

Thursday, 9th August, 1934

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

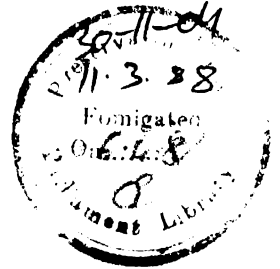
VOLUME II, 1934

(8th August to 6th September, 1934)

EIGHTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1934



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1935.

Council of State

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THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD.

} *Members.*

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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Thursday, 9th August, 1934.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Viceregal Lodge at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Friedrich Rawson Lumby,
C.I.E., O.B.E. (Army Secretary).

The Honourable Mr. S. D. Gladstone (Bengal Chamber of Commerce).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RAISING OF EXTRA BATTALIONS FOR THE INDIAN ARMY IN BENGAL.

33. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Did the Bengal Legislative Council adopt unanimously a Resolution for the raising of battalions in Bengal? If so, have Government received an official report from the Bengal Government on the subject?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate to raise such a battalion? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY: (a) The answer to both questions is in the affirmative.

(b) No. It is not proposed to raise any extra battalions of the Indian Army at present.

DEARTH OF RECRUITS FOR THE TERRITORIAL FORCE AND UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS IN BENGAL.

34. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Is the want of recruits for the territorial forces in Bengal and for the University Training Corps due to the fact that recruits to such forces are paid the pay of sepoy and is it a fact that educated upper classes feel it beneath their dignity to be recruited and paid the pay of sepoy or in other words the pay of the durwans employed by them in the homes of such upper class educated people?

(b) Do Government propose to pay the recruits for the University Training Corps the same pay as is paid to the recruits of the Auxiliary Force? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY: (a) The Honourable Member is certainly mistaken in the case of the University Training Corps; for its members receive no personal pay or allowances and hold British ranks. One of the main objects of the Indian Territorial Force (which includes the University Training Corps) is to meet the aspirations of Indians

who wish to familiarise themselves with military training and service, and Government are always being pressed to raise new units of the University Training Corps to cater for the large numbers of educated young men who are said to be eagerly awaiting an opportunity to do so. It is difficult to reconcile with this eagerness the feelings attributed by the Honourable Member to the educated upper classes. There is certainly nothing degrading in a man preparing himself to play even the most humble part in the defence of his country.

(b) No. Members of the Auxiliary Force have a liability for military service; those of the University Training Corps have none.

COST OF THE MILITARY FORCES IN CHITTAGONG.

35. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Will Government be pleased to state the up-to-date total cost of the posting of military forces and of the construction of the temporary military barracks in the district of Chittagong for the purpose of tracking down the terrorists and suppressing their movement ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether such costs are borne by Central Revenues ? If so, why ?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given on the 28th March, 1934 to question No. 95. I have nothing to add to it at present.

(b) During the first half of the financial year 1932-33, the Government of Bengal met a considerable portion of the extra expenditure on the Chittagong garrison. Since the 15th December, 1932, however, the garrison has been treated as an integral part of the augmented garrison of Bengal, and its cost is met almost entirely from Central Revenues, the Government of Bengal being responsible only for certain charges of a local nature, e.g., water connections, compensation for interference with grazing and other rights, acquisition and occupation of land, etc.

REORGANISATION OF THE CANTONMENTS DEPARTMENT.

36. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Have Government under contemplation any scheme for the reorganisation of the Cantonments Department ?

(b) If so, how long is it expected to take before the department starts functioning under the new scheme ?

(c) Is there any age limit prescribed for appointment of Executive Officers, Class 2, under the present rules of recruitment to this service ?

(d) Have Government stopped recruitment for the post of Executive Officers, Class 2, pending reorganisation of the department ?

(e) Do Government intend to so frame rules that the officers who are now eligible for appointment are not debarred from entering this service due to age limit when recruitment under the new scheme opens ?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY : (a), (b) and (e). A scheme for the reorganisation of the Cantonments Department is under consideration, but it is as yet impossible to say when it will be introduced.

(c) The age limit is 35 years.

(d) No, Sir. Officers are recruited as and when vacancies occur. One officer was appointed Executive Officer, Class II, as recently as May, 1934, and another has recently been placed under training and will be appointed in January, 1935.

• MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE IN INDIA.

• 37. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Is it a fact that the Master General of the Ordnance, Army Headquarters, has no mobilization policy of his own, the ordnance policy being entirely dependent on the policy of the General Staff? Does this mean that the duties of the Ordnance Department are confined to those of a routine character, both in peace and war?

(b) Is it a fact that in war, as in peace, the Master General of the Ordnance, unlike his other colleagues at Army Headquarters, is not represented in the field?

(c) Is it a fact that the function of the Master General of the Ordnance in war is restricted to the production of munitions at the dictation of the General Staff?

(d) Will Government please state the number of officers who were employed on Ordnance work in the office of the late Indian Munitions Board, and of those that now find occupation in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch, Army Headquarters?

(e) Is it a fact that the President of the late Indian Munitions Board did not require, for the efficient performance of his duties, such staff to assist him as a D. M. G. O., A. D. T. O., and a host of technical military clerks who are now engaged in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch, on work of doubtful importance?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY: (a) For military reasons all supplying departments must be bound by the policy of the General Staff. Subject to that policy, it is the duty of the Master General of the Ordnance in India to estimate expenditure and hold stocks in peace to cover the initial supplies to troops, and to ensure a smooth flow of production, in war.

This work is by no means of a routine character but is of a highly technical nature.

(b)* The Master General of the Ordnance is represented in the field, as well as in peace, by Ordnance officers on the staffs of the various higher formations.

(c) No. The Master General of the Ordnance is also responsible for the stocking and administration of Ordnance depots in the field and for the design of munitions to meet the General Staff requirements.

(d) From such records as are readily available, it has been ascertained that 41 civil and military officers were employed on Ordnance work in the late Indian Munitions Board at Simla though this number may have varied slightly at different periods. In addition about 25 military officers under Army Headquarters were performing duties connected with Ordnance in

various Branches. This gives a total of 66 exclusive of the officers of the Board who were posted in the chief commercial centres.

At present 31 officers are employed on this work in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch.

(e) No, Sir. On the contrary technical experts, several of them of very senior rank, were transferred from the Army to the Indian Munitions Board for the administration of Ordnance factories and in advisory capacities.

EXCLUSION OF INDIAN CHEMISTS FROM EMPLOYMENT IN THE CHEMICAL DEFENCE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, RAWALPINDI.

38. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will Government please state why Indian chemists are excluded from employment in the chemical defence research department at Rawalpindi ?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY : The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. One Indian Chemical Assistant is employed in the Research Establishment.

SCHEME OF APPRENTICE TRAINING IN ORDNANCE AND CLOTHING FACTORIES.

39. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : Will Government please state :

(i) The year when the apprentice training scheme in Ordnance factory establishments was brought into force ?

(ii) The number of assistant foremen and foremen so far produced therefrom ?

(iii) The number of those who found employment in Ordnance factories ? and

(iv) The number of assistant foremen and foremen who have, since the inauguration of the apprentice scheme, been recruited from overseas for employment in Indian Ordnance factories ?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY : (i) A regular scheme of apprentice training in the Ordnance and Clothing factories was authorised by the Government of India for the first time in the year 1924, though local minor and un-coordinated schemes were in existence in several Ordnance factories prior to that date.

(ii) and (iii). The number of apprentices passed out from the Ordnance factories is 257. Of these the following are employed in the Master General of the Ordnance establishments :

Assistant foremen	6
Assistant storeholder	1
Chargemen	33
Supervisors	45
On daily rates of pay	45
Total	<u>130</u>

(iv) Fourteen foremen and 79 assistant foremen have been recruited from the United Kingdom since 1924.

MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE BRANCH, ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

40. **THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**

(a) Is it a fact that the number of technical military clerks in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch is almost daily on the increase? How many more of them have been, or are soon to be, drafted into the Master General of the Ordnance Branch?

(b) Is it a fact that the personnel who are surplus in the arsenals are ostensibly brought to Army Headquarters for temporary work, but they are never returned to their establishments?

(c) Will Government please state the longest period for which a technical military clerk has been retained in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch on work of a "temporary" nature?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. R. LUMBY : (a) No, Sir. There are now 17 technical military clerks in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch, of whom four only are permanent, the remainder being temporary. Of the 13 temporary clerks six have not been replaced in the arsenals from which they were drawn. Six of the temporary clerks were appointed during 1934 for certain specific duties of a specialised nature which could not be performed by the ordinary ministerial establishment. Two of them have been appointed for four years, one for two years, two for one year and one for six months only. There is no proposal to increase the number of these clerks, which will automatically decrease as their particular tasks are completed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The longest period for which a temporary appointment has been sanctioned for a technical military clerk is six years.

SALE OF SILVER SINCE 1926-27.

41. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government be pleased to state the following information about silver sales yearly since 1926-27 :

(a) Weight in tolas ; (b) price in sterling ; (c) loss in rupees on the book value ; (d) the head of account debited ; (e) debited to the capital account or to revenue ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 28 of the Controller of the Currency's Report for 1933-34 and to the relevant entries in Account No. 7 and Account No. 93-A in the Finance and Revenue Accounts.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Do those papers give all the information ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : They give all the information we have available. If the Honourable Member does not find what he wants there he can speak to me and I will see whether I can supplement the information.

EXTENT TO WHICH ADVANTAGE HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE PRESENT RISE IN SILVER PRICES.

42. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Has Government taken advantage of the present rise in silver price due to the United States of America's silver policy? If so, to what extent? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: The price of silver per ounce in the London market on the 12th of March was 20½*d.*; on the 12th of April 20¼*d.*; on the 12th of May 19¾*d.*; on the 12th of June 19½*d.*; on the 12th of July 20¾*d.*; and on the 28th of July 20½*d.* I must leave the Honourable Member to draw his own conclusion with regard to the effect on silver prices of the policy adopted by the United States of America.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: The question was, did the Government take advantage of it?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: If the Honourable Member had followed the figures which I have read out he would have seen that the price on the 12th July was exactly the same as the price on the 12th March. I was myself rather surprised to see the suggestion in the Honourable Member's question that there had been a rise in the price of silver owing to the silver policy of the United States.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Am I to understand that the Government did not sell any silver in this period?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: There have been sales.

PUBLIC DEBT OF INDIA.

43. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government be pleased to give the following information about the Public Debt of India:

(a) The increase or decrease in the funded debt, rupees and pounds separately between 1921 and 1934 (31st March); (b) the increase in unfunded debt between 1921 and 1934 (31st March); (c) the increase in the interest bearing assets, showing separately the rupees and the pound capital at charge of each head on the 31st March, 1921 and 1934 (or 1933)?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to Accounts Nos. 82—86 in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, and to the statement given in Appendix II to the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget for 1934-35.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Government lay it on the table?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: I am certainly not prepared to lay on the table the Finance and Revenue Accounts which can be found in the Library, and the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget was presented to this Council in Delhi.

PRESENT PRICE PAID BY THE RAILWAY BOARD FOR STEEL RAILS PURCHASED FROM MESSRS. THE TATA IRON AND STEEL CO., LTD.

44. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government state the rate at which the Railway Board is now purchasing steel rails from Tatas

and the date since which this rate has been fixed and the date up to which the present rate will continue ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : For sections not less than 50 lbs. or more than 100 lbs. per yard the rates are as follows :

- (a) (i) For all rails less than 40' in length, and
- (ii) For rails of 40' length up to a tonnage in any year not in excess of 20 per cent. on the total tonnage ordered during the year Rs. 110 per ton.
- (b) (i) For rails 40' in length in excess of the total tonnage ordered during any year, and
- (ii) For all rails exceeding 40' but not exceeding 45' in length Rs. 112-8-0 per ton.

2. For 115 lbs. section rails and chrome steel rails the rates are Rs. 120 and Rs. 140 per ton respectively.

3. These rates have been in force from 1st April, 1927 and will continue to 31st March, 1935.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FROM PUSA TO DELHI.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : ^{Muham-}madan) : Sir, I wish to move an adjournment of the House to consider a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proposed removal of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research from Pusa to Delhi.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member has given notice of a Motion for Adjournment, and as required by the rule, I will read that notice to the Council.

“To the Secretary, Council of State.

Sir, I wish to move for an adjournment of the House tomorrow the 9th August, 1934, to consider a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proposed removal of the Agricultural Institute from Pusa to a site near Delhi”.

As I am of opinion that the Motion for Adjournment is in order and is not in conflict in any way with the restrictions imposed by rule 12, I will inquire of the Council whether they are prepared to give leave to the Honourable Member to move the Motion for Adjournment.

(No Member rose to object to the Motion.)

I see there is no opposition and therefore I will allow the Motion. The Motion will be discussed either at four o'clock or, if the Leader of the House agrees, immediately after the termination of the business today.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House) : It depends very largely, Sir, on the progress we make. Therefore, if you will permit me I will announce it later.

RESOLUTION *RE* COLONY FOR THE EMIGRATION OF INDIANS.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muham-
madan) : I rise to place before the House the Resolution :

“That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to represent to His Majesty's Government the desirability of setting apart a colony for the emigration of Indians.”

Before I discuss the merits of this Resolution I should like to dispel a misapprehension which is present in the minds of some of my colleagues. It is thought that this Resolution, in some way supports the Report of the Indian Colonisation Committee of South Africa. There was nothing of the sort in my mind. I brought forward this Resolution independently of that, and for different reasons altogether, than those which inspired that Report. India has always been suffering from the want of a place to which its surplus population could be sent. It is a chronic want of ours, and as time has gone on, door after door has been closed against us, and further developments have taken place which have made the position acute. Unless we do something to eradicate this evil we will be putting ourselves to great difficulties. The first point which strikes one in this connection is the growing population of India which is increasing, I may say, at an alarming rate. By 1951 we expect to have 50 per cent. more people than we had at the time of the introduction of the Reforms in 1921. The Agricultural Commission which went thoroughly into the question of land tenures and examined all aspects of agriculture, came to the conclusion that fragmentation of holdings and the creation of uneconomic holdings is going on at an alarming pace, and if this process goes on there will soon be very little difference between a vagrant and a landholder. In the second place, the fall in the price of primary commodities has also affected the well-being of Indians. When we had good prices for agricultural goods, a tenant even with a small holding could manage to eke out a living, but with the enormous fall in prices even what were regarded as economic holdings have become uneconomic. The Government had one way of solving this problem, that is by lowering of the exchange, but that they will never do. Today I do not expect justice to Indians by that method. These things were sufficient causes in themselves.

We see, Sir, that India has always been a good supplier of cheap labour. Ever since we have been connected with the British Government, Indian labour has been in demand in different parts of the British Empire. Indians pioneered in many places ; they blazed out the trails ; they cleared the lands ; and when everything was set in order the heaven-born Europeans came in and they occupied those colonies. I see that some of my colleagues are smiling, but I am saying a thing which is no exaggeration. May I remind the House of the fact that when a deputation of Indians went to Kruger he stated in so many words that he regarded Europeans as God's chosen people, and the Asiatics being descended from the other half were relegated for the purpose of servitude. This was the mentality of the Europeans in the colonies which form part of the British Empire. One after the other the self-governing colonies closed their doors. They were not content even with that. They maltreated Indians ; they heaped indignities on them and denied them even primary rights ; every one of the international laws was trodden under foot ; and all the time the Imperial Government sat still. It acted, sometimes

as a post office forwarding the views of Indians to the self-governing colonies concerned, but it never exerted any pressure on them to do the right thing by the Indians. This position of the Imperial Government was clearly brought out by Lord Morley when he frankly stated that it was easier for the British Government to force a foreign Government to do justice to Indians than to ask the members of the so-called British Commonwealth of Nations to do justice to Indian British subjects. And why was it so, Sir? Because the European colonies had self-government. They had complete right of including or excluding any one they pleased. The cup of iniquity was filled to the brim, when even the Crown colonies started copying the methods of their self-governing brethren in the British Empire. The position therefore became very acute and a hue and cry was raised 12 years ago about Kenya. The British Government had the convenient excuse of not being able to force a self-governing dominion; but Kenya being a Crown Colony it was under the Colonial Office; but there different tactics were adopted. Lord Carson had made the case of Ulster a famous one. In Kenya they followed the same tactics too and an anti-Indian faction was formed. Lord Delamere tried to intimidate the Colonial Office into giving way to the European settlers; although Indians formed four times the population of Europeans; although Indians had gone to Kenya long before Europeans; although we had during the war sent more than 47,000 troops to the East African theatre of war; although we had casualties of more than 5,000 in that theatre during the war, still Indians were not treated as equals. The Indian population which is nearly four times that of the European population was given half the representation of Europeans, and this small minority was given double our seats in the Legislature. Every day, Sir, the position of Indians is becoming more and more difficult in the colonies. We have seen that Indians are required as long as they are ready to serve as menials, as underlings, and do not press for their rights. But as soon as they put forward any claim to which they are entitled as human beings, as equals, as members of the British Empire, at once the fiat goes out that this thing must stop. We find that all the places are closed for the emigration of Indians. This, Sir, is the history of the last few years. The immediate cause which has prompted me to bring forward this Resolution is the action of the British Government. Now we find that even small places which were open to Indians are being slowly but surely closed. I refer, Sir, to two. First is Aden, which has played an important part and given employment to a great deal of Indians, but the British Government want to take it away from us; the Colonial Office is grabbing it. We have experience, Sir, of other ports in the Red Sea, in which Indians were flourishing, but as soon as they were transferred to the tender mercies of the Colonial Office, the ports became almost deserts. Aden, too, as soon as it is transferred to the Colonial Office, in spite of the assurance which has been given, will become a hot bed for Indians.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the separation of Burma. Burma was a place where many Indians were finding scope for their energies, where they could settle and devote themselves to agriculture. It is shameful the way in which this question of the separation of Burma has been pressed without any regard to the principles of self-determination, without any regard to the protests of Indians, without any regard to the remonstrations from Burmans themselves. All the places to which Indians could

[Mr. Hossain Imam.]

emigrate are now closed. It is therefore necessary that we should have some place where our people might go and settle. I know, Sir, that in opposition to this demand every sort of plausible excuse will be put forward. But I wish to say that I am not voicing any new demand. Even Englishmen themselves have accepted the justice of the demand of India for a colony. Sir Theodore Morrison, after the war, strongly advocated that German possessions in Africa should be handed over to the Government of India. But, Sir, our Government did not exert or interest itself, so the other members of the British Commonwealth grabbed it. I can say that so far as the war was concerned no part of the British Empire put forward an effort equal to even half of the Indian Empire either in money or in men. But look at the result of the war. What did we gain when compared with the gains of the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations? We are told that we are members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. When it comes to spending we are members, but when it comes to giving we are turned out as people outside the pale who have no place in the scheme of things. There was no return made for our war services, nor did we ask for any *quid pro quo* for all that we had done. But now, Sir, that we find that our necessities are growing, that our requirements are pressing, is it unjust to ask the head of the Commonwealth to do the right thing by us? Even if they do give us a colony, they will be doing us tardy justice, and not doing us a favour. I wish to stress the point that I always claim what I regard as my right and nothing but that.

