

8th October 1936

THE

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

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Volume VIII, 1936

*(29th September to 8th October, 1936)*

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FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1936



NEW DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1937

# Legislative Assembly.

## *President :*

THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT.

## *Deputy President :*

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DUTTA, M.L.A.

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

MR. S. SATYAMURTI M.L.A.

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A.

MR. M. S. ANEY, M.L.A.

## *Secretary :*

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

## *Assistant of the Secretary :*

RAJ BAHADUR D. DUTT.

## *Marshal :*

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

## *Committee on Petitions :*

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DUTTA, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

PANDIT NILAKANTHA DAS, M.L.A.

MAULVI SYED MURTUZA SAHIB BAHADUR, M.L.A.

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

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 8th October, 1936.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

## MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. Robert Francis Mudie, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A. (Government of India : Nominated Official).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### PROTECTION TO THE COCOANUT INDUSTRY.

860. \*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any memorial has been received by the Viceroy and Governor General, or by the Government of India, from the non-official members of the Cochin Legislative Council, requesting them to consider the necessity for giving protection to the cocoanut industry of India by way of granting protective tariffs against unfair competition from imports ;
- (b) whether they are aware that there are 70 lakhs of people in Kerala affected by the lack of protection to the cocoanut industry ;
- (c) whether they are aware that about a crore of rupees invested in cocoanut gardens have become almost dead capital from 1932 onwards ;
- (d) whether, in spite of the revision of the tariff value effected on 1st January, 1936, matters have not improved and, indeed, there has been an increase in 1936 of imports ; and
- (e) whether they propose to take immediate steps to give effect to the protective tariffs recommended by the Cocoanuts Sub-Committee, and if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes, Sir. The memorial was received a few days ago.

(b) and (c). Government have received representations to this effect.

(d) A recent examination of the position by Government indicates that the absolute demand for cocoanuts and coconut products has definitely increased thus increasing imports.

(e) I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to parts (b) to (d) of the Honourable Member's question No. 497 in the current Session.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I know what the increase is for the past six months ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I am afraid I could not give exact figures.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Is it not a fact that those interested in this industry have been representing to the Government of India the need for further protection for the last two years ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I believe so.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** What action have Government taken in these last two years to give them protection ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** No specific protection was given, but last year the tariff values were raised, which gave them a certain amount of relief.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Is it not a fact that representations were made by several Honourable Members of this House and also by those interested in the production of cocoanuts to the effect that the raising of the tariff values was not enough and that further protection was needed ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Yes, that is so.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Why is it then that protection has not been given to them yet ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The matter is not so easy as the Honourable Member assumes. I replied to the question to which I have made reference in today's reply that the matter was receiving the consideration of the Government of India.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Is it not a fact that when the Honourable the Commerce Member himself visited Malabar and Cochin and other parts he said in his reply that the matter was receiving the immediate attention of the Government of India, and he was hoping to be able to afford them adequate protection in the near future ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I never said I was hoping to be able to give them adequate protection in the near future.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Then what was the assurance that was given to the deputationists ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** That the matter would be looked into.

#### MODEL INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION.

861. **\*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the model Instrument of Accession published in the newspapers is correct ; and

- (b) whether this model Instrument has been sent to Indian States, and if so, to whom ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** My Honourable colleague, the Law Member, is taking much needed and well earned rest, and, with your permission, I will answer his questions.

(a) The draft general clauses of the Instrument of Accession were released to Press on the 15th August, 1936, and a copy of the Press Communiqué has already been placed on the table of the House.

(b) The draft has been transmitted to Indian States.

ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE COURTS AND THE EXECUTIVE" PUBLISHED IN THE *Hindu*.

862. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyanurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article entitled, "The courts and the Executive" in the *Hindu* of Wednesday, the 5th August, 1936 ;

(b) whether they have considered, or are considering, the question of acting upon the suggestion in the article, namely, that the courts should be asked to accept as evidence the sworn statement of the police officials, that they had satisfied themselves by questioning unnamed secret agents that the accused was really guilty of the offence with which he was charged ; and

(c) whether they propose to issue to the public a statement that they do not propose to consider any such suggestion ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** (a) I have seen the article.

(b) and (c). No.

POLITICAL PROPAGANDA BY EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS INTENDING TO CONTEST THE ELECTIONS.

863. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyanurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to a leading article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 15th August, 1936, entitled, "A Constitution Problem" and an article entitled, "Influencing Elections" in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* ;

(b) whether they have laid down anywhere that a non-official Executive Councillor who intends to submit himself as a candidate for the first election must be free to defend publicly the policy which he intends to advocate ;

(c) whether they have considered the effect of allowing non-official Executive Councillors, while retaining their office, to carry on political propaganda on the people and especially the voters ;

(d) whether they have agreed that these non-official Executive Councillors may belong to political parties and whether

they may also belong to the Indian National Congress and advocate the rejection of the Government of India Act, 1935 ; and

- (e) whether they propose to lay down either that these non-official Executive Councillors should not carry on political propaganda, or whether they will make them resign their offices and carry on the administration without them, if they desire to stand as candidates in the ensuing provincial elections ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to sub-section (a) of section 307 of the Government of India Act.

(e) Nothing has occurred which in the opinion of Government renders any such action necessary.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I know, Sir, if Executive Councillors, who are on duty, can stand as congress candidates ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** I presume, Sir, that they are at perfect liberty to join any party they like.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I know if they can continue in office right up to the date of the election, and whether it is not likely to prejudice the elections, and therefore such Members should be asked to resign at least three months before the elections ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** I have nothing to add to the reply I have already given.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Is it not a fact, Sir, that certain persons have recently been appointed in the C. P. and the Punjab as Executive Councillors although it was known that they were going to stand in the coming elections ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** I have no information on that subject.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa :** In view of the fact that the Honourable the Law Member said yesterday that these Executive Councillors in the course of their tours might be mixing up election propaganda with some official work also, while their full travelling expenses are paid by Government, will Government please ask them when they are so travelling for mixed purposes, to keep a diary, so that a proper proportion of their travelling expenditure may be debited to their own private purse ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** No, Sir.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Will Government issue instructions to these Executive Councillors not to use Government stationery and service postage stamps for correspondence in connection with their election ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** No, Sir, that is a matter which must be left to the good sense of the gentlemen concerned.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** Is not allowing these Executive Councillors to go on their official duties and at the same time permitting them to carry on their electioneering propaganda against the Viceroy's speech recently made here ?

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** That is a matter of opinion.



DRAFT OF THE INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION.

864. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that steps are being taken shortly to place on the table of the House of Commons a revised draft of Instrument of Accession during the Parliamentary recess;
- (b) whether the legal advisers of the Indian Princes in London were consulted about the draft of the Instrument ; and
- (c) whether they are taking steps to bring Federation into being by April, 1938 ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) Government have no precise information on the subject.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are anxious to bring Federation into being as soon as practicable, but they are unable to specify any precise date.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : What is the earliest possible time, if not the exact date ?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Next question.

PROTECTION TO THE COCOANUT INDUSTRY.

865. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a leading article entitled, "The Coconut Problem" in the *Madras Mail* of the 7th August, 1936 ;
- (b) whether, apart from taking measures by way of protection, they propose to consider the other suggestions contained in the article ; and
- (c) when they hope to take action in this matter ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have considered the suggestion that concerns them. In view of the enquiry into the supply of coconuts and coconut products in India which was conducted in 1934, under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, they do not think that any further investigation by them is needed.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** : Are there any researches being made for the better utilisation of the bye-products of coconuts ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : Not so far as I am aware.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : What are the other suggestions mentioned ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : One is that the Travancore Durbar should abolish the export duty ; that concerns the Durbar ; and the other suggestion was that the Government of India, the Government of Madras, the Government of Travancore and the Government of Cochin should combine to conduct a research into the cost of production of coconuts in Ceylon.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Will Government consider the advisability of getting certain researches made into the economical utilisation of the bye-products of cocoanuts either with the help of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research or the Provincial Governments' Departments ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** It is open to the Government of Madras to put forward proposals to that effect, and they will undoubtedly be taken into consideration by the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research if that is done.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa :** Has the Government got any analysis made of a cocoonut, as regards its food value ; and in view of the fact that it is conducive to talkativeness, will Government discourage the spread of cocoonut cultivation ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** Fortunately the climate of Northern India is so dry that my Honourable friend need have no anxiety that cocoonut cultivation will spread here.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Why is the cost of production of cocoonut in Ceylon less than that in India ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** I would refer my friend to the Report of Dr. Patel which contains some data on that subject.

#### STRIKE OF STUDENTS IN THE ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY.

866. **\*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the latest position in regard to the strike of students in the Aligarh University ;
- (b) the causes of the strikes ; and
- (c) whether they propose to give up the practice of appointing active politicians to responsible offices in Universities, while allowing them to continue as such, and if not, why not ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** (a) and (b). Government have no information beyond what has appeared in the press.

