfluous for me to detail them. Indeed Mr. Emerson of late has been so much in the public eye that I may tell the House that during my recent absence in England, or at all events during a certain period of that absence, I rarely took up the morning paper and opened it without learning from its contents what Mr. Emerson had been doing on the previous day. We tender our warmest congratulations to him and our hope that he may receive still higher honours.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON (Home Secretary): Sir, I would like to express my grateful thanks for and appreciation of your very kind congratulations, and my thanks to the House for its association with them.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE (Leader of the House): I regret, Sir, that owing to the course of events elsewhere Government will not be in a position to bring forward any official business this week. The list of non-official business for to-morrow is already in Honourable Members' hands and I hope that on Monday next, which is also a non-official day, I shall be in a position to make a statement regarding the further course of Government business.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 16th September, 1931.

Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State are obtainable on sale from the Manager, Central Publication Branch, 3, Government Place, West, Calcutta.