One thing more, Sir, before I conclude. I should like to say that India expects, if not in the near future, at least not in the very distant future, some sort of self-government and it will be essential that the part to which our nationals go, should in some way be connected with us, so that we may be able to take care of our men who are in our outlying parts. I wish also to say, Sir, that this colonisation movement has absolutely nothing to do with the Resolution of my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, in moving the Resolution, the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam dealt with the hardships to which Indian emigrants to other countries were subjected from time to time. This, Sir, is a theme on which this House will certainly sympathise with Mr. Hossain Imam in all that he has said. I happen to know something, Sir, about the condition of Indians in some of the countries and I cannot say that their lot is a happy one. The difficulties, of course, are very great. Mr. Hossain Imam, I am sure, realises that the kind of stuff that India sent out to various countries is not one of which we, as a nation, could be very proud. The history of the subject, as I am sure is known to Honourable Members, is this. When slavery was abolished, a number of countries stood very badly in need of labour. They wanted labour and they wanted cheap labour. Indian labour being efficient and being cheap, every country turned its eyes to India. The result was that a number of labourers were sent from India under a system of indenture. Now, I need hardly say as to what was the class of population that was persuaded to emigrate from India. The people

that went out to various dominions and Crown colonies did not represent us, they were not the best type of Indian civilisation or Indian culture—

• THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Did not lawyers and traders follow in their wake, Sir ?

• THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : No. But I do not want to enter into a discussion. All I wish to say is that there are only two countries where some of the representatives of the best type of Indians went. One was Kenya, with which India has had relations for many, many centuries. The other was South Africa where a number of Indian traders went after Indian labourers had emigrated to that country. So far as I know, these are the only two cases where a small portion of our good class emigrated after labour had gone to these countries.

Now, let me pursue the point which I was discussing. The difficulty, Sir, was that we sent a very low type of men to those countries to work as labourers. Well, perhaps it will be open to the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam to say that these self-governing colonies and Crown colonies wanted labourers and workers in the field and they got what they wanted. That no doubt is true so far as it goes. But I am afraid you cannot help realising that when you send out these very poor types of Indian civilisation, these men do not add to the good name and reputation of India and do not produce an impression that India is one of the civilised countries of the world. As a matter of fact, I remember talking to a very distinguished public man in South Africa—we were talking about the Indian question and in this connection we happened to discuss the position of Indians in England and the absence of discrimination against Indians in England. The gentleman, who has got charming manners and who is very popular with Indians in South Africa, turned round to me smilingly and said :

“ Now, Mr. Raza Ali, you sent a good type of Indians to England and you have the reputation which you have. Unfortunately, you did not send the same type of Indians to South Africa and hence most of your troubles ”.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official) : Is that including or excluding Mahatma Gandhi ?

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : I have never put the question to him. So, while by no means justifying the attitude towards Indians of the self-governing and Crown colonies, I may say that that is a factor which may very well be present to our minds when we judge of the conduct of these colonies.

Now, having said so much, Sir, I come to the crux of the matter, namely, my friend urges that India should have a colony for herself. Now, the position is one which I am sure will excite enthusiasm and possibly feelings of pride in the heart of every Indian patriot. But where is the colony to come from ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : The British Government.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : Sir, the only sources of acquisition, so far as I can see, are three. The first is conquest. It is open to India to conquer some country—any country, no matter what it is—and colonise it. That is perfectly legitimate. There can be no objection. But I failed

[Saiyid Raza Ali.]

to hear my Honourable friend suggest such a course. As a matter of fact, situated as we are, it hardly lies in our mouths to talk of conquest. Time was when India conquered but that time does not exist. Well, any way, any idea of conquest these days is very dangerous. Not more than 20 years ago, a very big nation, a highly organised nation, thought of conquest and we know the fate of that nation today. I hope that will teach a lesson to my Honourable friend and those who follow this school of thought.

The second source is grant—and I think this is pertinent to the question we are discussing now. If a country or territory is granted by His Majesty's Government to India, and if favourable conditions exist, then certainly it would be open to India to colonise it. My Honourable friend failed to suggest what form the grant should take by His Majesty's Government and which country should be granted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : That is for the Government of India to settle.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : Yes, that is a very pertinent answer. If that is so, I believe the best course, instead of having this Resolution and asking so many of us to take part in the discussion, would have been to send a registered letter to the Honourable the Leader of the House or His Excellency Lord Willingdon saying :

“ Find a country which we can colonise. We want to settle in that country. We want to take our countrymen there ”.

I believe that course would certainly have been simpler. Now, it may be quite possible for His Majesty's Government to grant a territory to India. All the same, if the grant did take place, I would draw the attention of my Honourable friend to the huge expenditure that India would have to incur in this connection. I suppose the subject of the grant will not be a very populated country. If it were a very populated country, that will not serve the requirements of a colony. These are some of the things that would have to be done. Railways will have to be built, roads would have to be opened up, harbours would have to be constructed, forests would have to be cut down, health measures would have to be introduced, a number of doctors would have to be taken to the country, if there are mosquitoes, they would have to be got rid of—there are so many things that will have to be done, assuming that His Majesty's Government gave you a country. All that means money. I do not know where the money is to come from.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : The money that is going to be spent on the transfer of Pusa.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Order, order. You will have your opportunity of replying.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : I expect, Sir, that my Honourable friend expects the Governor General in Council to meet the expenditure. The financial condition of the Government of India is too well known to the Honourable Member for me to say much about it. The net result is that assuming that a country was placed at the disposal of India by His Majesty's

Government, it would be next to impossible in the present circumstances for India to find the money to develop that country and to make it suitable for colonisation.

The third source of acquisition is purchase. That also can be done. But the arguments that I have already put forward apply tenfold to the case of purchase. A purchase would be much more difficult and would certainly involve a much larger expenditure than would be required in the case of grant. Having regard to all these considerations, I am afraid, though I desire that it were possible for India to have a colony of her own, the circumstances are against us.

Now, my Honourable friend has taken care to point out that he has not been influenced in any way by the Report of the Committee that was appointed by the Government of the Union of South Africa to go into the Indian question in South Africa. I think he has done a very right thing in not following that Committee's Report. I do not propose to follow that either. But one thing I must say that if the question of the surplus population of India is dealt with in a manner somewhat different from that suggested by my Honourable friend, it would certainly be necessary for us to approach the Government of India to help us in this question. It so happens that I have been to every province in this country and I happen to know something about the conditions obtaining in the various provinces of India. So far as I know, time was when three provinces were in a position to accommodate the surplus population from the remaining provinces of India. Those provinces were, in the first place, Burma. That of course goes by the board. It is no longer open to us—I am afraid that certainly it would no longer be open to us a couple of years hence to persuade the Government of Burma to accept any surplus population from India. But there are huge territories in Burma—in fact, the central portion of Burma has a climate which is very much akin to the climate obtaining in India, and if the surplus population were to be settled there, that would be a very proper method of dealing with the question. But, as I have said, we need hardly discuss that question. Leaving Burma out, there are two more provinces which could certainly accommodate a number of the surplus Indian population.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member's time is up. Will he please bring his remarks to a close?

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: I will be finishing within a very few minutes, Sir. Assam is one.

THE HONOURABLE SRIJUT HERAMBA PROSAD BARUA (Assam: Non-Muhammadan). Question?

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: I am quite prepared to be questioned by my Honourable friend, but Assam certainly has got very large tracts of land. Assam is really receiving a number of people from some of the districts of Bengal, particularly Mymensingh. A lot of people are going and settling in Assam. My Honourable friend can persuade the Honourable Mr. Barua and other friends from Assam to take the surplus Indian population. I believe that would relieve the situation. The second province is the province of Sind. Sind, Sir, I believe, is a name that always gives rise to excitement these days. But, if my Honourable friend could persuade the Honourable

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Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah to allow the other provinces of India to avail themselves of the proposed benefits of the Sukkur Barrage, that would certainly give shelter to a portion of our surplus population. So, having regard to the terms in which the Resolution has been moved and having regard to the great limitations which the Honourable Member realises his Resolution is subject, I am afraid that unless my Honourable friend is prepared to give further information and to designate the country and the means by which that country is to be colonised, I for one must oppose this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I had no mind to speak on this Resolution because I thought that the object underlying the Resolution was so important and so innocuous that it will receive universal support in this House. But I am rather surprised to find that my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali has thought fit to oppose this Resolution. I have followed his speech very closely and I think that all his arguments are baseless. In the first instance, he says that the emigrants to the various other countries are not rich people like him or men of high status. The people who are poor, people who cannot support themselves in their own country, they are the people who generally migrate to other countries. The argument of my Honourable friend that men of his type have not gone to other countries therefore falls to the ground. Every other civilized country, like the British Isles, is always seeking some sort of colony in order to find employment for their brethren who are poor and who cannot find employment in their own country. France and Germany are thinking of taking back their colonial possessions which had been lost, so that their surplus population may have room to live and support themselves. I am sorry that a man of the ability of my friend the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali should oppose a Resolution which is in the interests of India, in the interests of its poor. He talked of Assam and Sind. Punjabis are people who have migrated to many countries and I can speak from experience of my own provincial people that those who have migrated were making very good money abroad. Where colonisation is concerned, the climate and other conditions of the country are to be taken into consideration. I know that labour goes from Bihar and other provinces to Assam for the tea industry. That labour, as far as I understand, comes back when the monsoon starts there, and those who remain there fall sick and break down in health. The demand of my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Inam is very modest, and I think it is the duty of the Government of India to find some colony where Indians will be welcomed. It is with great regret that we find that the Colonial Governments are bitterly prejudiced against the immigration of Indians. The Zanzibar question which has lately turned up is a good example of that. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Honourable Leader of the House and other high Government officials, India has not been successful to a very great extent as far as Indians in South Africa are concerned, and I think the time has now come when it is the sacred duty of the Government of India to help poor Indians.

The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali has also raised the financial question, that the cost of colonisation will fall on India and the present financial condition of India will not justify it. He must first consider the cost of the starving Indians who have no employment—

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Can you quote it per head?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: As far as the Congress figures go, there are said to be one-third of the population in India who get only one meal a day. In case I am wrong the Honourable Leader will correct me?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: I thought you were giving the cost of starving Indians per head! (Laughter.)

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: The average income of an Indian is very small per head as compared with Europeans. The Leader of the House cannot deny that even in the countries where the cost of living and financial means are much greater per head than ours they find it necessary to send their surplus populations to colonize other lands. Why should not India do the same? The financial question is a question of such importance that the Government should first take up this point rather than other matters. During the 10 or 15 years since the Great War the expenditure of the administration of India has gone up many times. It has quadrupled itself, and I therefore think the Government of India will not grudge expenditure on this project.

Sir, I strongly support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member): I thought, Sir, that a Resolution of the sort which has been moved this morning was not likely to receive any warm reception in the House. I felt when I read the Resolution that probably it was being moved without realising in full what it meant and what implications it had. I will beg the Honourable Members to notice the following parts of the Resolution. It wants to set apart a colony for Indians. To set apart, that is to say the Honourable mover, after having dilated upon the numerous disabilities of Indians in dominions and in colonies, has adopted the defeatist policy and recognised that Indians cannot be allowed to live either in the dominions or in the colonies which are inhabited by others. He must have an exclusively Indian colony. He must create a *harijan* quarter amongst the colonies of the British Empire. Sir, this idea cuts at the very root of the policy of the Government of India. We are not prepared to admit that position. We have fought against it during many decades in the past and we are still occupied with it. (*An Honourable Member*: "With what result"?) My Honourable friend asks, "With what result"? Let me say with very indifferent success. Does that justify our abandoning the position of equality in the civilised world? This is what he would like us to do. That is what I absolutely refuse to do. So there we have a clear-cut issue between that side of the House and this side. India is not prepared to be segregated, and it is much to be regretted that a Member of this House should put forward the position that India should reconcile itself to that position. It is not this Government's policy.

The second thing in the Resolution is that he wants the Government to find a colony, to buy it or to beg for it. Whether he has seen any advertisement of a colony going for sale I do not know. (*An Honourable Member*:

[Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

“There are!”) There are. No doubt you receive an intimation from the brokers for them!

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Java and Sumatra were sold by the British to the Dutch.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Was it very recently?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Some years back.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: This idea of a colony must be remembered in view of what he has said.

12 NOON. That is to say, he wants us to ask His Majesty's Government to give us a colony which is not inhabited by others and which would be exclusively inhabited by Indians. Therefore presumably he wants a colony which is not already colonised either in full or in part, which means that he wants a brand new colony yet unexplored which he expects the Government of India to go and occupy and to make civilised.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: What about Brazil?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: There are many places in the world yet, I hope, which it would be possible in course of time to colonise for those who have got the requisite amount of adventurous spirit and virility to go to and plenty of money to colonise. But mere desire to go because you find it easier to beg for colonies than to control your population is not decidedly the soundest policy. I do not know to what extent His Majesty's Government will be prepared to find colonies for the surplus population of India. If the Indian population continues to increase one per cent. every year, assuming that India has reached the saturation point already—and that is what the Honourable mover of the Resolution appeared to indicate—it means one per cent. of 35 crores every year to be sent out for colonisation. If there is anything in the figures quoted in the South African Report, where the individual's cost of living and other things in the first few years is put down at Rs. 1,000 per head, it will work out to a large figure. One per cent. of 35 crores to colonise every year at a cost of Rs. 1,000 per head, besides the cost of buying and administering and so on. I am afraid the total revenues of India will be absorbed in the colonisation scheme—I thought it worked out at Rs. 100 crores a year or something like that, but it comes to much more than that.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: According to your formula.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Not according to my formula, but according to the calculations of the Department. Perhaps you have worked out a smaller figure? These brilliant ideas do not always turn out to be very practicable.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: The mover of the Resolution was talking of the surplus population and not of the whole population.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : We are talking of the surplus population. Assuming that 35 crores is the population that India can support at present and the increase is one per cent.—as you know with better standards of comfort it is possible that it may work out to two per cent. unless you are careful—but still assuming that it remains at a low figure of one per cent. with high infant mortality and so on—that would be one per cent. of 35 crores, or 35 lakhs a year. We will soon be able to inhabit all the colonies. It seems to me that however desirable it may be to find a colony or to find colonies where Indians could on terms of equality go, what we have to see is can we afford it or may I take it that the mover of the Resolution shares the views of his leader that there is to be no question of India being able to afford it and that His Majesty's Government is to find means to arrange that 35 lakhs of Indians a year colonise some colony or colonies every year. He thought of achieving this by making an appeal to His Majesty's Government that the poor should be helped. He also said that the standard of comfort is very low as compared with the standard of comfort in other countries and in particular in Great Britain. He is perfectly right, Sir, but knowing him as I do, knowing his views on economic problems within India, knowing how he hates communism, knowing that he is not even up to the standard of normal socialism that prevails in many countries—he does not like that idea—how is it that he urges upon me an international communism, an international socialism? What he wants me to achieve is that I should impress upon His Majesty's Government that the standard of comfort in the British Commonwealth of Nations should be uniform and as long as the weakest unit in the Commonwealth is not raised to the same level as the others a case for gift or grant or charity is made good.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : We request you to do it.

• **THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN :** You would like to pay from your own pocket—that India should pay for the colonisation herself? Very well, we will leave poverty, charity, alone. Now the case I have to meet is that India should finance her colonisation scheme to the extent of 35 lakhs of Indians a year herself. Now let us see what the cost would be in case territory was available within British India or within India, because some States are not as thickly populated as others. An appeal was made by my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali to the Honourable Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah saying why not let us come to Sind. I think Sind has not closed its doors against anybody who would like to come and take land under the terms advertised by the Bombay Government in Sind. I believe land can be had there for about Rs. 300 an acre, and if you must have the smallest possible holding of, say, 10 acres a man, you pay 300 times 10 or Rs. 3,000 for land, and another Rs. 1,000 for bullocks and other things.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : At the present time that is not a paying proposition.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : Therefore you will not colonise within India. Is it outside India a paying proposition?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Because we cannot pay the present high price of land in India.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : Therefore you must have land free.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Land was sold at a much cheaper rate in Kenya.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : When ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Some time back.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : Time passes away and never comes back and you have to deal with the present and not with the past. So, Sir, it seems to me from this little exchange of ideas which I have had the privilege of having on the floor of this House with my friends opposite that they do not want this colonisation scheme on the basis of charity from His Majesty's Government. They do not want me to try to get a free grant at all.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : It is not as a matter of charity that we want it, but it is the duty of the Government.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL I-HUSAIN : It is the duty of a rich man like my Honourable friend to give, but it is charity to the poor man who gets it! (Laughter.) Therefore duty and charity are relative terms—whether it is a beggar begging or a rich man who is giving. However, I trust that by now the Honourable mover and his supporters realise that what they ask, and that it is impossible of realisation. I have touched upon the question of finances but to me the most abhorrent portion of the Resolution is that which by implication recognises the principle of segregation, a policy which is repugnant in every way. I find, Sir, if I may venture to say so, the proposal is immature, absolutely immature. It is incomplete, it is impracticable, it is inopportune and, if I may say so, finally it is distinctly injurious.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I was surprised to hear the reply of the Leader of the House on a Resolution like this. The Resolution as it is worded is very simple and I regret to say that he has been talking about some other things unconnected with the Resolution. In the Resolution as worded my Honourable friend requests Government to represent to His Majesty's Government the desirability of setting apart a colony for the emigration of Indians. Sir, it is a very legitimate demand of ours. The British Government has utilised so much of the resources of India for meeting imperial objects and if it is asked to open the doors of their own colonies for Indians for their surplus population, I think it is not a proposition which should be treated in the light-hearted fashion in which the Leader of the House has done this morning. We all know that our resolutions are certainly in the form of begging from His Majesty's Government. But we have no other form to represent but to beg His Majesty's Government. My friend the

Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali thought that it was wasting the time of the Members to bring such Resolutions to this House and it would have been better if the request had been sent by a registered letter. I do not know whether this Council is established to register the decrees of Government or to represent any public point of view as well? Sir, if the object of this Council is also to bring the public view points before the Government, I think it was certainly legitimate for my colleague to bring such a Resolution and waste a little of the precious time of my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali.

Sir, judging by the support that this Resolution is getting we know what its fate is going to be and if my friend had sent the request by registered post it would certainly have been thrown into the wastepaper basket without any reply.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: No, no.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: Sir, with your permission, I would quote two sentences from the Report of the Indian Colonies Enquiry Committee. The members of that Committee have thoroughly supported the viewpoint that has been placed before the House by my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: On a point of order, Sir. There are two Resolutions on the agenda paper. One is Resolution No. 1 which is the subject-matter of discussion. The other is Resolution No. 4 which treats of a different matter and the Honourable mover and those who spoke after him refrained from referring to the Report of the Committee which is in the hands of my Honourable friend. I fear, Sir, if the Report is quoted, Mr. Sapru's Resolution No. 4 might be barred. Therefore I suggest that he should not make any reference to the Committee's Report.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member should not anticipate the decision of the President with regard to that Resolution. When that Resolution is reached I shall give my decision whether it is admissible or not.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: I submit that in one paragraph they have definitely said what my friend has moved. About the rest of the Report I shall talk on the Resolution of my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru. They say:

"From an economic point of view India, with an ever-growing population, which in 1931 numbered over 352,000,000, has a right to seek outlets for the surplus population of her congested areas and to obtain a colony as other nations have done. Hitherto the sons of India have gone abroad to develop the colonies of others as indentured labourers, and have for the most part remained outside the circle of citizenship in their new homes, because of the stigma of their indentures; and the continued political inferiority of these emigrants in the countries to which they have gone, reacts upon the status of India in the eyes of the world.