(c) Government are not aware of the practice referred to. In the Universities of Benares and Aligarh, with which the Central Government are concerned, responsible offices are filled in accordance with the provisions of the Act constituting the University and not by the Government of India.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I know why the Government do not care to investigate as to whether the report that appeared in the press is true with a view to taking action ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** No, Sir. It is not necessary to investigate every press report.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Is it not a fact that cent. per cent. information published in the *Hindustan Times* about the strike was absolutely incorrect ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** My Honourable friend, who is the Vice-Chancellor of the University, knows it better than I do.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : You can take it from me that all that information was incorrect. Is it not a fact that all the discipline and the arrangement of examinations and teaching are in the hands of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor has nothing to do with the academic side of the University and the same as in Benares ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : Well, Sir, that is imparting information in the form of a question.

**Sardar Sant Singh** : On a point of order, Sir. May I request you kindly to ask Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad to answer that question ?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Bahim) : Next question.

**IMPARTIALITY OF OFFICERS IN THE PROVINCES *re* LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES OF CONSTITUTIONAL PARTIES.**

867. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a letter from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal to Mr. Fuzlul Huq published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 11th August, 1936 ;
- (b) whether they propose to convey the following statement of the position to all Provincial Governors, including the Governor of the United Provinces, " His Excellency feels that he must take this opportunity of making it clear that he is constitutionally debarred from associating himself in any way with any political party whatsoever. It is his duty as he conceives it to keep an entirely open mind in regard to political complexion and composition of the Government of the future so long as the electorates have still to pronounce their judgment on the merits of the candidates who may seek their suffrages " ;
- (c) whether they are aware that in all Provinces, as in Bengal, responsible officers of the Government in the district have already been instructed to observe the strictest impartiality in relation to legitimate activities of the different constitutional parties ; and
- (d) whether this has been done particularly in the United Provinces and in the North-West Frontier Province, and if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Government believe it to be the case.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : May I know what is the answer to clause (d) ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : The answer to parts (c) and (d) is that Government believe this to be the case.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Is the Government aware that the Court of Wards is a reserved subject in the United Provinces ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** The House is in the middle of the discussion on the subject covered by this question and I venture to think it is hardly necessary to go further into the matter in reply to a supplementary question.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I know if the Honourable Member means to say with reference to the answer to clause (d) that instructions have been issued by the Governments of the United Provinces and the North-West Frontier Province? Have any instructions been issued by the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** Not from the Government of India.

\*  
NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TRADE AGREEMENT IN PLACE OF THE OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT.

868. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. S. Satyamurti**) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that they are preparing preliminary proposals to be submitted to His Majesty's Government, who have expressed their willingness to conclude a trade agreement for replacing the Ottawa Pact ;
- (b) whether Indian commercial opinion was consulted in preparing these preliminary proposals ;
- (c) if so, who are the persons or bodies who are so consulted ;
- (d) whether to the knowledge of the Government of India, the British Government are also preparing similar preliminary proposals to submit to the Government of India ;
- (e) whether after the exchange of these notes, it is intended to formulate outstanding issues ;
- (f) what the next step will be, — whether personal contact will be established between the representatives of the British Government and of the Government of India and, if so, whether in India or in London ;
- (g) whether they are aware of the strong Indian feeling, in the matter of these negotiations, that in their formative and conclusive stages they should take place in India ;
- (h) whether the Commerce Member proposes to lead any Indian delegation to England in connection with this matter ; and
- (i) whether it is intended to include any non-official Indians in any such delegation, and if so, how they will be selected ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies given by me to his questions Nos. 761 and 764 in the current Session.

(c) A list of the commercial bodies consulted in the matter is placed on the table.

(g) Government have received certain representations to this effect.

(h) and (i). The question of the appointment of an Indian Delegation has not yet been taken up.

*List of Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations to whom a copy of the Government of India, Department of Commerce, Circular letter No. 20-T (6) 36, dated the 22nd July, 1936, was sent.*

A.—CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

*Madras.*

- Madras Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
- Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
- Andhra Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
- Indian Chamber of Commerce, Coimbatore.
- Coimbatore Chamber of Commerce, Coimbatore.
- Cocanada Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada.
- Godawari Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada.
- Tanjore District Chamber of Commerce, Tanjore.
- Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin.
- Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin.
- Malabar Chamber of Commerce, Calicut.
- Calicut Chamber of Commerce, Calicut.
- Chamber of Commerce, Tellicherry.
- Cochin Chamber of Commerce, Cochin.
- Chamber of Commerce, Negapatam.