"On national as well as economic grounds, therefore, it is natural that India should aspire to found beyond her own shores a colony, where the energies of her more adventurous citizens could be expended in building up a free and independent Indian community. The call to patriotism referred to in the undertaking of the South African Indian Congress may be interpreted in this sense."

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Does the Honourable Member realise what the object of those who say this, is?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : I do realise it and I will give expression to it when that Resolution is moved. It is not the proper place here to express the object underlying the Report. But I submit, Sir, that the members of this Enquiry Committee are also of the opinion that India should have a colony in which the status of the emigrant should be equal to that of the citizens of the colonies and the object of my friend also in bringing this Resolution, in other words, is that the British Government may open the doors of the colonies for Indians with the same rights and privileges that they enjoy there. That is the main object and with this object, Sir, I think the Resolution ought to be supported by the Government and the recommendation should be sent to His Majesty's Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Sir, I have been familiar with the tactics of the legal profession and I fully realise that when one has to support a weak case one usually has recourse to special pleading, to distortion of facts, to going astray on side lines, and thereby camouflaging the main issue. Both the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali have really left the main issue of the point which ought to have been discussed altogether aside. The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali spoke of sending a letter to the Leader of the House or to the Governor General. I think it is a very good suggestion, Sir, and if the Government accepts it, they will be making a great deal of saving by abolishing all non-official days as well as official days. They can send us letters with regard to everything, and we can send in our votes whether we want to have a particular Bill or Resolution adopted or turned down. All work can be done through the post, and the post office will be getting money and the Government will be losing not a single pie. If the Honourable Member has become such a big economist, he can take this suggestion to its logical conclusion.

Then, Sir, he asks, "Where is the money to come from?" There is one source which I will refer him to. It is the money that is going to be spent on the transfer of Pusa. That is one source which you can save and spend on the colony.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : It is a drop in the ocean.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I thought that this House was much better informed and knew that most of the colonies of England were formed by charter companies. That procedure has not been referred to either by the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali or any one else. That is the one method which has been invoked in almost all the colonies which were started by England, and that is the one thing to which no one has referred. He also put forward the suggestion that Assam and Sind should be colonised. These are already populated. The population from the adjoining districts of these provinces who have no irrigation facilities are flocking in as far as their pockets allow them to do. But they find that the demands of the public treasuries of the Sukkur Barrage are greater than their pockets permit.

I was really suprised to hear from a well-informed person like the Honourable Member referring to the strata of people who have gone to the colonies. Has he forgotten what was the condition of Australia in the mid-

Victorian period? Was it not a colony mostly of roughs and criminals? All these colonies which are now prosperous and respectable—most of them started in the same condition. It is only the scum of the population and the adventurers who go first.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: No, no. You cannot say the same thing of South Africa or Canada.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: South Africa started as a Dutch Colony and parts of Canada were French. I was talking of English colonies and not of Virginia, New England and the American colonies which had real backbone, and consisted of the good society from England, but they do not form part of the British Empire now. Those who were of superior strata were not willing to be trodden down by the mother country and they asserted themselves and now they have established themselves as the superior-most country as far as commercial enterprise is concerned. This is what they did. The Leader of the House says we are subject to defeatist tendencies. Is it defeatism to realise your own shortcomings? What will you call a person who is so blind to the realities of the situation that he does not realise his own puny efforts and wants to ignore the insurmountable forces that are in front of him? If there is an irresistible force and an immovable mass, what will happen? If the force is irresistible, the mass will not be immovable, and if the mass is immovable, the force will not be irresistible. We are a subject nation. We, who have no power, have to fight the self-governing dominions, one of which is ready even to secede from the British Empire, like Ireland. This is the status which the Statute of Westminster has given to the dominions. They are to all intents and purposes independent of the mother country. Can we think that our puny efforts, the efforts of the Government of India—which has always been slow in reacting to public opinion—with no force behind it will succeed? If we are subject to defeatism, Sir, then those who do not consider their own powerlessness are suffering from something worse than defeatism.

As regards conquest we never suggested it, but did the Member consider why could we not conquer? Was India always in such a state as at present? Was India always as powerless as it is now? In this Resolution we do not force the Government to go into the world and conquer a country. It is our wish that the British Government should be asked to set apart a country. I have particularly left the wording vague. The Leader of the House said he is always fighting to get Indians the same opportunities as Europeans have in the Crown colonies. Sir, I would welcome this assurance if it were a genuine determination of the Government in India. Will he accept if I amend this Resolution as

“the desirability of opening all the Crown colonies to Indians on terms of equality with Britishers”?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Order, order. I cannot allow any amendment at this stage.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Sir, if he accepts, I will move it on the next non-official day. I want an assurance from the Government representative that that statement of his that he is going to fight it out till the

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end and that he is not going to take defeat has real backbone behind it. I will accept such an assurance. At the present moment we cannot have anything without fighting for it, and without exerting ourselves. The Government of India have always been unresponsive. It has been to a large extent non-co-operating with the public opinion of India and to a very great extent it has always been working in the interests of His Majesty's Government of Great Britain. Sir, when colonies are heaping on our heads indignities after indignities, what has the Government of India done? Have the Government of India excluded South Africans from India?

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Are there any?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Yes, there are.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is there any exclusion order? Is there the same measure for Canada and Australia? It is all very well to turn on us and say that the Government are very mindful of our interests. We have to judge them not by their words but their actions. Their action has always been subservient to the interests of His Majesty's Government of Great Britain. Sir, the fact that India has practically reached saturation point owing to the alarming rate of increase of its population makes it necessary that we should have an outlet. We have to find a home for lakhs of persons who are born each year. Well, we do not of course export babies right away.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: You propose to keep babies here.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Sir, no country has taken up the attitude that each and every person over and above the home quota should be sent abroad. The question of surplus population has arisen in most of the colonising countries of the world, England, Holland and Germany. The population of England has nearly doubled itself in the last 50 years. Even England does not send all its surplus to the colonies. My Honourable friend took the impossible figure of 35 lakhs and multiplied it by 1,000 and gave out a result which would drain all the resources of the Government. Colonisation, as I have said, is effected by means of chartered companies.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Do chartered companies function without finances, and is it to be an Indian chartered company?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Yes, Sir, and the companies finance themselves, not the Government. Then he gave us a good lecture that colonisation is not an advantage economically. I wish he was the adviser to all the European Governments which have been hankering after colonies. Much of the world strife and trouble would have been saved if the Honourable Leader had been a common adviser of all the European countries during this century. Then he took up the position that colonisation would make such commitments on the Government of India that it would be impossible for them to accept this Resolution. My only reply to that is that to a very great extent the experience of England has shown that the colonies pay for themselves. No doubt some

capital expenditure is required to be incurred in the beginning. They have to be set in order, but after settlement rates and taxes repay the outlay.

I, Sir, for one have great pleasure in finding that this idea of mine does not commend itself to the Government, because that in itself is a certificate that it is good from the point of view of India because a Government which is under the heels of other foreign powers does not approve it. I commend this Resolution to the House.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Just a few words, Sir. First, I wish to invite the attention of the Council to the fact that when a speaker talks of his own views, that is all right. But when he begins to talk of the views of India, meaning thereby he himself as the personification of Indian public opinion, then his claim to that distinction has to be tested. I am afraid you will find in this particular case that there are very few people who agree with him in the views he has expressed. I am particularly sorry about it because I feel that some of the views that he has expressed are such that they may prove injurious to Indian interests abroad. That is a matter for very great regret. He has re-asserted that in the view of the failure of the Government of India to obtain suitable terms of treatment for Indians abroad, he has selected the course of an exclusively Indian colony—segregation. Well, as I said before, that is a point on which I cannot possibly agree with him or those who think with him. That is the second thing. The third point is that he thinks all financial difficulties can be got over through the agency of a chartered company. Well, Sir, I am not a financier and I have not had the benefit of expert advice on the subject; but even without such advice I am prepared to assure him that if his leader and other financially responsible people in India proceed with this idea of an Indian company for purposes of colonisation abroad, and work it up to the extent of a company ready to apply for a charter, such a request from such men will receive the most careful consideration of the Government of India. The Leader of the Opposition asks whether what I have said is only a gesture or whether I am in earnest? I can assure him that whether it is a mere gesture or it is full of earnestness depends entirely upon what he is prepared to bring forward. If there is earnestness, if there is reality, if there is substance in the movement on the part of financially responsible Indians in the direction of a colonial company, I can assure him that the reaction on the part of the Government will be equally substantial and real.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will the Government take some substantial share in it?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: When the claim is preferred that will have to be considered.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Resolution moved:

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to represent to His Majesty's Government the desirability of setting apart a colony for the emigration of Indians.”

The Question is:

“That this Resolution be adopted.”

The Council divided:

AYES—9.

Banerjee, the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra.	Jagdish Prasad, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.
Barua, the Honourable Srijut Heramba Prosad.	Mehrotra, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad.
Chari, the Honourable Mr. P. C. D.	Ram Saran Das, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.
Halim, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Hafiz Muhammad.	Suhrawardy, the Honourable Mr. Mahmood.
Hossain Imam, the Honourable Mr.	

NOES—27.

Basu, the Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar.	Menon, the Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir Ramunni.
Charanjit Singh, the Honourable Raja.	Miller, the Honourable Mr. E.
Chetti, the Honourable Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami.	Mitchell, the Honourable Mr. D. G.
Choksy, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Dr. Sir Nasarvanji.	Noon, the Honourable Nawab Malik Mohammad Hayat Khan.
Crosthwaite, the Honourable Mr. H. S.	Padshah Sahib Bahadur, the Honourable Saiyed Mohamed.
Devadoss, the Honourable Sir David.	Parsons, the Honourable Sir Alan.
Fazl-i-Husain, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir.	Philip, the Honourable Mr. C. L.
Gladstone, the Honourable Mr. S. D.	Ray of Dinajpur, the Honourable Maharaja Jagadish Nath.
Hafeez, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul.	Raza Ali, the Honourable Saiyid.
Hallett, the Honourable Mr. M. G.	Russell, the Honourable Sir Guthrie.
Hidayatallah, the Honourable Sir Ghulam Husain.	Stewart, the Honourable Mr. F. W.
Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga, the Honourable Maharajadhiraja Sir.	Stewart, the Honourable Mr. T. A.
Lumby, the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. R.	Ugra, the Honourable Rai Sahib Pandit Gokaran Nath.
	Wingate, the Honourable Mr. R. E. L.

The Motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad has given notice of his intention not to move his Resolution* today. We will now proceed with the Resolution† of the Honourable Sardar Shri Jagannath Maharaj Pandit.

(The Honourable Member was absent.)

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The next Resolution is of the Honourable Pandit Prakash Narain Sapru. I hold that his Resolution

* "This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that income-tax be levied in the case of house property on the actual income derived by the assessee and not on the annual letting value of the property, and that for this purpose the income-tax law may be suitably amended if necessary."

† "This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the inferior servants in the departments under the control of the Central Government be made eligible for pension equal to half their emoluments as defined in the Civil Service Regulations."

is not barred by the Resolution of the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam and my reason for holding so is that Mr. Hossain Imam's Resolution was not of a limited character, it referred to an exclusive colony for Indians in any part of the world, while the Honourable Mr. Sapru's Resolution refers to a distinct matter regarding the steps to be taken in accordance with the spirit of the Cape Town Agreement of 1932. It is a matter which is admissible for discussion. I fully realise the objection of the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali and I do feel that some of the arguments advanced in discussing the Resolution of Mr. Hossain Imam will be repeated in the discussion of this Resolution. At the same time I am not prepared to hold that this Resolution is barred.

RESOLUTION RE REPORT OF THE COLONISATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT PRAKASH NARAIN SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to move the following Resolution :

"In view of the fact that the recommendations of the Indian Colonisation Enquiry Committee appointed by the Union Government of South Africa do not serve the interests of the Indians resident there, this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to press the Union Government to take adequate steps, in accordance with the spirit of the Cape Town Agreement of 1932, to secure the advancement of the Indians residing in South Africa."

I am asking in this Resolution the House to say in clear terms that the Report of the Colonisation Committee is unsatisfactory and will not do and that the Government of India should now urge the Union Government to do all they can to enable our brothers in South Africa to develop along their own lines and make their distinctive contribution to the land of their adoption.

The circumstances which led to the appointment of the Colonisation Committee are no doubt within the recollection of the House. South Africa has never been able to reconcile herself to the presence of large numbers of Indians in the Union. The white races in South Africa have always regarded the Indian as an undesirable element and the Indian Government has always had difficulty in getting considerate treatment for men who have helped to build up the South Africa of today. The year 1927, however, represents a landmark in the history of the relations between South Africa and India for in that year as a result of the labour of the delegation which was headed by our distinguished Sir Muhammad Habibullah, the Union Government accepted the principle for which our countrymen there had been fighting, namely, that

"it was their duty as a civilised state to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of their population to the full extent of their capacity and that in the provision of educational and other facilities the considerable number of Indians who remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind other sections of the population."

We, on our part, recognised in that Agreement that South Africa had a right to use all just and legitimate means for the maintenance of western standards of life. It was further laid down that Indians who are prepared to conform to western standards of life should be helped by the Union Government to do so. The Agreement went on further to provide for a scheme of

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assisted emigration to India or other countries where western standards of life are not required. In other words option was to be given to those Indians who so wished to leave South Africa and go back to India under a scheme of assisted emigration. The Government of India bound itself, under the Agreement, to look after such emigrants on their arrival in India. In order to secure effective and continuous co-operation between the Government of India and the Union Government, the Union Government requested the Government of India to appoint an agent of their own. The two Governments were to watch the working of the Agreement, to some of the more important features of which I have invited the attention of the House, and to exchange views from time to time as to any change that experience might suggest.

It was really in pursuance of paragraph 7 of the Agreement that the deputation of which the distinguished Leader of the House was the head visited South Africa in the early part of 1932. That deputation met the representatives of the Union Government and exchanged with them views as regards the modifications that experience had suggested.

Experience of the assisted system of emigration had not been satisfactory. In the statement which was made on the 15th April, 1932, in this House as also in the Lower House, the position as explained by the Government of India was that

“ the possibilities of the Union scheme of assisted emigration to India are now practically exhausted owing to the climatic conditions of India as well as to the fact that 80 per cent. of the Indian population of the Union are now South African-born. As a consequence, the possibilities of land settlement outside India as already contemplated in paragraph 3 of the Agreement have been further considered. The Government of India will co-operate with the Government of the Union in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians both from India and South Africa in other countries. In this investigation, which should take place during the course of the present year, a representative of the Indian community in South Africa will, if they so desire, should be associated. As soon as the investigation has been completed the two Governments will consider the result of the enquiry ”.

The House will note that the only part of the Agreement of 1927, that was modified in 1932, was that which related to assisted emigration and the proposed exploration of the possibilities of land settlement outside India. The proposal that the possibilities of land settlement outside India should be explored merely carried out an integral part of the 1927 Agreement. In explaining the nature and scope of the Agreement the Government of India laid emphasis upon the fact that the 1932 Agreement in no way modifies the principle which the Union Government had accepted in 1927, namely, that it was their policy to do all they could, within the limits of their resources, to uplift the permanent section of their Indian population.

The House will also note that the Colonisation Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Union Government, in pursuance of the Agreement of 1932, to undertake a preliminary enquiry in South Africa for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of the colonisation scheme contemplated by the 1932 Agreement. As I have just pointed out, the possibility of emigration of South African Indians to countries other than India had been contemplated by the earlier Agreement of 1927. The representatives of the Government of India

found themselves faced with the position that the possibilities of the scheme of assisted emigration to India were exhausted. The Indian representatives had, therefore, to consider and agree to the possibility of a scheme of land settlement outside India being explored. The Government of India bound themselves, according to the Agreement, to this

“that they will co-operate with the Government of the Union in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians, both from India and from South Africa, in other countries”.

The Agreement, in short, proceeded upon the assumption that the possibilities of the scheme of assisted emigration were exhausted and that, therefore, it was necessary to explore the other alternative of land settlement outside India.

The Commission contemplated by the 1932 Agreement was a Joint Commission appointed by the two Governments. What the Union Government did was to appoint in the first instance a Committee of their own in South Africa in order, it was explained, to facilitate and expedite the work of the Joint Committee. I think the House will agree with me that the better course for the Union Government would have been to wait for the appointment of a Joint Committee. I know that the Committee are careful to emphasise that they are charged with doing some preliminary work, but it does strike one that it was not necessary to have a preliminary enquiry for this purpose. After all the data and material collected—which have been collected by the Committee—could easily be gathered from easily available works of reference and Government reports and public documents. The fact, however, remains that our Government acquiesced in the appointment of this Committee and that the section of South African Indian population represented by the South African Indian Congress decided to co-operate with the Committee on the assumption that it was the Government of India which was anxious to promote a colonisation scheme for the teeming millions of India and that the initiative in regard to this colonisation clause in the Agreement had come from the Government of India. To quote the actual Resolution of the South African Congress :

“The Congress agrees to co-operate with the Government of India and the Union of South Africa in the former's mission to explore outlets for colonisation in regard to our increasing population, provided that such co-operation on the part of the Congress is taken as inspired by patriotic motives and to ascertain whether there exist any good opportunities for South African Indians in the countries explored, and not on the scores of Indians being deemed undesirable in the Union or that the Indian population is to be reduced ; provided also that the assisted emigration scheme which formed part of the last Agreement is eliminated and that the Congress will be free to oppose as its policy”.

What, therefore, the South African Indian Congress contemplate is a scheme primarily undertaken by the Indian Government for the benefit of India's surplus millions in which South African Indians could take part and which the South African Government could accept as a substitute for assisted emigration to India.

The Committee say that the character of the colonisation scheme contemplated by the Agreement has been correctly interpreted by the South African Congress. Now I do not think that this is a correct statement of the position. I do not think that the Government of India—and the Leader of the House will correct me if I am wrong—

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has ever been anxious to promote a colonisation scheme for Indians. I do not think the suggestion emanated from the deputation of which the Leader of the House was the head. I think we may credit the Government of India with some knowledge of its own limitations. It is a subordinate branch of His Majesty's Government. The people of this country have yet to win the independence of their own government. Our experience of colonisation experiments carried on under the control of the Colonial Office has not been happy. It would be grotesque for India which has not yet achieved her own independence to aspire to rule other people or to build up a larger India in other lands. What really appears to have happened is that the Union Government were anxious to find a substitute for their scheme of assisted emigration and that the Government of India agreed to explore the possibilities of such a scheme, in order primarily to benefit the South African-born Indian. The initiative was to be taken by the South African Government and the Government of India merely undertook to co-operate with that Government in any enquiry it might undertake in this matter.

To proceed further, the Committee endeavours to define in the first part of their report the character of the colonisation scheme which is to be explored. After pointing out the forms it might take they go on to observe that

“it is natural that India should aspire to find beyond her own shore a colony where the energies of her more adventurous citizens could be expended in building up a free and independent community and that, therefore, the scheme adopted now should contemplate the continued growth of a new settlement and the possibilities of the ultimate colonisation of a considerable area possibly of a whole territory or territories”.

Further on they observe that

“The objective visualised in the Round Table Conference agreement is the foundation and establishment in some undeveloped territory, under proper control and with adequate financial support, a purely Indian colony. As the basis of this colony would be land settlement a sufficient tract would have to be acquired as a first step, either by the colonising governments or by private corporations appointed by them. Although such a colony would begin on a small scale the prospect of its inevitable growth and territorial expansion would always be kept in view by its founders. In a settlement of this nature where the majority of the new colonists would be Indian peasants many others skilled in industry and commerce and administration would be required and it is reasonable to suppose that a place would be found for such South Africans as desired to take part”.

The question, then, which we have to ask ourselves is whether, assuming colonisation of the type indicated by the Committee is desirable, India and the Indian Government can at the present moment afford to launch upon schemes of this character? Now we know, Sir, that we are passing through a period of the intensest depression in the country. All classes have been hit hard by this depression, and we can hardly see the end of it yet. Our financial position can hardly be described as satisfactory. We have urgent social reforms to promote. It is essential that social services should not be starved. We have to usher in the social service state. One of the big problems for which we have to find a solution is, how to finance the social services! We are on the eve of constitutional changes which, whether they transfer power or not, are at least certain to involve us in heavy expenditure. We have not many expanding sources of revenue and it is not possible for us to go on adding to the burden of the Indian taxpayer indefinitely.

Let us just consider what a new scheme of colonisation will cost. I will let the Committee speak mostly for me. The Committee themselves point out what is involved in a colonisation scheme. I will quote from paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Report :

" The reference in the Round Table agreement to the possibilities of land settlement does not mean that only agriculturists who would actually work on the land would be acceptable as colonists. Your Committee is unable to take this narrow view. While land settlement would naturally form the basis of colonisation, as it has done all over the world, many auxiliary activities are absolutely essential. In the type of new colony indicated in the previous paragraph a land with potential but undeveloped resources, much pioneering would have to be done. Communications would have to be established, harbours found and developed, wharves built and all the necessary machinery of an organised industrial community created in order to avoid by effective planning the hardships and failures which have too often followed the unco-ordinated efforts of pioneers in the past. This effective planning would entail the selection of colonists in their home countries, their conveyance to the new country, and their equipment and settlement under conditions which would enable every male adult or head of a family to become a self-supporting citizen. It would include the organisation of marketing of all products of the new country ".

Again they go on to say that

" the objective visualised in the Round Table Conference is the foundation and establishment in some undeveloped or but little developed territory, under proper control and with adequate financial support, of a purely Indian colony ".

In a subsequent part of their Report, namely, paragraph 24, they go on to observe :

" The requisite land for settlement could be obtained by purchase, either from private owners or from the Government of the country selected. The purchase might be made either by the Government of India or by some colonising corporation approved by that Government. It is conceivable that a company might be formed for the purpose, to which extensive powers would be given by a special charter from the Indian Government. It is also conceivable that the sovereignty of the selected territory might be acquired by and transferred to the Government of India or a chartered company which, in such event, would have an entirely free hand in regard to schemes for settlement. As the territory would be undeveloped and sparsely peopled, the administration set up by the Government of India or chartered company would become the custodian of the rights of the aboriginal inhabitants and would be able to deal with all proprietary claims made by them ".

We may well ask, where is the money for all this colonisation to come from ? Is this the time to embark upon a scheme of this character ? Would it be right on our part to spend the taxpayers' money at a juncture like this on an enquiry into the conditions in North Borneo, New Guinea and British Guiana ? What is going to be the cost of this enquiry ? Can the Indian taxpayer bear it and ought he to be made to bear the cost of a roving commission of this character ? And where are the private companies and private capitalists who will be prepared to invest their money in an adventure of this nature ? These questions can only be answered in the negative, and we are left with the position that it is neither feasible nor desirable for us to waste any money over the Joint Committee contemplated by the Agreement. How can we who are not free in our country think of a colony ? Our Government is a subordinate branch of His Majesty's Government, and it is rather grotesque to suggest that we should at this state of our political evolution aspire to be a colonial power.

[Pandit Prakash Narain Sapru.]

I now pass on to consider the part of the Report in which the Committee discuss the suitability or otherwise of various possible countries for Indian colonisation. They start off by saying that

“ It is too late for India to become a competitor in colonisation with the Western Powers in the more settled parts of the world, and that the appropriate field for Indian colonisation must be sought in countries which are to a great extent in a premature state ”.

But seriously I do not understand this expression “ settled parts ” of the world. Some of these settled parts of the world are sparsely populated and there are large vacant spaces in them. There are undeveloped lands in these tracts.

It is not justice to deny to the Indian the opportunity to develop, for example, tropical Africa. He can use with force precisely the arguments by which western people justify their policies of peaceful penetration and exploitation of Asiatic countries. Why should the Indian be not permitted to develop undeveloped countries? What justification is there for ruling out the African belt as a possible field for Indian emigration? The products of these African lands are necessary to the welfare of the world, and if the African will not develop his territories somebody else must do it for him and the world. That is the argument which western races have employed in relation to Asiatic countries and it is not for them to pose as protectors of the “ native ” races in the African land.

After a process of elimination the Committee suggests (1) British North Borneo, (2) British New Guinea, and (3) British Guiana as countries in which further investigation as to the successful operation of a colonisation scheme might advantageously be made. Let us go to all these countries.

British Guiana has an area of 89,400 square miles and its population in 1931 was 313,619 persons, the density being $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per square mile. It is, as the House knows, on the shores of the South American Continent and the great majority of the people within British Guiana are settled in the coastal belt in the ten miles, the interior of the country being in a primitive state.

According to the Committee itself the country has

“ a bad record in the matter of health ” and they recognise that before “ any settlement on the unoccupied coasts or in the interior can be effected, it will be necessary as an initial step to take measures to institute adequate facilities and sanitary control and in the coastal belt to provide a supply of pure drinking water. No settlement in the coastal belt can be made until the land has been previously prepared for cultivation, for drainage, empoldering and irrigation, measures which from their nature would in the ordinary course lead to more healthy conditions ”.

The House is no doubt aware that in 1922 a deputation of the Government of India visited British Guiana and both the minority and the majority agree in this that they both find that British Guiana has a bad record in regard to sanitary conditions even for a tropical country, that the incidence of disease is high there and that the death rate too is high. Mr. Kealinge, in his report, further points out that the arrangements for domestic water supply and sanitation in the towns and villages and on the estates as late as 1922 were primitive and unsatisfactory and a constant menace to the health of the community. The colony has been hit hard by the economic depression and the

stagnation in sugar and rice industries, coupled with the depression, has created a good deal of unemployment as well as these.

The second country suggested is New Guinea in the East Indian Archipelago. The indigenous people of New Guinea have remained in a state of semi-savagery. New Guinea has an area of 320,000 square miles. Australia rules over one-half of the island and the other half is subject to Holland. The British portion of the island comprises the original British territory of Papua and the former territory of German New Guinea now mandated to the Australian Commonwealth. Apart from the existence of unhealthy and devitalising conditions in isolated village communities, the country is out of the question for the Committee itself points out that the Australian Government which has the mandate over the British portion is following a policy of exclusion of Asiatics. What chance is there of our being able to influence the Australian Government to change its policy? And surely the Indian Government can have no control over a territory under the mandate of another Dominion and the Committee themselves quote from Sir Herbert Murray, the Governor of Papua, and those quotations speak for themselves :

“ It is not likely that Australia, which had taken over the territory for strategic reasons, would immediately proceed to fill it with aliens, nor is it probable that supporters of the White Australia policy would welcome the congregation of a large number of Asiatics, even though they might be British subjects, within so short a distance of the Australian coast ”.

In another chapter of the same book he remarks :

“ There is no doubt, and I do not suppose there has ever been any doubt, that one could develop the territory much more rapidly, and much more completely, if coloured labour were freely admitted. We fully realise this, but we have, nevertheless, decided to sacrifice the present for the future, and to exclude alien labour, and the Commonwealth has agreed. We see that even with compulsory repatriation a considerable number of aliens would remain and would cause a race problem in the future ; and in addition, there is the objection, which appears to me conclusive, though officially it concerns me less directly, arising from the proximity of Australia, and the danger of immigrants crossing the comparatively few miles of intervening ocean. The principle of Asiatic exclusion is said to be narrow, and so it is, if patriotism and self-preservation are narrow ! The principle is doubtless a heavy handicap in the development of a new country, but we have shouldered it deliberately and we will carry it to the end ! ”

The same policy which prevails in Papua is now operating in the Mandated Territory, which in terms of the Mandate is administered under Australian laws as an integral portion of Australian territory. The Committee are themselves

“ forced to recognise that these territories cannot under existing circumstances be considered in connection with any scheme of Indian colonisation. It is, however, quite within the bounds of possibility that future political developments in the Far East and in the Pacific may lead to a change in the policy of the Commonwealth Government with regard to the exclusion of Asiatics from New Guinea, and with such a change it is not inconceivable that the establishment of a strong Indian colony in New Guinea might be welcomed. Your Committee, therefore, desires to direct the attention of the Joint Commissioners to this possibility ”.

The country which has really impressed their imagination as suitable for Indian colonisation is British North Borneo, the land of the savage head hunters and fishermen. The country is governed today by the British North Borneo

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Chartered Company which has as its quarters London. The share capital of the Company is £2,000, and over, and the £1 shares of the Company are quoted today on the Stock Exchange at 3s. 6d. The Chartered Company has failed to pay a dividend for some years and the Company has expressed a desire that the administration of the territory should be taken over either by the Raja of Sarawak or the Crown. The Committee therefore think that the Directors of the British North Borneo Company would be prepared to negotiate in regard to the transfer of the Sovereignty as a preliminary to the colonisation and development of the country by Indians. It has an area of 290,000 square miles; the area of the British Proletariat is 31,000 square miles; the country is unhealthy and malarious and there is tropical heat and copious rainfall. Population in 1932 was 32,272,287; density 8·71.

I will ask the House to remember that 8 per cent. of the South African Indians are colonial born. They are used to a certain climate and a certain standard of life. The Committee has nowhere stated what steps the Government of the Union will take to protect the interests of these South African-born Indians, should they desire to go to any one of these countries. Are they prepared to provide these intending emigrants with initial capital? Are they, as Mr. Sastri has persistently asked, prepared to step in at every stage to solve their difficulties and relieve their sufferings by advice, exercise of diplomatic influence and other such steps. The fact is that the Union Government looks upon the Indian as an undesirable element to be eliminated from the Union as quickly as possible and it is this viewpoint that colours and indeed dominates the report.

The view is often put forward that India with her alarmingly growing population needs colonies for her overflow population now. There are certain basic facts about Indian life which would be well for us not to overlook or ignore. The Indians are lacking in the migratory instinct; they are temperamentally a "stay at home" people; the Indian worker here has no standard of living and the hard struggle for existence which he has to face kills the spirit of enterprise in him and tends to produce a hopelessness of outlook symbolised by such expressions as *karma* or *kismet*. It is, in my humble judgment, all moonshine to imagine that the economic problems presented by India's growing population will be or can be solved by a policy of emigration. I do not say that there is no case for seeking an outlet for our expanding population, but I do wish to emphasise this that it is possible to overestimate the value of colonisation as a means of solving India's economic problem, and that that problem for its solution required more planned effort at industrial and economic development than colonisation.

Let me now proceed to another part of my argument. Is there any necessity for colonisation in South Africa which is itself a young country with a population which it can well support? The Committee has not shown that there is any congestion in South Africa or that the Indian population, provided the White South Africa policy is modified, cannot get adequate employment in South Africa itself. Unemployment is a problem not peculiar to South Africa and yet of the four provinces of which the Union is composed, Natal has

the largest Indian population. The Indian population there, according to a rough estimate, was 163,400 as against 177,449 Europeans in Natal. In the Transvaal the Indian population number only 15,500 as against 696,120 Europeans. In the Cape we have only 6,500 Indians and the Orange Free State has only 100. Now it is urged by the Committee that the avenues of Indian employment are gradually closing and that

“ economic pressure which is now throwing the Indian more and more on his own resources would sooner or later compel him to seek fresh avenues of occupation either in Natal or elsewhere ”.

Now, the plain truth of the matter is that the avenues are closing because of the White South Africa policy. The Committee themselves admit that the white labour policy is a factor or as we should say the principal factor against the Indian settler. But despite all this economic distress to which the South African Indian is subject, he has no desire to leave South Africa (see the evidence of Mr. Young) and the Committee state that both the South African Indian Congress and the Colonial-born Settlers Indian Association of Natal have expressed their determination to oppose any scheme of colonisation for South African Indians. The South African Indians feel that with their western standards and the process in this respect has gone far—they will find it hard to fit into the communal life of Indian colonists from India. The Committee are unable to indicate what proportion of Indians will be willing to take part or participate in a scheme of this character. This was a point emphasized by the Agent, Sir Maharaj Singh, and it is admitted by the Committee. Such evidence as there is indicates that Indians will not be willing to take part in such a scheme. There is therefore no evidence that South African Indians would be ready to join any scheme of colonisation. There is no demand for such a scheme on their part. Indeed, the feeling, as the Committee itself recognises, is against colonisation among South African Indians both because the restrictions to which they are subject induce them to remain in South Africa and fight those restrictions and the feeling that with their western standards they will find it hard to fit into the communal life of Indian colonists. The authoritative organs of South African opinion have expressed their emphatic protest against schemes of colonisation and in the case of one of the countries suggested by the Committee, namely, British Guiana, the Committee itself say that

“ there is a steady prejudice among South African Indians ”.

We are entitled then to ask, who wants colonisation? The South African Indians who must be supposed to understand their interests do not want it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Will the Honourable Member now close his remarks?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT PRAKASH NARAIN SAPRU: Two minutes more, Sir.

The Government of India does not—I am speaking subject to correction by the Leader of the House and on the authority of the Agent to the Government of India—want it. The fact is that it is the European settlers who want it. They want to get rid of the Indian. They had use for him once. They have

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no use for him now. Well, I say this is not playing the game, and we have to state clearly that we can not agree to the proposition that the South African Indian should have no lot or part in South African life.

I have endeavoured to show to the House that the recommendations of the Committee offer no solution of the Indian problem because their basic assumption is that Indians are an alien element who must be somehow made to leave South Africa. We here in this country can not accept that proposition for a moment. The position which the Union Government must face frankly is that both assisted emigration and colonisation outside India are now out of the question. The possibilities of assisted emigration are exhausted, and colonisation, as I have shown, is impracticable. They have no fear of any further immigration from India. We accepted the principle in 1918 that the several parts of the British Commonwealth have a right to control the composition of their population and I am not raising any question as to that. South Africa has no danger of annihilation by hordes of Indians. There is no question of fresh immigration to South Africa. But surely those who have helped to make the South Africa of today, those who are colonial-born, those who have helped to build up South Africa—they have a right to a fair deal? The Union Government should be urged to recognise these Indians as a permanent part of their population and do what it can to promote their welfare so that they might become, what we all desire them to become, good South Africans. And when they do become good South Africans our interest in them will cease except perhaps culturally. But until such time as South Africa refuses to recognise its duty in this respect, it is necessary that our Government should in regard to this matter at least act as a national Government. The task begun in 1929 has to be completed and while some progress has been made since that day in the matter of provision of educational and other facilities much more remains to be done. Acts and Ordinances have been passed—I am referring to the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance of 1931—which violate the spirit of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927. The Union Government constitutionally is in a much stronger position in dealing with its provinces than the Federal Governments of Australia or even for the matter of that Canada and surely these Provincial Councils which have but limited power should not be allowed by the Union Government to go against either the letter or spirit of a declaration solemnly made by them in 1927. I hope the Leader of the House will take a firm line in regard to the issues raised by the enquiry under discussion and do all he can to urge the Union Government to implement in letter and spirit their undertaking of 1927.

Sir, with these words, I move the Resolution.

The Council then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.

The Council reassembled after Lunch at a Quarter to Three of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The debate on Mr. Sapru's Resolution will now be resumed.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That before the words 'to take adequate steps' the following words be inserted, namely:

- 'to appoint another committee with adequate representation of the Indians and'."

Sir, I would not have moved this amendment but for the fact that from the speech of the Minister of the Interior of the Union Government of South Africa when appointing this Committee I find that this Committee, which had absolutely no representation for India was a departmental committee and was appointed with the approval of the Government of India. When appointing this Committee (on page 21) he said:

"It is further proposed that when the Committee has completed its work, the conclusions arrived at by it should be transmitted to the Government of India with a view to their collation with such proposals as that Government may decide to make, as a basis of the work of the Commission to be appointed jointly to conduct the final investigation, in terms of the Report of the 1932 Round Table Conference. These proposals have been discussed with the Government of India, and I am glad to say that it has expressed its concurrence therewith".

So, Sir, when the Government of the Union of South Africa was going to appoint this departmental committee it took the approval of the Government of India as shown by his speech. Sir, the object as I take it for appointing this departmental committee was that they may place facts and figures as may be best suited to them. This has been very eloquently expressed by the mover of the Resolution and I do not want to repeat his arguments. Sir, the findings of the Committee has been set forth on page 19 and run as follows:

"It appears to your Committee that (1) British North Borneo, (2) British New Guinea, and (3) British Guiana, are countries in which further investigation as to the successful operation of a colonisation scheme might advantageously be made, and your Committee, therefore, recommends that the attention of the Joint Commissioners should be directed to those countries in the order mentioned".

Sir, later on they have excluded British New Guinea and have confined themselves to British North Borneo and British Guiana. They have also appended a note about these portions of the country from which we find that these tracts are full of forest, mountains and valleys, and their climate are unsuited to the Indians living in South Africa. This fact was also brought to the notice of the Committee in his evidence by Sir Maharaj Singh, the Agent to the Governor General. He has further explicitly said that these places are impracticable and should not be accepted for the removal of the surplus population of the Indians in South Africa. So, Sir, what we want is that according to the spirit and letter of the Cape Town Agreement, 1932, a Joint Committee of Indians and representatives of the Government of the Union of South Africa should be appointed who may go through the question afresh without taking into consideration the recommendations of this Report, without having as any basis for their consideration what has been reported by this Committee and as settled in that Agreement they may try to obtain all the privileges for the South African Indians.

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution as amended by me.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Amendment moved:

"That before the words 'to take adequate steps' the following words be inserted, namely:

'to appoint another committee with adequate representation of the Indians and''

The debate will now proceed simultaneously on the original Resolution as well as on the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution—

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : As amended ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It is not amended yet.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I will say afterwards whether I support the Resolution or the amendment. The position at present is that this Resolution has been brought forward with the specific object of concentrating attention on the fact that the panacea suggested by the Committee is not applicable to South African Indians. As far as that issue is concerned we are all agreed that this is not a cure for the troubles of Indians. The duty of the South African Government is firstly to give to the Indians the position which they deserve as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is only as a subsidiary point that the question of a colony for South African-born Indians arise. From the Report of the Committee I find that 182,280 persons were born in South Africa from Indian settlers. Out of this, Sir, about 38,000 are dead which leaves us with something like 144,000 Indians and the population in South Africa at the present moment of Indians, is only 147,516. So we find that the actual population in South Africa is almost the same as that of those who were born there, although a number of them have gone back to India. Their number, according to their own figures, is about 38,000 all told. The idea of having a colony which my Honourable colleague objected to of treatment of Indians in South Africa is that it is not the right way of solving the question. We think, Sir, that it is shelving the question to build it up on the basis of a colony. The Government of India should take steps, and the South African Government should not get rid of the persons whom they regard as undesirable. Secondly, Sir, I quite agree with my Honourable colleague Mr. Mehrotra that if the spirit of the Agreement of 1932 is to be kept up, the Commission that is sent ought to consist of representatives of the Government of India as well. We never contemplated a one-sided enquiry into this question and we are not bound by its Report.