*Bombay.*

- Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.
- Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.
- Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.
- Marwadi Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

*Sind.*

- Karachi Chamber of Commerce, Karachi.
- Buyers and Shippers Chamber, Karachi.

*Bengal.*

- Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
- Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
- Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
- Marwari Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
- Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.
- Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, Calcutta.
- Chittagong Chamber of Commerce, Chittagong.
- Narayanaganj Chamber of Commerce, Narayanaganj.

*United Provinces.*

- Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore.
- Merchants Chamber of United Provinces, Cawnpore.
- United Provinces Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore.

*Punjab.*

Indian Chamber of Commerce, Lahore.  
Northern India Chamber of Commerce, Lahore.

*Burma.*

Burma Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon.  
Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon.  
Burmese Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon.  
Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon.

*Bihar.*

Bihar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce, Patna.  
Bihar and Orissa Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Patna.

*Orissa.*

Orissa Chamber of Commerce, Cuttack.

*Central Provinces.*

Nagpur Chamber of Commerce, Nagpur.  
Berar Chamber of Commerce, Akola.

*Coorg.*

Mysore Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore.

*Delhi.*

Punjab Chamber of Commerce, Delhi.

*General.*

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

**B.—TRADES ASSOCIATIONS.***Madras.*

Madras Trades Association, Madras.  
Madras Piecegoods Merchants Association, Madras.  
Southern India Skin and Hide Merchants Association, Madras.  
Employers Federation of South India, Madras.  
Southern India Millowners Association, Coimbatore.  
United Planters' Association of Southern India, Coonoor.

*Bombay.*

Bombay Presidency Trades Association, Ltd., Bombay.  
Bombay Millowners Association, Bombay.  
Seeds Traders Association, Bombay.  
East India Cotton Association, Limited, Bombay.  
Bombay Native Piecegoods Merchants' Association, Bombay.  
Grain Merchants' Association, Bombay.  
Native Share and Stock Brokers' Association, Bombay.  
Indian Society of Accountants and Auditors, Bombay (for supply of Notifications, etc., regarding Auditors Certificates Rules only).  
Sugar Merchants' Association, Bombay.  
Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.  
Bombay Shareholders Association, Bombay.  
Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad.

*Sind.*

Karachi Indian Merchants' Association, Karachi.

Karachi Sat Narayan Indian Piecegoods Merchants' Association, Karachi.

*Bengal.*

Calcutta Trades Association, Calcutta.

Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta.

Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Indian Mining and Geological Institute of India, Calcutta.

Indian Mining Association, Calcutta.

Indian Engineering Association, Calcutta.

All-India Landholders Association, Calcutta.

Indian Sugar Mills Association, Calcutta.

Marwari Association, Calcutta.

Bengal Mahajan Sabha, Calcutta.

Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta.

Wine, Spirit and Beer Association of India, Calcutta.

Jute Balers' Association, Calcutta.

Calcutta Wheat and Seed Trades Association, Calcutta.

Calcutta Hides and Skins Shippers Association, Calcutta.

Calcutta Jute Fabric Shippers' Association, Calcutta.

Indian Indigo Association, Calcutta.

Indian Tea Cess Committee, Calcutta.

Calcutta Import Trade Association, Calcutta.

*United Provinces.*

Indian Sugar Producers' Association, Cawnpore.

United Provinces Oil Millers' Association, Cawnpore.

*Punjab.*

Punjab Trades Association, Lahore.

Punjab Merchants' Association, Lahore.

Simla Trades Association, Simla.

*Burma.*

Rangoon Trades Association, Rangoon.

*Bihar.*

Indian Coal Merchants' Association, Jharia.

Bihar Planters' Association, Bihar.

*Central Provinces.*

Central Provinces and Berar Mining Association, Nagpur.

Merchants' Association, Jubbulpore.

Central Provinces and Berar Factory Owners' Association, Khannanon

*Delhi.*

Delhi Piecegoods' Association, Delhi.

Hindustani Mercantile Association, Delhi.