With these words, Sir, I support the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member) : Sir, with your permission, may I first congratulate the Honourable the mover of this Resolution, Mr. Sapru, on his able speech which was in every way an excellent speech, if I may say so. (Applause.) It showed that he had studied this difficult problem with some care and that although this is a problem the study of which cannot help exciting certain strong feelings in the mind of every Indian who studies it, still he has

given expression to his views in language which was dignified and sober and restrained. It is such language that helps the cause and does not weaken it.

As to the Resolution itself, Sir, Government's position is this. We have received the Report but it is not a Report of the Committee contemplated in the Agreement of 1932. That Committee was to consist of representatives of the Union Government as well as of the Government of India. This is merely a departmental report, prepared for the use of the Committee contemplated by the Union Government, in case the Union Government desire that the Committee be appointed. In case that contingency arises, Honourable Members may rest assured that it will be our desire to place those people on the Committee who are in every way fit to discharge the onerous duties which the difficult subject will involve. What is the view of the Government of India on this Report? The reply to this question is that the Government of India has not yet formulated its views on the Report. The Government of India is waiting to see all the expressions of public opinion, not only in India but also in South Africa, on the Report. We have got a mass of opinion expressed in India. We have had the benefit of advice from those Indians who have studied this question for long and who can speak on the subject with considerable authority. We have seen comments in the South African Press on this Report. But we are waiting to see whether there are any more expressions of opinion before we formulate our views. In any case, those who have dealt with the subject for any length of time realise that it is one of those subjects which are most difficult to deal with and a few weeks' delay this way or that does not really make any difference. It is true, as I have said, that the Government of India has formed no opinion as to the merits of this Report. But it is obvious that if the views contained in this Report are to be adopted, it will be extremely difficult to start the scheme even if the Government were convinced of its feasibility. Our resources are very, very limited. We all know that South Africa is blessed with many gold mines, but apparently they have many uses for those gold mines other than supporting colonisation for Indians. However, that is only a passing reflection. I can assure the House that such expressions of opinion as I am fortunate to get during the course of this debate will be most carefully studied by me and by my Department with a view to derive the utmost help that we can from them in formulating our views. More than that I cannot say.

As regards the amendment, of course as far as the terms of the Agreement of 1932 are concerned, such a Committee is provided for and if there is to be such a Committee, it also lays down expressly that it will have representatives of the Indian Government on it. Therefore, I can say that to that extent the amendment is in order and good but I cannot say that the sentiments expressed by the mover of this Resolution are at one with the sentiments expressed by the mover of the amendment. One would like that that the Committee business should not be conducted any further, as it is not likely to give any good results. The mover of the amendment thinks that we had better go on to the bitter end and see what further help the Committee may be able to afford. There is considerable force in both the positions and I am mentioning the distinction between the two in order to make it clear that there is a distinction.

[Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

One point more, Sir, and I am done. It is that efforts should be made to improve the conditions of Indians in South Africa.

3-5 P. M.

That is a subject on which I am glad to be able to say, and I trust the House will agree with me, that Government's policy has been entirely what may be called a national policy. There has been no difference of opinion between public opinion and the Government of India's opinion. Further, when we have sent delegations to South Africa, we have been very much impressed by the desire of quite a large number of Members of the Union Government to help the Indians as far as possible. You may ask, if so, why has so little been achieved by the Government of India's efforts and by the efforts of the Union Government's Ministers? It is a very legitimate question to put to me, but from what I say to you you will realise that the reply is quite simple. The position of the Union Government is, "We are a responsible Government; can we go against public opinion in our country"? That is one statement. The second statement is, "Much to our regret public opinion in our country, that is, in the Union of South Africa, is not what it ought to be; it is narrow; it is from the Indian point of view selfish; we want to educate that public opinion; we want them to rise above that narrowness and selfishness so that they may take their stand on a higher level and mete out much better treatment to Indians than at present they get." But they say, "You must help us in achieving that object". I ask them, how? They say, in two ways. The first is that now and then your men should come to our country, meet people here, deliver lectures and educate them in this matter. And they have assured me that the effect produced by the visits of men like the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Sir Kurma Reddi, and those people who were good enough to accompany me on the delegation or accompany my predecessor when he went on delegation, has been immense. Every week I am in receipt of letters from our Agent saying what a tremendous effect so far as social life is concerned has been produced during the last four or five years. I am mentioning this not to show you that anything substantial has been achieved. Nothing of the kind. Nobody is more conscious than myself of the very little that is to our credit. But, at the same time, I cannot conceal from myself nor from you the difficulties of the position. I tell them, on the other hand, "Well, I realise your difficulties, but just as your people are selfish and look at the thing from their point of view, my people are also looking at this problem from their point of view; they find your excuse altogether inadequate; they think that the matter is so simple that with your influence over your people you should have been able long before now, not to give to the Indians all that they desire and deserve, but at all events a much greater measure of advance than has fallen to them." Well, there we stand. They have their point of view; I have my point of view. We are, well, not at one. The effort to improve the position must continue. There is hope that civilised world opinion will one day be mobilised to overcome these racial prejudices, these narrow-minded selfish desires. We ourselves are faced with much the same spirit. We have seen how when one province or another is better situated in some particular than others, it is unwilling to share its good things with the rest of India. You cannot expect other people to be ready to be

self-sacrificing. Still, as I say, it is work as a constructive line which must be carried on with perseverance and vigour and I assure you that the Government of India is as anxious as it has ever been to pursue that struggle in the best interests of Indians overseas. (Applause.)

*THE HONOURABLE PANDIT PRAKASH NARAIN SAPRU: Sir, the Honourable Mr. Mehrotra's amendment would in fact negative my Resolution. I wish to make it quite clear that I do not want another Committee to be appointed. There is no case really for any further enquiry. The preliminary enquiry shows that the colonisation scheme suggested by the preliminary enquiry is an impossible scheme and that, at any rate, in the present financial circumstances, we cannot finance a scheme of that character. Now, Mr. Mehrotra's point is that under the Agreement we are bound to appoint a Joint Commission. Well, the answer to that is that it was for the Union Government under that Agreement to take the initiative in this matter. Why should we at this stage raise any question as to any Commission? If the Union Government wishes the matter to be pursued further, if the Union Government wishes a further enquiry to be made, then it is for the Union Government to take the initiative and ask us to consider the desirability of our associating ourselves with them. I do not wish our Government to go back upon the Cape Town Agreement. I do want the Union Government to stick to that Agreement and I would have my Government also stick to that Agreement. But it is under that Agreement for the Union Government to take the initiative and, therefore, we should not at this stage raise any question as regards the Joint Commission.

Sir, I am very grateful to the distinguished Leader of the House for the very kindly reference that he has made about me and I thank him for it. He had stated that the Government of India has not formed any final views as regards the merits of this Report, but he has also indicated, as any careful listener can discover, that it will be extremely difficult for the Government of India to launch upon a scheme of this character. He has also indicated that our resources are limited and that his sympathies really are with this Resolution. He has said that the Government of India, so far as the question of Indians abroad is concerned has, in the past, acted as a national Government. Well, that is true to a certain extent. There have been occasions when the Government of India has been overruled by Whitehall, but I do not think that we can legitimately blame the Government of India for anything that Whitehall does in regard to this matter. He has also pointed out that public opinion in South Africa is not what it ought to be. Ministers who have to serve under a system of responsible Government cannot go further than they are allowed by public opinion. But the point is: Are the Ministers there guiding public opinion in this matter in the right manner? No doubt, they can be helped by deputations from India. Mr. Sastri, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Sir Kurma Reddi, the Honourable the Leader of the House, Mr. Bajpai, Sir Darcy Lindsay, the gentlemen who have visited South Africa on our behalf have all rendered distinguished services and it may be that if some more distinguished men are asked to go there our relations will improve. The Dominion statesmen should try to appreciate our point of view also, and this is all that I wish to say in regard to this aspect of the matter.

[Pandit Prakash Narain Sapru.]

Sir, I have nothing further to say. I do not think in view of the line that I have taken in my Resolution that I would be justified in accepting the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Mr. Mehrotra.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: May I ask in view of what the Honourable Leader has said you propose to press your Resolution to a vote?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT PRAKASH NARAIN SAPRU: Sir, I do not propose to press it to a vote. I should like the report of the proceedings to be communicated to His Majesty's Government.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Yes, of course.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Therefore the amendment necessarily falls through.

Mr. Sapru has got another Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT PRAKASH NARAIN SAPRU: That was an alternative.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: In any case you could not move two Resolutions on one and the same day.

RESOLUTION *RE* INDIANS IN BURMA.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. D. CHARI (Burma: General): Sir, I move the Resolution which stands in my name and which runs as follows:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to urge upon His Majesty's Government to secure to the Indians in Burma in the future constitution of Burma adequate safeguards on the lines recommended by Mr. Harper, the European representative, and the Indian delegates from Burma who sat with the Joint Select Committee and to secure to the Indians in Burma the rights of citizenship and the rights to carry on trade, profession or occupation on the same footing as are enjoyed by any other British subject."

Sir, I may be excused if I digress a bit and let the Council know the extent of the interest which Indians have in Burma. The Indian population in Burma is roughly 1½ millions out of a total population of 14 millions. In other words, the Indian population is roughly 9 per cent. of the total population. Indians have been mostly responsible for the development of the resources of Burma and agricultural Burma today owes its present state mainly to Indian enterprise, to Indian labour and to Indian capital; and apart from the vested interests which Indians have in the country in the shape of lands and buildings, which run into tens of crores of rupees, Indians have built up trade and industry no doubt with the help rendered by the European commercial community, which makes their position second in importance to none of the communities in India. In agricultural landed interests, in matters of industry and trade, Indians occupy a very prominent place and the position of Burma as a part of India for such a long time has enabled Indians also to build up not only their own prosperity but the prosperity of Burma. In these circumstances my Resolution requests the support of the House in my claim to see that Indian interests in Burma in future do not suffer.

I may shortly refer to the safeguards which are intended to be given in the future constitution of Burma. There is a general safeguard in matters of residence, carrying on any trade, profession or occupation and a right to employ servants or agents in Burma. That is a general safeguard and it is proposed to have a statutory restriction on the powers of the Legislature to enact laws to discriminate on the ground of caste, race, religion, descent, or place of birth. That is a general safeguard which is sought to be made applicable in the case of British subjects. Now there is another safeguard which is proposed in the case of subjects of the United Kingdom and that safeguard is for free right of entry into Burma, free right to hold property and the safeguard against any discrimination as regards taxation, residence, travel, carrying on trade or engaging servants or agents. But this safeguard which applies only to United Kingdom British subjects is not intended to be applied in the case of Indians. Three reasons are given by the Secretary of State for making this distinction. The reasons are that there is a fairly large portion of the population of Burma which consists of labourers, agricultural and industrial labourers, who do not make Burma their home but who go and stay there a number of years and then come back to India and then they go to Burma and back like that. The Burman, it is suggested is ousted from wage-earning by the Indian lowering the standard of wage and it is regarded as an imperative necessity to raise the standard of living in Burma. It is not necessary to refute this allegation for the purpose of this Resolution and I would be quite content if a power which is sought to restrict only labour immigration is sought to be given to the Burma Legislature. If the Burma Legislature is allowed to make laws to restrict the immigration and emigration of labour or to impose conditions for the purpose there cannot be much objection. Taking this as an excuse what the Secretary of State proposes in his memorandum is that in the case of Indians a power is to be given to the Burma Legislature in the future constitution to impose restrictions or to impose conditions on the right of free entry and other rights of Indians in general, not only in the case of labourers but in the case of middle and upper class people as well. That is the first distinction sought to be made and I have given the reason for it. The second restriction which the Secretary of State proposes to allow the Burma Legislature to enact is this. It is said that the Indian money-lenders have been operating on so vast a scale that a large portion of the property, paddy lands, have come into the hands of these money-lenders. This is not quite accurate but it is not necessary for me to refute the allegation at present. Assuming it to be true, the position is this. The Secretary of State proposes to allow the future Burma Legislature to enact laws to prevent lands passing from agriculturists to non agriculturists. Well, agriculturists have been defined in certain enactments as persons who are connected with or who are directly or indirectly employed in agriculture. Mr. Harper in his memorandum points out that the Burma paddy crop has been for many years financed by the Indian money-lenders and it is very difficult to say that the Indian money-lenders who are mainly responsible for the paddy crop are not directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture. Well, that being the case and agriculture deriving its sustenance from these people who cannot all be described as money-lenders because they are really financing the paddy crop, the power that is proposed to be vested in the Legislature to make land alienation laws which will prevent lands from passing from the indigenous agriculturists to the Indian non-agriculturists—in the first place the remedy

[Mr. P. C. D. Chari.]

proposed is not likely to be effective, and in the second place the value of the lands are likely to fall when a restriction is imposed on alienation and the Council may be aware that several crores of rupees have been loaned out by the Indians to their agriculturists in Burma—Rs. 80 crores from the Madras Presidency alone—and the only security which the Indian has for this large loan to the agriculturist is in the shape of lands. And owing to the depression the Indians lost most of the securities as the land has considerably depreciated in value, and there is no prospect of their recovering even half of what they have invested. Under present conditions that is the case. If any restriction is imposed on alienation of land there would be hardly any chance for the Indians to recover any money which they have invested in Burma. That is the second restriction that is sought to be imposed. I make a claim on behalf of the Indians that they should not be treated differently from British subjects from the United Kingdom. In fact, Burma owes its prosperity largely to Indian enterprise and today Burma is a part of India and we have been enjoying the privileges and the rights of free entry. If the rights of the Burman labourer are to be safeguarded there are several ways in which it can be done besides preventing any immigration of labour from India. Why make an invidious distinction and allow the Burma Legislature to make discriminative laws against the entry of Indians. I must take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Harper, the representative of the European community in particular and of the European commercial community in general, for the great interest they have taken and for fighting our cause in pointing out this invidious distinction. At page 76 of his memorandum Mr. Harper says :

“ While I agree that it is not reasonable to compel Burma to accord treatment to a part of the British Empire which does not accord that same treatment to Burmans, it is not clear why those countries in the British Empire which do not discriminate against Burma should be treated on parallel lines with countries which do, rather than with the United Kingdom which does not ”.

This principle is based on reciprocity as between British subjects. On the same basis of reciprocity I ask why should not the same privilege be given to Indians ? In raising this point, I am not only fighting for the rights of Indians in Burma but for the rights of Indians in India as well. I want to make that clear because if at the outset we are denied this right of free entry serious consequences are likely to ensue. As the Indian delegates have pointed out in their memorandum, the Indians, although they have been settled in Burma for a long time, have got their business and family connections in India. They have to come at longer or shorter intervals to India and if this principle of discrimination is enforced there is a possibility of its being enforced against people who are really Indians living in Burma or the children of those people who might have come to India in connection with their family affairs or their business interests. The hardship which these people would be subjected to can be easily realised. Then take another instance. It is well known that several Indian communities in Burma go to India for the purpose of marriage. In the case of a person domiciled in Burma, who marries in India, if this right of free entry is denied, you can easily imagine the husband or the wife would be effectively prevented from joining the wife or the husband in Burma. I can multiply instances to impress upon you the necessity of our doing all we can to see that this discriminatory

power is not given to the Burma Legislature. And we are all aware that there is a certain section and particularly one party which is anti-Indian and we find from the memorandum submitted on behalf of some of these parties by the Burma Members after this proposal was submitted to the Select Committee that they are very anxious to have these powers. They are very anxious to have some way of discriminating against Indians of all classes though the reason given would apply only in the case of Indian labourers. And then there are certain remedies proposed. There are other discriminations that are contemplated. For instance, I have given the instance of the power of the future Burmese Legislature to enact laws restricting land alienation. That is one thing. Then one other power is sought to be given to the Burma Legislature which would work a great hardship on Indians. It is provided that in times of emergency with the previous consent of the Governor the Legislature would have the power to enact laws which under ordinary circumstances would be invalid as being discriminatory against particular persons. There is no legislative provision that the Governor in exercising his special responsibilities will see that in withholding the previous sanction this power of the Burma Legislature of discrimination would be nullified. Our fear is that it is quite conceivable that the Governor, under political pressure or under threat of violence on a large scale as in the case of the Burma rebellion, may be inclined to give previous assent if the power is given as proposed. Mr. Harper also points out that it should be made quite clear in the Statute itself that this power of previous assent to discriminatory legislation should be of an emergency character for a short period only and that it should be specifically stated like that in the Statute itself. If this is not possible, it should be made specifically clear in the Instrument of Instructions to be given to the Governor. The circumstances under which, and the cases in which, assent may be given should be made clear and it should also be made clear that the discriminatory legislation should be in operation only for a few months or for a short period. Apart from the removal of distinction which is sought to be made in the case of Indians, which is unfair and iniquitous, between the United Kingdom British subjects and Indian British subjects, the Indian delegates have asked for certain reasonable safeguards. The first is to secure to the Indians domiciled in Burma—they are not asking for Indians in general—they apprehend and I believe the apprehension is quite justified from the way in which Indians are being kept out from public appointments—proper share of the public services and for safeguards to ensure the domiciled Indians securing a place in the public appointments; they want one of the Members of the Public Service Commission to be appointed from the minority communities. That is one of the safeguards which the Indian delegates wanted. Now, in Burma, even when it is part of India, we find it very difficult to have our vernacular education recognised, and even if recognised, it is very difficult to get the necessary sanction with the requisite number of teachers for getting proper grants. In the future Constitution, unless there is a specific provision made on the lines recommended in Proposal No. 85 at the end of the first Round Table Conference, we are afraid that our vernacular education is bound to suffer. Vernacular education is quite necessary for us because there may be occasions, and very frequent occasions, for Indians in Burma being sent out for education in India and we are anxious that the Indians in Burma should have their own culture and their own vernacular.

[Mr. P. C. D. Chari.]

For this purpose we want a provision like the one proposed in Article 85 of the Recommendations at the first Round Table Conference :

" It is agreed that the Act should provide that there should be no discrimination whether legislative or administrative, against any existing commercial interests ".

The minorities should be assured :

" an equitable share in the employment and application of the sums which may be provided from funds under the State or other budget for educational, religious and charitable purposes ".

We want that Indian education should be made one of the special responsibilities of the Governor. These are the elementary privileges which we are claiming as people who have built up Burma. It is not only in the interests of the Indians in Burma but also in the interests of the Indians in India that I am seeking your support. A weighty pronouncement by the Council of State in the form of a Resolution like this would help us in securing the safeguards which we want and which we regard as vital for our life as a community in Burma. I appeal to the Government to support me in having this Resolution passed. I am aware that the Leader of the House may tell me that the discussions will be forwarded to the proper quarters for consideration. But what I want is that the Select Committee before it frames its report should have the considered opinion of this House that there ought to be no distinction made between British subjects from the United Kingdom and British subjects from India. It is not too late. The proposals have been before the Select Committee and memoranda have been submitted by various delegates, and the Select Committee is still considering its report, and it is not too late to send in a Resolution like this for the consideration of His Majesty's Government. The Resolution, if passed, will carry very great weight with the Select Committee in time to prevent the mischief of discriminatory legislation being allowed to Burma, and it will also prevent a good deal of mischief which would otherwise result to the Indian community. We regard it as of vital importance to our very existence in Burma.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce) :
Sir, the desire underlying this Resolution must be one with which all Honourable Members have the fullest sympathy and I am sure His Majesty's Government as well as the Government of India will do everything to safeguard Indian interests in Burma under the new constitution. It seems to me however that the extent of success that is achieved in this direction must largely lie with Indians and Burmans themselves and not with the respective Governments and mutual good-will is what is required. On more than one occasion during the last session at Delhi I noticed that, both in this House and another place, statements were made as to what would be the correct attitude for the new constitution in India to take towards Burma if it was separated and some of the remarks indicated, in my opinion, a regrettable lack of the spirit of good-will. I may have been wrong but if not may I suggest that an opportunity is taken this session of a definite expression of mutual good-will and the desire for full

reciprocity. This would assist His Majesty's Government and the Government of India in protecting the interests of both Indians and Burmans.