## PRODUCTION OF QUININE.

869. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have investigated the question whether India will be able to produce all the quinine she requires for home consumption at competitive cheap prices ;
- (b) whether they have investigated the question if it is possible for the Government to undertake the free distribution of quinine on a large scale to the villagers, who cannot afford to buy it at the present price or at any price ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the development of cinchona has been made subservient to financial and political consideration ;
- (d) whether they have any proposals for greater control and greater co-ordination of cinchona cultivation and production and distribution of quinine ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that even the system of distribution of quinine, though in part controlled by the Government of India, is cumbersome and difficult and requires a thorough overhaul ;
- (f) whether they have come to the conclusion that India cannot produce as cheap and good quinine as Java ;
- (g) whether it is a fact that the Government of India's quinine came to be sold outside India at lower prices than it can be sold by the quinine trade in India ;
- (h) whether it is a fact that 22,000 lbs. of this cheap quinine was imported into England during the last few months and a large quantity will be imported in the next few years ; and
- (i) whether they propose to examine the whole question and lay down a policy in the interests of the public health of India ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : (a), (f) and (i). The question of production costs is under examination at present in consultation with the Governments of Madras and Bengal. The answer to parts (a) and (i) will depend upon the result of this action. The Honourable Member will appreciate that a concerted policy for India can be prescribed and given effect to only with the co-operation of Local Governments.

(b) The distribution of quinine in the provinces is a matter for Local Governments.

(c) No.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member will realise that, on the introduction of provincial autonomy, the Government of India will cease to have any power to control the production or distribution of quinine. Any measure of co-ordination that Local Governments desire and which may be within the power of the Government of India to promote will receive sympathetic consideration.

(g) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (b) of his question No. 777 during the current Session.



(h) Only 3,333 lbs. of crude quinine have been sold in England since 1st April, 1936. The reasons for such sale have been explained in answer to Honourable Member's question No. 777 during the current Session.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I ask why quinine was sold to foreign countries even before it was investigated whether it was possible to manufacture quinine here at a comparatively cheaper rate ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** I have explained that already. These sales are the result of negotiations initiated in 1933 in order to reduce the surplus stock of quinine.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I ask, Sir, whether the surplus stock of quinine would get bad or deteriorated in quality if it is kept for long ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** The opinion of the experts is that keeping it in tins or boxes does not in any way affect its quality.

#### CABINET SECRETARY AND HIS DUTIES.

870. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article entitled ' Sir Eric Mieville ' in the *Indian Express* of Thursday, the 6th August, 1936 ;
- (b) whether they will place on the table of the House a statement containing the whole history of the matter of the Secretary to the Executive Council of the Viceroy ; and
- (c) what are his duties ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** (a) I have read the article at the Honourable Member's invitation : and I regret that he should have called attention to criticism so offensively expressed.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No. 512 on the 18th September, 1936. and to the answers referred to therein. I have nothing more to add to the replies already given and do not propose to lay any statement on the table.

#### INDIANS IN ZANZIBAR.

871. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement of Mr. Anandani on ' Indians in Zanzibar ' published in the *Bombay Sentinel* of the 13th August ;
- (b) whether they are aware of any attempt on the part of the White Settlers in Kenya to take away all the rights of Indians and of the natives ;
- (c) whether they will make public the correspondence between them and the Colonial Office on this matter ;

- (d) whether it is a fact that the Indian representatives were denied the right of seeing the Secretary of State for Colonies and putting their case forward ;
- (e) whether they propose to take steps to ask the Colonial Office not to receive any further representations on behalf of Zanzibar ;
- (f) what is the latest action they have taken regarding the Land Alienation Decree and the repeal of the Clove Industry Laws ; and
- (g) whether they have met Mr. Anantani, and what is the action they propose to take in the matter ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on the 4th September, 1936, to parts (b) and (c) of his starred question No. 118.

(d) Government have received no information to that effect.

(e) My Honourable friend would agree that that would be an unreasonable request to make.

(f) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on the 31st August, 1936, to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 23.