I should like to add that it should be borne in mind that safeguards which might protect Indian interests might not be considered adequate for British industries in Burma which are largely in the form of fixed assets while Indian interests, excepting the present unfortunate position of the Chettis, are largely trading interests and liquid in nature.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution brought up by the Honourable Mr. Chari. I think an expression of opinion at this juncture will be very timely, as the Joint Select Committee is probably just finishing their Report and any considered opinion from this House would be of great value. Burma has benefited from Indian emigration a great deal, and especially through the commercial community, known as the Chetti community. Sir, the Chetti community alone have invested about 80 crores of rupees in advancing money during the agricultural season and against mortgages of land. The advances made by them to agriculturists in Burma is mainly responsible for the advanced position of Burma agriculturally. Sir, it is essential for Burma that the interests of Indians should be safeguarded. It is the money-lenders' investments in land which is responsible for Burma's sound position, and if alienation is restricted, I think a large number of Chettis will become bankrupts, and also people who have settled there and have been living there for years will be sufferers. Therefore it is nothing but appropriate that the interests of Indians settled there and doing business there should not be affected.

With these few words, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution that has been moved by the Honourable Mr. Chari. He has explained the position at some length. This House is well aware that in Burma there has always existed a certain amount of prejudice against Indians, for reasons into which I do not think I need enter at this stage. That has unfortunately strengthened very considerably during the past four or five years, in other words, ever since Burma has had a reasonable expectation of separating from India. The case has been brought fully to the notice of the House by the Honourable Mr. Chari, but there is just one small point about which my mind is not quite free from doubt.

The Honourable Mr. Chari pointed out that it was quite in the air that after the new constitution came into force the Burma Legislative Council might put restrictions on the alienation of land. Now, Sir, that is a question which Honourable Members would remember is by no means peculiar to Burma. The question became of vital interest in Northern India more than 30 years ago, and legislation putting very considerable restrictions on the alienation of land had to be passed in the Punjab about 30 years or more ago. The result naturally has been that the value of land has gone down. Still those who were responsible for this policy thought that it led to the greatest good of the greatest number. In recent years agrarian legislation, which aims at putting

[Saiyid Raza Ali.]

considerable restrictions on the right of alienation has been introduced into a number of provinces. No less than five Bills have been introduced in the United Provinces Legislative Council and I believe similar legislation has been introduced in other Provincial Legislatures. What I would like this Honourable House to consider is this. Suppose the attitude taken up by the Burma Legislative Council is this :

" We have a number of agriculturists and a number of landlords and we do not want the lands to pass out of the hands of those agriculturists and landlords into the hands of non-agriculturists and non-landlords, whether they be Indians or Burmans ".

If the Burmese take up that line, I am afraid we in India have not got a very strong answer to make. If, however, the legislation savours of anything like discrimination, if it is aimed at Indians as such, we have every right to protest very strongly and our cause is so strong and just that I have not the least doubt that His Majesty's Government will put a check on the desire of Burmans to have vengeance on Indians. But if that element of discrimination is lacking, if the Burma Legislature wants to treat Indians and Burmans in exactly the same manner, the position is different. If A advances Rs. 5 to B and hypothecates property worth Rs. 10,000 it should certainly not be open to A to bring that property worth Rs. 10,000 to sale in execution of a decree the principal amount of which was only Rs. 5. That is exactly what has happened in India. It does not matter whether the man who has advanced the money is a Burman or Indian as long as he is a non-agriculturist. If the Burma Legislative Council want to treat both races on an equal footing, I do not think we have a very strong case to urge. But if there is any case of discrimination we have a strong case. I raised this point because it is very important. We in India do not realize that putting restrictions on the alienation of land subjects the community at large to any very great disadvantage. No doubt there is a class that is hit and that is the money-lending class ; but the majority of people do not carry on a money-lending business ; the majority unfortunately borrow. Therefore in India surely a very strong case has been made out for putting on such restrictions and legislation on these lines has been introduced in most local Councils. I do not see on what valid grounds we can oppose this policy of the future Burma Legislative Council. But I certainly would like to put this point before the Council and call attention to it. All that I want is that there should be no discrimination. We do not want Indians to be put in a position of special favour and privilege as against Burmans, and I do not think that is what the House wants.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : I just wish to say a few words about this Resolution before the House. Our Party is in entire agreement with the Honourable mover and we all wish that there should be an open door policy in Burma for Indians. But we wish to safeguard our position, that our approval of this Resolution should not be taken as giving our implied consent to the separation of Burma. We are opposed to that and we shall ever be opposed to that. But we are not so foolish as not to take notice of what is going to happen in the future. We might protest, but we know it will be ineffective, and therefore we are enter-

ing our protest, and stating what should be the exact order of things in the future Burman constitution. We are in entire agreement with the mover as far as rights and liberties of Indians are concerned. This is all I have to say.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, as has been very rightly pointed out by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Resolution assumes separation of Burma. As a matter of fact His Majesty's Government have not arrived at any decision and the Secretary of State throughout his Memoranda that he has presented to the Joint Select Committee has consistently maintained the position that all this is contingent upon the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee that Burma shall be separated and confirmation of that recommendation by Parliament. Subject to that he has made certain proposals. As regards the subject-matter of the Resolution the Government of India naturally take the liveliest and keenest possible interest in the points raised in the Resolution. All the material that was available up till now was placed through the Secretary of State before the Joint Select Committee. I have not the slightest doubt that this matter has been threshed out by the Joint Select Committee and the Indian delegates who worked with the Joint Select Committee are aware of all the facts. What more can be done? We shall be very glad if more light is thrown on the subject to communicate at once to the Secretary of State such additional light as is thrown on the subject. As the mover of the Resolution pointed out, I told him before coming to the House that I shall be glad to communicate the debate upon the Resolution to the Secretary of State, so that if he feels that there is time still for the Joint Select Committee to tackle this matter they may do so. We must not forget the fact that we are in August now, the Committee has arisen and will not meet till October and we are looking forward to see the Report in October. It would not do to say, "It is all right". It may be or it may not be. Well, we may be in time, but it is not unlikely that we may not be in time. I would not conceal this fact from the House that the debate, the very important debate, perhaps is not in time; I am afraid not. Great stress is laid on Mr. Harper's memorandum but I find from the literature on the subject that is at my disposal that Mr. Harper's memorandum has been very carefully considered by the Secretary of State and that in the papers that are before the Joint Select Committee Mr. Harper's memorandum has elicited a great deal of interest on account of the proposals contained therein. So I have been trying to find whether there is something more that can be done by the Government of India in this matter and I must confess that I have not yet succeeded in finding what it is that Government can do to promote the object with which the Council and those who have spoken in support of the Resolution sympathise. Is there anything else that we can do, Sir? If so, we shall be glad to do it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: It is four o'clock now and under the Standing Orders we must proceed with the discussion of the adjournment motion, but as I understand that Mr. Chari's Resolution is of very great importance and there are many other Members desirous of speaking on it, his Resolution will be resumed after the adjournment motion has been discussed.

[Mr. President.]

I must point out to Honourable Members that under Standing Order 23 no speech, including the mover's, is allowed to exceed 15 minutes on an adjournment motion.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FROM PUSA TO DELHI.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhamadan) : Sir, I wish to move :

“ That the Council do now adjourn ”.

I do so to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proposed removal of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research from Pusa to Delhi. The calamity which befell Bihar is regarded as a national calamity by entire India. Sympathetic words were given to the people of Bihar, but to the Department of Education, Health and Lands it came as a godsend and it gave an opportunity to bring into effect their pet scheme which they were afraid of bringing forward in days of prosperity.

We are told, Sir, that the officers of the Imperial Services found life at Imperial Delhi to be something quite different from the life at Pusa. The attraction of Delhi was great and the social amenities of the capital were much better than that of Pusa. At the time of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, the proposal was placed by some interested persons that this Institute should be transferred from Pusa to somewhere near Delhi. The Commission which was decidedly not in favour of Pusa—it had put in a few words about its bad location—still could not support the idea that it should be shifted from its present site to a place near about Delhi and the Government's Memorandum No. 8150/34-A. candidly admits it. The Commission did not recommend its transfer after the expenditure of so much money on equipment and development. The only reply which the Department of Education, Health and Lands has given to us is that on account of the earthquake the buildings are estimated to require Rs. 7 lakhs to put them in repair. As far as the question of expense on repair goes, nobody can take exception but, Sir, there is a statement in the Memorandum to which we take very strong exception. It is this :

“ The subterranean disturbances caused by the earthquake make it impossible to predict with certainty whether the new buildings would be safe against subsidence of site levels involving fresh expenditure on repairs or over new construction ”.

I thought all along, Sir, and I was told so in the Council that the Government of India is one indivisible unit, but I find that the Department of Commerce is going to spend not Rs. 7 lakhs, but something like Rs. 70 lakhs in that very area which is said to be unsafe and therefore not fit to build any buildings on. The Railway Department is going to spend lakhs and lakhs of rupees in buildings. Why this change of policy between the one and indivisible? And then, Sir, the original estimate is Rs. 7 lakhs which is before the House. The doubt that I had in my mind that it may be exaggerated, has been confirmed by a

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note sent to us last night by Sir Guthrie Russell. I refer to the Report of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in which I find that the works in Jamalpur, which were estimated to cost Rs. 66 lakhs, have been brought down by the Chief Commissioner for Railways to Rs. 26 lakhs. That shows, Sir, that the original estimate was very exaggerated.

• THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL (Chief Commissioner of Railways): It is an entirely different scheme from the original one.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: That is exactly my point. A new scheme has been devised to do the same work as the Rs. 66 lakhs scheme. If you had looked into it and devoted your time to see how you could save money, the Rs. 7 lakhs could have been very easily reduced to Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 lakhs. Now, Sir, the curious memorandum that has been placed before us says:

“Rather than sink more money on the existing site, the Government of India consider the moment opportune, when money is cheap, to correct the original mistake, and to construct from loan funds at a total capital cost not exceeding Rs. 36 lakhs the Institute at a more central and accessible site which is available within 12 miles of Delhi”.

It fails to consider how Rs. 36 lakhs can be a smaller sum than Rs. 7 lakhs. Rs. 36 lakhs is being taken from loan funds. In the first place, Sir, this is rather an innovation. Up to now the system has been, Sir, that public utility works which do not give a return are financed from revenue heads and not from capital. With the exception of Imperial Delhi which has been constructed from loan funds, most of our public utility departments have been constructed from savings and revenue accounts. This time we are going out of that general rule simply because there is nothing available in the budget. The necessity was pressing according to the Department of Education, Health and Lands and money was not to be had. The Finance Member could not get Rs. 40 lakhs for nothing. So we had to fall back on the capital account. In estimating, Sir, the actual cost of the transfer the Government have not taken into account the interest which we would have to pay on the construction of this new Institute. That is a recurring charge with which we are going to saddle the finances of the Government of India and, Sir, I am very much afraid that, instead of leaving the thing on the plane of economics, people have tried to give it a colour of provincialism and if anybody is to blame, Sir, for this provincial bias I should say it is the three heads of this department concerned who belong to three provinces and look at the matter from a parochial rather than an all-India point of view.

Then, Sir, the statement has been made that one of the advantages of having the Institute near New Delhi is that research workers would come into contact with other experts. If, Sir, this is the reason for centralization, I hope, Sir, that they will abolish all the outlying stations. We have got an Institute at Bangalore, at Karnal, at Coimbatore, where research work is being done in certain subjects. Shall we shut down the doors of these research institutes because they are not central? Apparently, all the drawbacks of an unhealthy climate, insufficient rainfall and unproductive soil are as nothing to the advantage of a central position near the Imperial capital.

Now, Sir, we come to an interesting point. The Government said that on account of the transfer from one place to another the work will be so dis-

[Mr. Hossain Imam.]

located that for two years practically no work will be done. I will read the passage :

“ The expenditure on account of the transport of personnel and equipment from Pusa to the new site will, it is estimated, cost Rs. 2½ lakhs during the period of the move, which it is anticipated will cover a period of two years. This expenditure will be offset by savings in the normal budget of the Institute, as its activities at Pusa during the move will be rapidly restricted as the final stage approaches. There will, therefore, be no extra expenditure on this account ”.

We are promised, Sir, that there will be no extra expenditure because of the transfer. But out of Rs. 9 lakhs of ordinary budget we will save Rs. 2½ lakhs by curtailing its activities, so that for two years we will be spending Rs. 7½ lakhs without tangible results.

Added to all this, Sir, the fact must not be overlooked that in the period during which this Institute has been in existence it has done wonderful service. I do not think the department will say that this Institute has failed in its work or that it has lost anything by being located there. It has given to India many things which have added materially to its well-being and agricultural prosperity. I do not regard this as an opportune time, when Indian finances are in such a deplorable condition, for spending a pie more than necessary.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSAIN HIDAYATALLAH (Bombay : Nominated Non-Official) : Mr. President, I have heard with great interest the speech of the mover, Sir, who said he was not treating the question from a parochial point of view but all that I heard from him was nothing but insular considerations to retain the Institute of Agricultural Research at Pusa. I would request the Honourable Members of this House to take a detached view of the whole question and not look at it from the point of view of provincial benefits.

Sir, the first point that the Honourable mover urged against the removal of the Institute from Pusa to Delhi was the consideration of finance. He said that the buildings and the laboratory that have been completely ruined by the earthquake will require Rs. 7 lakhs more to rebuild, but if we move the Institute from Pusa to Delhi, it will cost nearly Rs. 36 lakhs. Then he urged another point. Why should the Government of India at this time spend the money out of capital and not out of the recurring revenues ? From the very little I know of finance, when you want to construct anything new, you require capital expenditure ; only for its maintenance you will resort to revenue. Taking for granted that Rs. 36 lakhs are required for building this Institute in Delhi, is it too large a sum of money ? The money is now very cheap. What will be the interest ? I do not think it will be over Rs. 1,20,000 a year on Rs. 36 lakhs. Is it worth while to spend that money for the purpose of having an Institute at Delhi where it will serve, as I will presently show, better results than at Pusa ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Is that a productive work, may I ask ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSAIN HIDAYATALLAH: Indirectly it is more productive than the productive works. Here experiments will be carried out which will benefit the whole of India which is considered an agricultural country. All the agriculturists will benefit by those experiments.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Are they not benefiting now ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSAIN HIDAYATALLAH: I will give my Honourable friend an example of the experiments that are being carried on at Pusa. In my part of the country, namely, Sind, which is purely an agricultural province, Pusa is known by its wheat only. You ask any agriculturist in Sind, who is interested in scientific agriculture, he does not know where Pusa is situate. Pusa is only known for its wheat, Sir. It is owing to the inaccessibility of Pusa that officers of Provincial Governments do not go there. Universities are out of touch with it, and those agriculturists who are interested in scientific agriculture never care to go there. Again, Sir, may I ask my Honourable friend the mover of this Motion whether irrigated crops could be grown in Pusa ? I am asking him about cotton. He cannot grow cotton in Pusa.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Cotton is being looked after by the Central Cotton Committee which has got more finance, more expert opinion, and more centralised research than Pusa can ever have.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSAIN HIDAYATALLAH: My point is, can you grow cotton in Pusa ? If you cannot grow it, how can you carry on experiments in cotton at Pusa ? My province is more agricultural and one of its main crops is cotton. Therefore, it is clear from the mover's reply to my question that he cannot grow cotton in Pusa. That clearly shows that Pusa is not a very ideal place for such an Institute where you cannot grow all sorts of crops. If you cannot grow all sorts of crops much less can you carry on experiments on those crops.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Can you grow jute at Delhi ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HUSAIN HIDAYATALLAH: I think in Pusa also you cannot. Now, Sir, Pusa is inaccessible. That is one of the grounds why officers of the Provincial Governments as well as the agriculturists who are interested in scientific agriculture have not taken advantage of it. It is now proposed to remove it to Delhi. Delhi is known all over the world. The peasant in Bihar or Bengal knows Delhi and the Institute is going to be concentrated near Delhi, which is a very central place because of railway facilities and other facilities of communication. The greatest advantage will be that we will have this Institute at a central place where the Council of Agricultural Research is also situate. People attending any of the meetings of the Council of Agricultural Research will have an opportunity of going and seeing this Institute. Further, my friends from Bihar and Orissa and Bengal have no cause for complaint. All the research sub-stations are not going to be abolished. We have them in the Deccan, in Sind, and all over India. So, they may retain one at Pusa or in Bihar or somewhere near. The removal to a central place like Delhi will benefit the greatest number of agriculturists who can see the demonstrations and the work here.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal : Muhammadan) : Sir, India is an agricultural country and the great majority of its population live on agricultural resources. Sir, the House will agree with me when I say that 95 per cent. of its rural population are directly and indirectly living on the land and are called agriculturists.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : 100 per cent.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : I think it is 95 per cent. If you read the *Gazeteer* of Sir John Strachie he says there 95 per cent.

Sir, the Government of India have, after careful consideration, come to the conclusion that it is in the interests of agricultural research in India to transfer the Central Research Institute from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi. Sir, as Providence had ordained, the earthquake has done enormous damage in Bihar and Orissa and to the buildings in Pusa.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : And great benefit for Delhi !

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : We cannot sit in judgment over Providence. It is estimated that it will take at least 10 years to rebuild the prosperous cities and towns of Bihar. Funds are necessary to repair these buildings, which is estimated at about Rs. 7 lakhs. Now, Government have come to the conclusion that it is best to spend Rs. 36 lakhs in building a new Research Institute in the neighbourhood of Delhi to develop the agricultural resources of this country. Research experts and agricultural experts support this removal to Delhi as the soil in its neighbourhood is best suited for scientific researches in agriculture.

(At this stage, several Honourable Members interrupted.)

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Order, order. Members will have a limited time and I would not like the Honourable Member to be interrupted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Sir, I thank you.

Sir, the Central Research Institute is for the benefit of all the provinces in India and not for the province of my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam alone. I am always with him when he is in the right but sentimental opinions are the result of a perverted mentality. The aims and objects of the Agricultural Research Institute is to do work for the benefit of the small peasantry landholders as well as for the benefit of rich landholders. Sir, I strongly support the move of the Agricultural Research Institute from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi in the interest of the teeming agriculturists of the country.