(g) No request for an interview has been received from Mr. Anantani.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** With regard to part (d), may I know from the Honourable Member if he has inquired whether any representation was made by the Indians to the Secretary of State for Colonies and whether they were not given the right to represent ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** Well, Sir, the Government of India have no information that any Indians either from Zanzibar or Kenya wanted to wait on deputation on the Secretary of State for Colonies and that the request was refused. There is only the statement of Mr. Anantani that he sought to approach the Colonial Office but his request was not acceded to.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Did the Government make inquiry whether any representation was actually made ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** It is not necessary to make any inquiries because the communities in Zanzibar and Kenya always represent to the Government of India any time they have a setback on any question of importance affecting them.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I ask why Mr. Anantani was not allowed to have an interview ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** That I cannot say. That is for Mr. Anantani to answer.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I ask if the special officer who was deputed to Zanzibar recently, Mr. Bozman, has submitted a report ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** That question I answered quite early in the Session. I said that he did not submit a report but a memorandum.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Are the Indians residing in Zanzibar the Indian subjects or the subjects of the Zanzibar Government ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** They are Indian nationals but naturally they are the subjects of the Government under which they may happen to reside at the moment.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** In that case, they should make their representations to the British Government through the Indian Government ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** No, they can make representation to His Majesty's Government direct.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Why, then, the Colonial Secretary refused to receive a deputation of Indians ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** I do not admit that the Secretary of State for Colonies refused to receive a deputation from the Indian community in Zanzibar.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** May I ask if the Honourable Member will place a copy of the Memorandum submitted by Mr. Bozman in the Library of the House ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** No, Sir. It is a confidential document and I cannot place it in the Library of the House.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN RESPECT OF TREASURY BILLS.

872. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article entitled "Government's Treasury Bills Policy" in the *Hindu* of the 10th August, 1936 ;
- (b) whether they have considered the question whether "it is time that they cried halt and refused farther to force down interest rates" and what their conclusion on the matter is ;
- (c) whether they have considered that "it is the duty of the monetary authority to direct the flow of the country's capital resources into productive enterprises and not allow, by the failure to provide proper channels of investment, unhealthy speculative trading in the stock exchange to be encouraged", and that "it is up to the Government of India to see that a sound monetary policy is enforced"; and
- (d) whether they propose to take any steps in this matter, and if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** I have nothing to add to the replies given by me to the Honourable Member's starred questions Nos. 155, 159 and 261 of the same subject during the current Session.

## APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION IN CEYLON.

873. \*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article on ' The appointment of a Commission on Immigration by the Board of Ministers in Ceylon ' published in the *Hindu* of the 10th August, 1936 ;
- (b) whether they have ascertained what the real object of this commission is ;
- (c) whether they propose to explore the possibilities of a permanent settlement of Indian labour going down to Ceylon, on lines similar to those which are now being discussed in Malaya ; and
- (d) whether they propose to keep the Assembly informed from time to time of the progress of negotiations in this matter ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The terms of reference of the Commission are not yet known but judging from the previous discussions in Ceylon the main subject of investigation would appear to be the problem of immigration. As I have already informed the House the Government of India propose to keep in close touch with developments with a view to safeguarding Indian interests. They have little doubt that, when the Assembly is in Session, the keen interest of Honourable Members in this question will provide adequate opportunities for keeping the House informed of the progress of events.

ARTICLE ENTITLED " TRUSTEESHIP AND DISCRIMINATION " PUBLISHED IN THE *Hindu*.

874. \*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article entitled ' Trusteeship and Discrimination ' in the *Hindu* of the 18th August, 1936 ;
- (b) whether they propose to bring to the notice of the Colonial Office that " it is preposterous that natives and Indians should be excluded from an area into which Greeks, Portuguese, Spaniards and Italians could freely enter " ; and
- (c) what the latest position in the matter is ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given on the 1st September last to his starred question No. 42, and to the supplementaries arising out of it.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : May I know what is the answer to clause (c) ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I have said in my reply that that was stated on the 1st of September.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALL-INDIA POLICY FOR INDIAN PORTS.

875. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. S. Satyamurti**) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they are considering the question of developing an All-India policy for Indian Ports ;
- (b) if so, what that policy is ; and
- (c) if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : (a), (b) and (c). I am not clear what the Honourable Member means but I would point out that the Government of India are concerned with major Ports only. Government have under consideration the question of bringing all these ports under the direct administration of the Government of India.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : May I know when that will happen ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : I cannot say.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : What about the Ports now belonging to the Indian States ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : I answered only with regard to the major British Indian ports.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** : Is there an all-India policy for the appointment of Indian Port Trust officers ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : That has nothing to do with the present question.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : Is Chittagong included in this question ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : Yes.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Are the Government aware of the great volume of public opinion that there should be a greater element of elected members in these Port Trusts ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : This has nothing to do with the present question. I am not aware of any public opinion with regard to the elected character of the members.

QUOTA PRINCIPLE OF REGULATING TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN.

876. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi** (on behalf of **Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji**) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how the quota principle of regulating trade between India and Japan has worked in practice ?