THE HONOURABLE NAWAB MALIK MOHAMMAD HAYAT KHAN NOON (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, the main question to be considered is, which is the more suitable site of the two ? My Honourable friend the mover of the Motion has hardly touched this point. He went on discussing the budgets and finances and economics of the country. But I would

beg to submit that first of all we must decide this point, as to which of the two sites is the more suitable. My friend has not given a single point in favour of Pusa. Well, there are so many authorities to show that Pusa is not suitable for such an all-India institution. (*An Honourable Member* : "Give us one instance!") I have the authority of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and others. We have to remember, Sir, that this is an Institute for the whole of India and not for any particular province. Leaving other aspects alone, this place Pusa is inaccessible to the people living in the major part of India. My Honourable friend, Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, will bear me out that cotton is the most important autumn crop in northern India, and that is a crop which cannot be successfully grown at Pusa and no experiments can be made in connection with it. Then as regards expenditure, what is an expenditure of Rs. 27 lakhs as compared with the importance of agriculture to the whole of India. A major portion of India's population depends on agriculture, and I would call this expenditure of Rs. 27 lakhs a paltry sum. In these days money can be had at cheap rates. There is another point to which reference has been made. We know that the old buildings of Pusa came to grief during the earthquake and now we cannot deny that Pusa lies in a tract which is liable to earthquakes. Is there any justification for running a risk and investing large sums of money on building when there is grave danger of the buildings again coming to grief through earthquakes? Bihar and Orissa will not be left without some local small institution required for local necessities of research. They have already had some big grants from Government and they are conducting researches on sugar-cane, and I am sure if they want more money they will get it for a small institution sufficient for their requirements. There are such institutions in the different provinces.

Sir, there are climatic difficulties, there is the inaccessibility of the place, there is the risk of earthquakes, and there is the difficulty of carrying out experiments on the more important crops. For these reasons, Sir, I do not see any justification for a proposal to oppose the shifting of the Institute from Pusa to Delhi. My Honourable friend said something about the calamity with which Bihar and Orissa has met. We have every sympathy with them in that and I think the whole of India has sympathised in a practical form by subscribing towards the Relief Fund. But this is a special case and we must consider it on its own merits and should not be influenced by sentimental reasons. Considering all these things I fully support the proposal that the Institution should be shifted from Pusa to Delhi.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce) : Sir, one must feel in sympathy with the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam in moving this Resolution, for he comes from Bihar and Orissa and no doubt the transfer of the Agricultural Research Institute must be felt by him and other residents in that area as a personal loss. It undoubtedly is, but as other speakers have already said this question must be considered from an all-India point of view and not from a provincial point of view. What is best for the country as a whole? I think it must be admitted that Pusa is not entirely the most suitable place for this Research Institute, the Linlithgow Committee and others who have studied the position have said so and I am prepared to accept that view as being correct.

[Mr. E. Miller.]

Having done this, what is the best action to take? Situation and cost are the two governing factors and I am prepared to accept that the site selected by the Government of India is suitably situated, therefore I support Government's proposal generally but I should like to make it conditional on the estimates being subjected to a rigid scrutiny with a view to keeping the capital cost of the new buildings, etc., as low as possible, commensurate with the installation of adequate equipment for the successful working of the institution. Also I wish to stress that when the estimates are submitted for sanction it must be clearly understood that the figures cover the total cost and that no demand will be made at a later date for a supplementary grant.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR SYED ABDUL HAFEEZ (East Bengal : Muhammadan) : The proposal of the Government to move the Pusa Institute to Delhi which is the most central place from all points of view is a laudable one, and as far as I can ascertain my province is also of the same opinion. Besides this the proposition is sound for this reason that it will not touch the Exchequer. The Government will perhaps spend money from the loan funds and the interest on that loan will be approximately about a lakh or so. The House will agree with me that this amount is not too heavy a sum if spent for bettering the lot of agriculturists of India as a whole. Coming from Bengal where my interests in agricultural lands is the biggest among the Muslims and which lies in at least seven districts, therefore my considered opinion is that the move will do immense good to the peasant class as well as to the land-owners, and I would earnestly request the House to support the Government.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the question of the transfer of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research from Pusa to Delhi should be regarded as a business proposition. We have heard a good deal about the enormous additional cost but it really amounts to this, that the difference in capital cost of a new institute at Delhi and the estimated cost of building a new laboratory at Pusa and of repairing the earthquake damage is a matter of Rs. 29 lakhs, which involves an annual charge of about Rs. 1½ lakhs—if we allow for its eventual amortisation. An extra lakh or so per annum is not a large amount to pay for the improvement of India's greatest industry or a disproportionate insurance premium to assure the efficiency of the central agricultural research institute for all India. We have established an Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in order to promote and co-ordinate agricultural research throughout India as recommended by the Royal Commission on Agriculture and we have provided the Council with an average of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum for the encouragement of research. We know from the meetings for Members of this House to discuss the Council's work which have been arranged by the Honourable Member in charge of Education, Health and Lands—that the Council is fulfilling the object for which it was created and that all over India grants for research have been made and that every province is benefited. But we also see from the Reports of the Council that they find a Central Research Institute to be necessary and if we are to have such an institute, it should be as efficient as possible. The annual budget for the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, excluding its sub-stations, is approximately Rs. 8

lakhs per annum, and if by the expenditure of another lakh or so we can increase its efficiency, it would be false economy to hold back. Coming as I do from the Madras Presidency and being acquainted with Coimbatore, I have personal knowledge of the value of central agricultural research stations. Coimbatore is the headquarters of the Agricultural Department of the Madras Presidency and the site of our active provincial agricultural research institute. But it has also the privilege of possessing an imperial institution—the Imperial Sugar-cane-breeding Station, from which have emanated the Coimbatore canes which are now famous throughout the world. This sub-station, which is a branch of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, has provided improved seedling canes for the whole of India and I note from the latest review of the sugar industry of India published in the *Indian Trade Journal* that the area under improved canes has now reached 18 lakhs of acres, of which some 15 lakhs of acres are Coimbatore canes. This shows what a suitably placed central institute can do for the whole of India. The benefit has not been all on one side and conversely the Coimbatore district and the Madras Presidency in general have benefited by work carried out at Pusa, e.g., the research work on the control of insect pests and diseases, although we have a good scientific agricultural research institute of our own.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture found that although it had many successes to its credit, the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at Pusa had failed in certain definite respects and that largely because of its isolation. Unless one is dealing with something dangerous like explosives, a research institute should be conveniently placed where the workers employed in them can be in touch with scientific thought and educated opinion in the country generally. The scientific workers employed at Pusa have no facilities for scientific intercourse with people outside their own immediate sphere. The railway communications of Pusa are bad, for it is cut off from the main broad gauge system of India by the Ganges. It is not centrally placed and is difficult of access to workers in other parts of India. A central research institute should be placed where its laboratories, library, herbariums, etc., are reasonably accessible to scientific workers, agricultural officers and to the many unofficials who are now interested in agricultural development from all parts of India. Other great federal countries, though they have special agricultural experimental stations dotted all over the country, have the headquarters of their agricultural departments at the federal capital. The headquarters of the United States Department of Agriculture, for example, is at Washington, where are located the various bureaux which direct the federal schemes of research. In Canada, again, the headquarters of the Dominion Agricultural Department is at Ottawa, where also is their Dominion Experiment Station, although in Canada also the Agricultural Department is carrying out research work on special farms throughout the country.

To my mind it is a mere act of common prudence for the Government of India to take this opportunity of establishing the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at a site in Delhi Province. They are faced in any case with very considerable capital expenditure in order to make good the damage caused by the earthquake. Although the estimates of the cost of repairs have doubtless been prepared as carefully as possible, there is no certainty that further

[Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti.]

expenditure on repairs will not be necessary in future, if the Institute remains at Pusa. It is clear from the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture that but for financial considerations they would have recommended immediate transfer of Pusa to a more suitable site. Since then cost of building has fallen very materially, whilst the average rate of interest on money has fallen even more, and what would have represented an annual charge of Rs. 2½ to Rs. 3 lakhs in 1928 is less than half that amount today. Moreover, the constitutional position is now altered. We are within a very short distance of the establishment of provincial autonomy, which is an additional reason why this Central Research Institute should be within the imperial enclave.

I have the honour to be the representative of the Council of State on the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and to my mind the fact that Delhi is the headquarters of the Research Council is one of the most cogent reasons for the transfer of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research to that place. We know that every year something like 70 agricultural officers, scientists from Indian universities and others connected with the improvement of agriculture and animal husbandry in India visit Delhi in connection with the meetings of the Council and its various committees. A research institute situated near Delhi in close touch with the Council would be a live affair and would have specially good prospects of future usefulness. We are dealing now with no matter of temporary importance but are concerned with a proposal from Government which cannot fail to have a most important influence on the agriculture of the future. In my opinion the proposal is a right and wise one, and I oppose the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (East Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the only point I want to impress is this, whether expert opinion and the opinions of different public bodies were received before arriving at a decision to transfer the place from Pusa to the neighborhood of Delhi.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU (Bengal : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I followed the debate with some attention. I will begin by referring to the speech made by my Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Narayanaswami Chetti. He told us that because it is an imperial institute it should be in Delhi. If that is the only reason for removal, may I ask Mr. Narayanaswami Chetti whether he would like the Coimbatore Research Institute, which he said was fruitful of great results, to be transferred to Delhi ?

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official) : You could not grow that cane in Delhi.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : Neither are all crops grown in Delhi ; that is well known. There are certain crops, as was pointed out by Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, that could not be grown in Delhi. You cannot grow, for instance, jute in Delhi. That is a sort of thing that we have got to face in any place where you want to place an institute of this character. I have not heard really any argument for the removal except that the buildings of the Institute in Pusa have been destroyed by earthquakes,

and if those have to be rebuilt, why not rebuild it in a place which would be accessible to everybody? Pusa, I am told, is rather inaccessible. I plead ignorance to the fact that I do not know exactly where Pusa is except that it is somewhere in Bihar. (Laughter.) I am not ashamed to acknowledge the fact that I do not know where it is. I have never been to Pusa; I have never been to many places in India for the matter of that. But a tree is generally known by its fruits. We have heard of Pusa wheat. If we get good results from research there it is all right. We have been told that the buildings have been destroyed and whenever there is an institution which bears the big name of an imperial institute it ought to be placed in the Imperial City, free from the influence of a provincial or a smaller Government. One argument is that there may be a clash between the Imperial and Local Governments as if the Imperial Government cares anything for the clash from a Local Government.

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH OF DARBHANGA: The Local Government has got nothing to do with the Imperial Institute at Pusa.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: There was an apprehension but, Sir, it is neither here nor there. As money has to be spent in Pusa which is supposed to be a danger zone for earthquakes, it would be better and safer according to experts of the Government that such money should be spent in a place which is not yet a danger zone for earthquakes or any convulsions of nature. But I have not as yet heard even from my Honourable friend Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah who very enthusiastically supported the proposal of the removal, except the inaccessibility of Pusa, what other grounds there were for coming to this decision, although I am sure that the very fact that a large amount of money may have to be spent in Pusa where the apprehension of earthquakes still exist is a good ground which appeals to me to bring that Institute which is really under the Central Government nearabouts the headquarters of the Central Government. As regards the financial question, which has been made a very big question by my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam, I can remind him that there are provinces which talk in lakhs and there are provinces which talk in hundreds. Therefore, what is to us a very great figure is not really so great a figure to the Government of India. What we call "ship" in India is called "boat" in England. So that question ought not to trouble the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam or any of us. Another thing which struck me when I was just looking through some papers—notably one sent to me with the compliments of the Editor of the *Whip*—regarding the Pusa Institute was, that it was founded by that very able Viceroy, Lord Curzon, in 1903, and he established this Institute at that place, Pusa. I was anxious to find out if there was any reason other than having a large Government estate in Pusa to be utilised that impelled Lord Curzon to place that Institute at Pusa, because I had an idea that whatever Lord Curzon did he did with such a thoroughness that I expected that there must have been some reasons other than merely having an unutilised Government estate for establishing this Institute at Pusa. But I was told on very high authority that there was no other reason on record why Lord Curzon chose Pusa except that there was such a large tract of Government land which was practically doing nothing, was not employed and could be utilised in this

[Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu.]

manner and fortunately at this time the £30,000 gift of Mr. Phipps came in handy and it was found that a Research Institute for Agriculture could be established. Now, having the land and money practically come from nowhere it could be utilised and the outcome was the establishment of the Pusa Institute. There is nothing on record to show that Pusa was favoured because there was something inherent in Pusa that was necessary for a research institute. Therefore, now that an earthquake has destroyed the buildings at Pusa, why not abandon the place and bring it up to a more central situation ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Is Delhi central ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : It is central in this that it is the headquarters of the Central Government. If you consider Cape Comorin it is not central. If you consider Baluchistan it might not be central. But Delhi is central because it is the head of the Central Government and institutes which are controlled by the Central Government, I think, ought to be nearabouts the headquarters of the Central Government because you can always have better control. Although I do not believe that research workers need be placed under the very eyes of the Central Government. Of course, I do not want it, because we should only look at their results and not at the location. It does not matter whether they can grow cotton in Pusa or cannot grow jute in Delhi. It makes very little difference, because certain crops have to be experimented with and the reports are sent out to the various Agricultural Departments, and there are various sub-stations which can go into these experiments on local crops. There are sub-stations in Bengal, for example, which can experiment on jute and I am sure, as Mr. Hossain Imam pointed out, the Central Cotton Committee does make research in cotton. So the arguments that were advanced that certain crops are not grown in Pusa or certain crops cannot be grown in Delhi to my mind do not affect the question. The whole question is whether an institute which is directly under the Central Government and which is directly under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ought not to work immediately under its supervision. The other point that was made—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Will you please conclude your observations ? Your time is up.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : Very well, Sir. I think I have said enough to show that this question ought not to be viewed in the light in which my friend Mr. Hossain Imam looked at it, and so far as the removal is concerned it really does not affect the province but the Central Government.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : Do you support our Motion ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : I do not.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I support the Motion of my Honourable colleague. Generally it is the opinion of our Party that the Institute should be retained at

Pusa. Sir, my Honourable colleague from Sind has put forward some arguments which have not appealed to me at all. He says that Pusa is not suitable because there is no canal irrigation there. Bihar is one of the ever green provinces and does not stand in need of artificial irrigation.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GHULAM HIDAYATALLAH: Sir, may I correct the Honourable Member? I said it cannot grow irrigated crops, that is, crops which are cultivated by irrigation.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: I cannot understand, Sir, what is the material difference whether a crop is grown by artificial irrigation or by natural irrigation. My friend, the Honourable Nawab Mohammad Hayat Khan Noon has said that Delhi will be a more central place for this Institute. I may point out that I do not take a selfish view in this matter but the general view of the taxpayer. I considered that the Punjab has got a great deal of benefit from the Pusa Institute in growing its crops. In growing crops of sugar-cane and crops of cotton and wheat we have greatly benefited by the Coimbatore and Pusa Institutes. My friend, the Honourable Mr. Basu has said that the Government has chosen the transfer of the Institute to Delhi on account of Bihar having become an earthquake zone—

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: "Perhaps," I said. I am not in the know of the Government.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Even if it does become an earthquake zone, look what the Government is doing in a country like Japan which is subject to frequent earthquakes.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: They are building reed huts!

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Even now, as I said—the Honourable Mr. Miller will support me—the reinforced cement concrete construction is free from the effects of earthquake.

As regards finance, I do not think any of us feel justified in incurring unnecessarily an extra expenditure of about Rs. 36 lakhs. We are getting full advantage from the Pusa Institute. I consider, Sir, that a bad precedent is being created. If the policy of the Government is that all the imperial institutions should be concentrated in or around Delhi, then we shall have to transfer all the institutes, from Dehra Dun, from Muktesar, Bangalore, and other places as well. I hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Leader of the House who is in charge of this Department will kindly give us the reasons which led Lord Curzon's Government to establish this Institute at Pusa and also to substantiate whether this expenditure is justified. In case Pusa has become a danger zone and Government consider that Pusa is not the proper place for the Institute and Government admit their error in keeping this Institute there, I propose that a really geographically central place be chosen. Cawnpore will be a much better central place.

Sir, several Members have pointed out that as money is cheap, the capital required can be had at a very cheap rate of interest. The established practice of the Government so far has been to borrow money only for productive works.

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

My Honourable friend from Sind has not been able to establish that this is a productive work, and as this is not a productive work, I should like the Honourable the Leader to explain how he will find this money and whether that money can be easily spared. I shall also expect the Honourable the Finance Secretary to throw some light as to how he can find this money.

With these remarks, Sir, I support the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam. My Honourable friend Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah when he commenced speaking said that one should, in a problem like this, take a detached view, but, later on, when he developed his arguments, we find that they were all in favour of Sind. He said that Pusa was not accessible to Sind. Then he further proceeded that Sind is a cotton-growing tract and that no experiment is being carried out in Pusa. In this way he went on to provincialism instead of taking a detached view which he wanted to place before the Council. Sir, I would place that view before the House and although our province will be the gainer in having this institute in Delhi, we should not be led away by provincialism on account of other considerations. It has been said that the Agricultural Commission was in favour of the transfer from Pusa but on financial considerations it postponed its recommendation. May I ask Government whether the financial grounds on which the Commission postponed its recommendations have now changed? Are the finances of Government much better off now than they were then? As far as I can see, the position is just the reverse. We all know that year after year emergency Bills are brought forward. They were first introduced for a period of 14 months and have been brought again and again before this House ever since. Not only that. Several new measures to kill infant industries have been introduced. Excise duty on sugar and matches have been brought before this House to meet the financial stringency. Sir, in a few days' time we will be discussing another measure, the Steel Protection Bill, by which Government are going to place an excise duty. So, may I ask from Government if the financial stringency has ceased now and if they can easily find this Rs. 36 lakhs? Sir, it is not a question of money. It is a question of will. Wherever Government want to spend money, our Finance Secretary can find heaps of money, but where Government do not want to spend it, figures are placed before the House that there is no money. When we ask for money for nation-building departments, Government have got no money. When we ask that the grants to the Benares and Aligarh Universities be increased, Government have no money. When I moved a Resolution in the last session saying that an All-India Advisory Council on Co-operation should be established, the Leader of the House got up and said that he had no money, although that would have cost only a lakh or two. But, Sir, on a proposal like this there is no financial stringency, and money is ready for the transfer.

I oppose this transfer on another ground. Scientific research should be carried on at a quiet place. I do not think Delhi will be a quiet place. Scientists and students will merely devote their precious time in going to cinemas and having interviews with high Government officials at Delhi. An

institution like this where research has to be conducted should be as far away as possible from these luxurious places, as I should call them.

Sir, it has been said that the imperial institutes which are controlled directly by the Government of India should be located as close as possible to Delhi. I beg to differ from that view. I have already stated my reasons. There are many such institutions and Coimbatore and other places are far away.

Sir, the present Government is very fond of enhancing the beauties of Delhi. We do not know if after, say, 20 or 30 years, Government may not take it into its head that Bombay will be the most suitable place for the capital, and may I ask if all these institutions will then be removed to Bombay? Then, after 30 or 40 years, Government may take it into its head that the capital should be removed to Madras. Therefore all these considerations should not be taken into account. The chief consideration should be facility for research, and the work that the institution has done as well as the money that we are going to spend. These should be the chief consideration. I have not been led away by provincial feelings.