(b) Have any complaints been received regarding the faithful discharge of the obligations undertaken by the Japanese Government under the treaty with that country, and, if so, what remedies have been considered and adopted to help the parties aggrieved ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statements published in the *Indian Trade Journals*, dated the 14th November, 1935, 4th and the 18th June, 1936, copies of which are in the Library.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 3 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Bill, 1936, and also the clause 2 of that Bill by which the entry for fents in the Import Tariff Schedule was amended. The Bill was passed by the Legislature and is now in force as Act No. XII of 1936. Certain further representations from commercial bodies and other sources which have since been received are engaging the attention of Government in connection with the Indo-Japanese trade negotiations now in progress.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Has Japan taken any more cotton than what she agreed to take ? I mean more than the quota agreed ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** If the Honourable Member means whether Japan has taken cotton in excess of the minimum quantity she agreed to take, yes.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** Is there any authority to check or verify from the date of the protocol whether from year to year the quota of exports from Japan into India has exceeded or not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Oh, Yes, Sir.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** What is that authority ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The quota is checked from the return of the Customs Department.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Once a year ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Continuously.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** Is the Honourable Member aware that neither the Customs Department nor the Journal of Seaborne Trade discloses the several heads of imports from Japan which are necessary for the purpose of checking.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government are supplied with the necessary figures, but it is not necessary to set them out in the *Trade Journal*.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** What is the experience of the Government during the last five years, whether it is necessary to have the quota system and at the same time a high tariff wall ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** That is a question of policy on which I am unable to express any opinion.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** What is the information of Government ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** From what quarters ?

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** The Government have got certain figures in their possession and do they conclude from those figures whether it is necessary simultaneously to have the quota system and a high tariff wall ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The moment the Honourable Member begins to ask me whether it is necessary to have a certain system it becomes a matter of opinion.

ABOLITION OF THE TARIFF BOARD.

877. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi** (on behalf of Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji) :  
 (a) In view of the abolition of the Tariff Board, will Government be pleased to state whether they are satisfied that there is no industry in India which justified any investigation with a view to protection of any such industry ?

(b) Do Government propose to consult this House before once again setting up the Tariff Board in the future ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to my speech on Mr. Satyamurti's adjournment motion in this connection on the 1st September, 1936.

(b) No ; does not arise.

**Mr. Lalchand Navakrai** : Is any special Tariff Board going to be set up this year ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : That is a hypothetical question.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : This matter has been fully discussed.

INVESTIGATION OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX SYSTEM BY EXPERTS.

878. \***Mr. N. M. Joshi** (on behalf of Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji) : Will Government be pleased to state at what stage has the investigation by experts of the Indian income-tax system reached and whether this House will be afforded an opportunity to pronounce generally upon their report when it is submitted to the Government and before any legislation is based thereon ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** : The Report is in preparation. The question of its publication and of its discussion in this House will be considered after it is received.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : When do the Government expect to have the report ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** : I have answered that several times ; sometime in the next month or so.

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh** : May I know, Sir, whether the Government are prepared to consider the suggestion that in the Income-tax Department the executive side of the department should be separated from the judicial side.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** : I have answered that question before ; that is being considered.

PERIODICAL HEALTH AND EYE SIGHT EXAMINATIONS OF THE RAILWAY STAFF.

879. \***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state categorically the railway staff who are under the present rules required to pass periodical health and eye-sight examinations ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Officers, though required to perform the duties demanding health and eye-sight, to be in perfect condition, are exempted from the operation of those rules ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Regulations for the medical examination of candidates and employees, non-gazetted, (including inferior) and labourers' grades, Indian State Railways, which contain the information asked for. A copy of these Regulations will be found in the Library of the House.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (d) of unstarred question No. 393 asked by Mr. Sham Lal on the 20th March, 1936.

**EMPLOYEES DISCHARGED FROM THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY ON ACCOUNT OF DEFECTIVE EYE SIGHT.**

880. \***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Will Government be pleased to state the number of employees discharged from the East Indian Railway service on account of defective eye-sight during 1934-35 and 1935-36 ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The information asked for is not readily available and Government do not consider the labour and expense involved in collecting it will be justified by the results likely to be obtained.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Before any person is retrenched on account of defective eye-sight, do Government send the person concerned to any Medical Board or do they take only the opinion of a single medical officer ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I cannot say without notice.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Am I to understand that the number of persons who have been discharged on account of defective sight is so large that it will involve considerable time and labour to collect the figures ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I cannot add anything to the reply I have already given.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** How did the Honourable Member make up his mind that the collection of the information would involve time and labour ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Information would have to be collected from numerous places and quarters.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Have the Railway Administration got Medical Boards for the periodical examination of the health and eye-sight of its staff ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The Honourable Member is fully aware of the medical departments of the different railways and their constitution.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** Is there any list kept in the respective Agent's offices with regard to the persons who have been discharged on account of defective eye-sight ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I cannot say without notice.