For these considerations, Sir, I support wholeheartedly the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, I am entirely in favour of the transfer of this institute from Pusa to Delhi and I oppose the Motion which has been made. Sir, speaking at this late hour I will not inflict a lengthy speech. I would only draw pointed attention to one aspect of the matter to which reference has been made by my Honourable friend Mr. Basu. The Honourable Mr. Basu in his lucid speech gave us an account of the way in which Pusa came to be selected for the location of the institution. He made it perfectly clear that it was not because of the ideal character of the soil or because of its central situation or of any advantages which it possessed as against any other place in India that it was selected, but it was merely because of the fact that there was a large plot of Government land lying waste which Lord Curzon thought he could turn to account by locating this institution there—

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : More adventitious reasons than advantageous!

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR—
5.5 P. M. so that this place was chosen in a haphazard fashion without regard for the suitability of the place for an institution of this character. It might be asked how is Delhi superior to Pusa in the matter of the location of this institution? As has been observed by several speakers, Delhi is more central than any other place inasmuch as it is the headquarters of the Central Government and this institution is under the control of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Besides Delhi is more suitable because the soil around Delhi is more representative of the soil obtaining in India as a whole. Pusa on the other hand is not so representative. The soil at Pusa is described as being mostly chalky, a kind of soil which is not typical of the soil of India. (An Honourable Member : "The whole of the Gangetic plain has the same kind of alluvium as at Pusa.") Delhi is more

[Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.]

representative of the greater part of the Indo-Gangetic plain than Pusa. Again, in Pusa a lot of crops are grown without the help of irrigation. That is not the case in most parts of India. In most parts of India crops are grown only with irrigation. Therefore the experiments carried on at Pusa in the matter of raising these crops are not of much help to agriculturists in most parts of India, because it is impossible to carry out experiments in Pusa on irrigational crops. There is this advantage also in locating this institution at Delhi for in Delhi the soil is such that, while it is suitable for growing almost all kinds of crops that grow in Pusa, it is also suitable for growing a lot of other crops which cannot be grown at Pusa, for instance cotton, which is an important crop in most parts of India. It is one of the chief crops in my province, and in Sind and in the Central Provinces, and a lot of other places. So far as expert opinion is concerned, about which a question was asked by the Honourable Mr. Banerjee, we have the opinion of the Royal Commission on Agriculture which was that, in spite of the fact that Pusa had done much useful work, it had failed in several respects due to the fact that it was not located in a more central and accessible place.

Sir, I do not want to refer to any other aspects of the question. I conclude my remarks by repeating that I am completely in favour of the transfer of this institution to Delhi.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. D. CHARI (Burma : General): Sir, I heartily support the Motion made by my friend Mr. Hossain Imam. I am in the fortunate position of looking at this question, not from a narrow or parochial point of view, but from a broader view of the usefulness of the institution. This institution has been in existence for over 30 years, in fact for over a generation and it has been located in Pusa. There is such a thing as building a tradition, and the tradition which has grown around this institution at Pusa should not be lightly thrown away. We should not at the appearance of the first misfortune in the shape of an earthquake, involving an expense of a few lakhs of rupees, throw away the tradition that has been built up round Pusa and remove the institute to Delhi. I would ask whether Pusa was not considered suitable for purposes of research. So far as I can see, except the references to cotton growing and other things, for which sub-stations can easily serve the purpose, this Pusa Institute has been doing very useful work, and it has been located in sylvan surroundings. I think sylvan surroundings have been regarded as being particularly suited to research work and it must have been one of the reasons, if not the main reason, for locating the Research Institute at Pusa, and Pusa is on the Gangetic plain. It has got the same soil as other parts of the Gangetic delta and I have heard it said, Sir, in the course of discussion that Pusa is inaccessible. I fail to understand how a few more hours of travel to a place would affect any expert going there if he really wants to? What does it matter if it takes him even 12 hours longer than it would to go to some other place? Are the experts working in the Pusa Institute put at a disadvantage because they are far away from the various stations? That is a question to be considered. Pusa has been serving our purpose until the recent earthquake, and we did not hear before that it was not a suitable centre. Now probably the people who direct the operations at Pusa from Delhi think

that by having this institute removed to Delhi they may have better control. But I fail to see how better control over a research institute is possible if it is in a more central place like Delhi. In my opinion control can be better exercised away from Delhi and its multifarious activities by the supervising officer taking a trip to a place like Pusa, rather than in Delhi itself. After all, the removal will cost an extra Rs. 27 lakhs. Why should this extra expense be incurred unless you are going to improve the institute? After all, by spending Rs. 9 lakhs you can renovate the buildings, whereas you are going to throw away another Rs. 27 lakhs which can very well be utilised to improve the Pusa Institute itself. It may appear small in the eyes of some of the capitalists, but to me Rs. 27 lakhs is a large figure and it can very well be utilised in more useful ways, in furtherance of research itself.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : It is very small to the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. D. CHARI : With these words, Sir, I support the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member) : Sir, we have listened to a very interesting debate and a very full debate. As many as 13 speakers have taken part in the debate and I am glad to be able to say that I am the fourteenth now. A number of questions have been propounded by some of my Honourable colleagues and it will afford me very great pleasure indeed to answer them. I think, Sir, it would be right to point out what the position is. The position is this. Since the last three or four years, Honourable Members cannot be unaware that we have been in the throes of economic depression. And whom does that economic depression concern most? It concerns the big landholders like the Leader of the Opposition or the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur of Darbhanga, other maharajas and landholders. It does affect them very much. But there is another class of Indians whom it affects much more and that class is to be counted not in thousands, not in lakhs, but in crores—I mean the humble cultivator. It is true that the profits of the landlord have shrunk, shrunk to half in some places, to one-third in other places, and one-fourth in some other places; but the people whom it has affected most are the cultivators who, according to the Leader of the Opposition, are not having two meals a day. I can assure him that besides meals the cultivator wants cloth to cover his body and some other essential things like light, salt, etc.; and for that unfortunately money is needed and that the poor cannot afford them. This is a matter which has been engaging the attention of the Central Government and of all the Provincial Governments; just like the Government of India the Provincial Governments have been very much concerned. What to do with the problems which have arisen out of this economic depression and the condition of the poor agriculturist whose liabilities have become too heavy for him to discharge? Well, we have been in close touch with Provincial Governments. We have been watching the efforts at meeting agricultural indebtedness, affording credit facilities, and we have also been trying to do what can reasonably be done with the object of raising prices on agricultural produce. Not much success has attended our efforts, but still I do not mean to say that efforts should not be made, and I do not mean to say that it is not worth while

[Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

to continue to make the efforts. We held a Provincial Economic Conference, to which representatives of Provincial Governments came, and also representatives of the agricultural departments in order to see what could be done to help them. The question arose of increasing the output of agriculture and also prices. In order to deal with the economic depression and the matters that arose from it the Economic Conference considered various points. When the proceedings of the Conference came before the Government, Government considered various projects for the purpose of stimulating Indian trade and Indian industry and Indian agriculture. It wanted to formulate a programme which could be adopted in order to secure the maximum benefit possible from the scheme. The first effort made was in the direction of crop planning. Honourable Members might remember that such a Conference was held in Simla and every effort was made to see to what extent crop planning can help agriculture. Some valuable results were achieved but not to the extent that at one time was anticipated. Then in the course of discussion it was brought out that we ought to move in the way of finding scope for export and that we had no trade agents all over the world. A scheme was sanctioned by which trade agents were to be employed to push Indian crops. Similarly, schemes for sericulture and for research in industry were started and, as part of a complete scheme, two items were put under agriculture, one was a marketing board, expansion in the provinces, and the other was to place the fundamental agricultural research at a place where its benefit from increased efficiency at the institute and promoting research activities in the provinces would be increased many fold. For the Honourable Members to suggest that the scientists working at Pusa wanted to be in Delhi rather than at Pusa and therefore this benighted, soft-headed Government, want to spend Rs. 36 lakhs to transfer it to Delhi is really unfair. How could any Member allow such a thought to enter his mind? I cannot believe it. Or is it right to suggest that in the interests of the experts at headquarters, three or four of them, my dear friend Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, the Vice-Chairman, has conceived a plan of squandering Indian money to the tune of Rs. 36 lakhs in order to have the convenience of the institute being near? I must be mad if I could be a party to a thing like that. It is ridiculous to make suggestions like that and I trust this House will not for a moment entertain any such idea. Then why are we making this move? I will answer that question straight-away without mincing matters. Firstly, what my Honourable friend Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu has said is correct. Pusa was chosen because of two reasons; first, there was land available and the climate of Pusa is by no means bad. It has a good climate. Given the land, given good climate, at the time no one realised the inaccessibility of Pusa and the inconvenience it would cause. Pusa certainly, Sir, has done very well. But that does not mean to say that we have got all we could have got out of Pusa, out of the Central Research Institute, had it been in a more suitable place than Pusa. I do not want to minimise—my friend asks “How?” Am I to understand that the Honourable Members of the Opposition think that when they favour us by visits at the headquarters, whether in Delhi or Simla, and come in contact with the Members of Government and Secretaries, and so on, that we do not benefit by their visits? Undoubtedly we do. Our mind is improved, our knowledge is improved, and

we feel all the better for it. I trust the compliment will be returned by them as well. They could not be coming in contact with the Members of the Central Government without having derived some benefit and I trust that on the whole we are both the better for it. This is the position, Sir, that these poor people remain at Pusa cut off from all contact. Surely, Sir, scientific minds no less than ordinary minds react to intellectual stimulus? It is absolutely necessary. You deprive not only all the scientific workers at Pusa of the stimulus which they could have derived from scientific workers in universities and provincial research institutes, but you deprive the universities of India of the close contact with the scientific workers at Pusa.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAMSARAN DAS: What about the Muktesar and Bangalore institutes?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Is my Honourable friend's argument that unless you can have them all brought together, you should not have any brought together?

Again, Sir, the question whether Pusa is not central and whether Delhi is better situated than Pusa is not such a difficult matter as to detain the House for long. Here we have in Delhi a central place, not in the sense that it is the headquarters of the Central Government but in the sense that it is easily accessible from different parts of India whether by road or by railway and now there is a third way, by air. Therefore we accept the proposal. The way some places are favoured by fortune is obvious. Delhi is lucky in this respect. Whether you come from Sind or from the Frontier Province, from the United Provinces or the Central Provinces or Bengal you find Delhi accessible. I am surprised, Sir, that the obvious advantages of Delhi for the site of a central institute should have been lost upon the representatives from the United Provinces who possess five universities and five sets of scientific workers, a very short distance from Delhi, to derive all the benefit from it. As a matter of fact, Sir, I firmly believe that if the two United Provinces' Members not supporting the move to Delhi really felt that the result of this Motion would be that Government would give up the idea of moving the institute from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi, they would be the first to vote against the Motion. They feel so secure, so assured, that they say: "Let us give to the Party what is really meant for the Council." Therefore, Sir, I think on the ground of accessibility it is obvious that the claims of Delhi are unimpeachable.

Next comes the question of Delhi's suitability from the crop point of view. The Honourable Mr. Banerjee asked me whether we had consulted the experts. I have very great pleasure in assuring him that we obtained the advice of a scientist of the distinction of Dr. Keen three years ago, who informed us that if we wanted to derive full benefit from the institute we ought to take it out of Pusa. Last February we consulted him again and we consulted central experts and experts in the provinces. The Directors of Agriculture were unanimously of opinion that the benefits to be derived all over India would be immense if the institute was moved from Pusa to Delhi.

One last word as to money. Did the Honourable Members think of money when they sanctioned expenditure of a crore of rupees on buildings

[Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.] for themselves and others at Delhi, quarters for themselves and for others? That was capital expenditure.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: That is productive.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: One and a half per cent. per annum is productive expenditure? If that is so, Sir, I venture to disagree.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. S. CROSTHWAITTE (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That the question be now put."

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH OF DARBHANGA (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, coming as I do from the Andamans of the scientists, as our distinguished Leader has been pleased to describe it, I am naturally rather interested in the retention of the institute at Pusa. Bihar has, of late, been rather unfortunate and has been visited by several visitations. After the earthquake we had very little time to recover ourselves before we came to know that the Pusa Institute, of which we were so proud of as being the only all-india institute in Bihar, was going to be removed from our midst. I have listened attentively to the remarks that have fallen from the different Honourable Members but I failed to find a single point in favour of the removal of the institute from Pusa except the point of its inaccessibility. The inaccessibility, I admit is, to a certain degree true, but those who are really keen to visit the institute the question of inaccessibility does not really matter. His Excellency Lord Willingdon when he was Governor of Madras visited Pusa and we have had many distinguished visitors from time to time.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: You do not provide motor car for all visitors!

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH OF DARBHANGA: Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah has said that Pusa cannot produce the crops that can be produced by artificial irrigation. Unfortunately, Sir, Bihar has not got a Sukkur Barrage.

It has been said, Sir, that Lord Curzon chose Pusa merely on the ground that there was a large tract of land available there which was not being used. I fail to see, Sir, that that was really the only reason that made Lord Curzon select Pusa. The idea that Lord Curzon selected Pusa merely on the ground that there was land available there rather strengthens our case for, at that time, there was not the acute economic depression that we are having today and even at that time Lord Curzon who has been charged with wasting so much money on the Victoria Memorial took such keen interest in the matter of finance that he avoided unnecessary expenditure. I expected, Sir, that my Honourable friend, Sir Alan Parsons, would have supported us on the ground of finance. But not seeing him speak on this Motion has in one way been a matter of gratification to me, for I hope that it means that next March, we will find that Sir Alan Parsons will be in a position to announce that India has tided over the worst portion of the economic distress and that the emergency taxes and the surcharge will be dispensed with.

'There is just one point more that I should like to ask, and that is, whether the persons who have been working in the Pusa Institute for so many years have been consulted in this matter and whether they really think that it would be advisable to transfer the Institute from Pusa to Delhi and whether, in their opinion, the soil at Delhi will be more beneficial and more productive than the soil at Pusa ?

With these few observations, Sir, I resume my seat.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Sir, I was waiting all this time to hear some arguments free from provincial interests. Although we Biharis have been accused of having the provincial sense developed, I find that almost all the speakers have looked at the question not from the point of view whether it is good for India but whether it is good for their own province. The Punjab in a body has supported it. There has been no dissentient voice except that of my Leader who being in a position to do so has thought over the matter from the Indian point of view. There is no doubt that an institute like Pusa is of all-India utility. The controlling body, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, was born long, long after the creation of Pusa. Pusa was established in 1903, but the Imperial Council which is the moving force in abolishing Pusa was formed only in 1929-30.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : The son controlling the father !

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : The grandson is controlling the grandfather !

Sir, the Pusa Institute is not there to function like ordinary farms which are started by Provincial Governments to develop and report on the various crops that are grown. Pusa's function is much higher, something which is almost detached. It is not so much concerned with the particular variety of crop as with the general question of cultivation. For instance, fixation of nitrogen. That is one subject which does not concern rice or wheat or jute as such. At Pusa the question of weavils and moths which destroy the crops is looked into. That question is a detached question, and I venture to suggest that up till now the Government and the public have made the great mistake of regarding Pusa as a sort of show place to which people should go and see how they are performing their allotted parts. It takes months and months to finish one experiment, and experiments have to be multiplied before the results can be published. Research in agriculture is a thing altogether apart from the pettifogging, if I may say so—I do not mean any disrespect—demonstration farms which provinces have in different parts of their province. It has been said that Pusa has got no facilities for cotton growing. Some said that it has got facilities for this or for that. That is not the function of Pusa. Pusa is there as a control just as in a big commercial concern you have got offices, works and mines, etc., but the man who controls sits somewhere else.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : Signs the cheque book !

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Pusa is something of that kind. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research finds that without the co-operation and active support of those officers, they are not able to produce

[Mr. Hossain Imam.]

any tangible results. Perhaps that is the reason why they want to dissolve it and to show the whole thing as the outcome of their own exertions.

I should like to say only one word more about the suitability of Pusa. The institute at Pusa should not be judged by any other test than the test of what they have done. One thing they have developed, Pusa wheat, that alone would be sufficient to justify their existence. They have developed other agricultural products too. Their achievements can be easily found out.

Then it has been said that it would be a sheer waste of money to spend it in an area which is subject to earthquakes. If we know once for all that this is the policy of the Government of India that no money should be spent on that area, I would advise my Honourable colleague Sir Guthrie Russell to close up the East Indian Railway and the Tirhut Railway and other railways. The Eastern Bengal Railway also comes in that area. Why spend money on these because they may be subject to earthquakes ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : That is why you wanted a colony.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Sir, the Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu gave one reason why this institution should be transferred to Delhi. He said that this being a central institute and Delhi being the capital, it is quite right that it should be transferred.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : I simply anticipated the Government reply !

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : If the Government take up that attitude, I am afraid that Calcutta will be deprived of a large part of its amenities in the shape of the Imperial Library which also belongs to the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU : It is being brought to Delhi. It is on its way !

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : The Imperial Records Office which also belongs to the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and the Currency Office and the School of Mines, Dhanbad, will have to be transferred. Now, Sir, he also pointed out that what may look to me to be a big sum of a lakh and a half per annum in interest charges is really a small sum. It is no doubt a small sum as far as the resources of the Government of India are concerned. But may I remind the Member for Education, Health and Lands that for two years we have been asking that the two Universities of Aligarh and Benares should have the same cut as is now imposed on the salaries of Government officers ? They are the only people in Government service who are subjected to a 10 per cent. cut and the Government of India cannot find the money ; and it should be noted that Benares University is one of those which has got agriculture as a particular subject and it is in close touch, about 150 miles only, with Pusa. Sir, the Leader of the House has admitted that the climate of Pusa is good and the land is good, but he has not shown us that either the climate or the soil of Delhi is good and has not assured us that within a year or two we will not have a supplementary budget placed before us for the

tour allowances of the officers coming to Simla. Because Delhi is practically impossible to live and work in for four months at least : it is too much subject to malaria and extremes of heat and dust. So far as the supposed inaccessibility of Pusa is concerned, perhaps I may point out that it is not so inaccessible as is made out. Patna is on the direct route from Calcutta to Delhi and from Patna it is only a three hours' journey—

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : By aeroplane ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : By car. You cross the Ganges—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You have a minute more only.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Sir, if the Government is prepared to spend more money for agriculturists we would be very glad to welcome it, but it should be spent in a proper manner and it should not be squandered.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS : Sir, I move :

“ That the question be now put.”

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I must tell Honourable Members that the debate under the Standing Orders must last for two hours if any Member desires to speak and the Chair is not bound to accept the Motion for closure. The Honourable mover has now replied and the Honourable Member in charge is entitled to a reply.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : Well Sir, I will not take many minutes because I know the House is anxious to divide. I will just answer one or two questions that have been put by one or two of the speakers. I was asked by the Honourable Maharaja Bahadur whether the workers at Pusa were consulted ? I can assure him that the Director who retired a few months ago, Dr. Macrae, and the present Director, Dr. Shaw, were both consulted and, as a matter of fact, the scheme put up for consideration of Government was prepared by them along with the Central Government's expert Mr. Burt. That is the first question. Then the Honourable mover of the adjournment Motion has said if Government is anxious to help the agriculturist then he is also with Government. I am very glad to have this assurance because it seems to me that in the interests of the agriculturists in India this expenditure is by no means too much in comparison with the benefit that is bound to accrue to Indian agriculture.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Question is :

“ That the Council do now adjourn.”

The Motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : As regards the Honourable Mr. Chari's Resolution it will be taken up on the next non-official day and the debate will be resumed where it was left off.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 13th August, 1934.