**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Am I to understand that the Medical Department of different railways undertakes the task of periodical examination of health and eye-sight of the railway employees ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I do not know what the Honourable Member means by periodical examination, but such examination as is to be conducted is conducted by the medical officers of the different railways.

**PERIODICAL EYE-SIGHT TESTS OF THE EMPLOYEES IN THE MECHANICAL WORKSHOP OF THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.**

881. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway employees in the mechanical workshop were required to pass any periodical eye-sight tests ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the rules ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if His Excellency the Governor General gave any assurance to the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway employees at the time of its amalgamation with the East Indian Railway that they will continue to enjoy their original service conditions ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the East Indian Railway Administration has discharged and financially put to loss a large number of old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway employees during the last two years on the ground of defective eye-sight ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR REGARDING PERIODICAL EYE-SIGHT TEST OF WORKERS.**

882. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour regarding periodical eye-sight test of workers have been accepted by the Government ? If not, why not ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, why has not the independent Specialist (Medical) for the United Provinces yet been selected and announced, and why were no steps taken to provide these men with other work ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to recommendation No. 121 (a) on page 502 of the report of the Royal Commission on Labour. If so, the reply is in the negative. Government consider that railway medical officers are adequate for the purpose and so long as Railway Administrations are responsible for the safety of the travelling public they must be guided by the opinion of the Principal or Chief Medical Officers of Railways to whom employees, who have been examined by railway medical officers, have a right of appeal.

(b) Does not arise.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : Does the Principal or Chief Medical Officer examine the person himself or does he appoint any Board to examine the persons ? What happens ? What is the meaning of this appeal to the Chief Medical Officer ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : They can appeal to him when they consider that the result arrived at by the medical officer is not correct. They can put forward before him such materials as they think would convince him that the medical officer's report is not correct. It is open to him to take such action in the matter as the circumstances of the particular case might justify in order to satisfy himself whether the opinion of the medical officer is correct or not.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : What is the material that a person can put before the Principal Medical Officer ? He was examined by one medical officer who says that the person is unfit. There is no material and the only way in which it can be decided is by the appointment of a Medical Board by the Chief Medical Officer ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : That is an argument.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Why have not the Government appointed an independent Medical Specialist as was recommended by the Labour Commission ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : That is exactly the question to which I have given a reply.

#### EYE-SIGHT TEST OF WORKERS.

883. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Are Government aware of the impression that the eye-sight test of workers is being resorted to by the administration as a hand device for retrenchment of employees to evade public criticism and other formalities ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : No, Sir.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR REGARDING RAILWAYS.

884. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Will Government be pleased to state which of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour regarding railways have been accepted by the Railway Administration, and which of them have been given effect to ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 25th September, 1936, to his question No. 628.

#### RAILWAY STAFF ENTITLED TO RENT-FREE QUARTERS.

885. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : Will Government be pleased to state categorically the railway staff who are entitled to rent-free quarters ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : The Honourable Member is referred to rule 2 of Chapter II of the State Railway Code (Revised), a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

RENT-FREE QUARTERS FOR INDIAN RAILWAY STAFF.

886. \*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Will Government be pleased to state whether quarters for Indian staff, who are entitled to rent-free quarters, have been provided at every station where such staff are posted ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : No employee whether Indian or European has a right to be provided with quarters but residential quarters are provided by railways where they consider it desirable.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that under the new rules certain railway employees are given rent-free quarters ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Not as a matter of right unless the conditions of service prescribe in particular cases that they will be entitled to rent-free quarters in which case they are either given quarters, if available; or an allowance in lieu thereof.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maira : Even in State Railways, are there not many stations where the Indian staff belonging to the running section are not provided with quarters ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Quite possible.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO RAILWAY STAFF.

887. \*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena : (a) Is it a fact that racial discrimination is made in the matter of provision and allotment of quarters ?

(b) Are Government aware that at stations like Lucknow no quarters for Indian subordinates have so far been provided, though many of them are entitled to rent-free quarters, and that quarters for Anglo-Indian staff, even though they are not entitled to get railway quarters, are ample in number and are enjoyed by the Anglo-Indians at comparatively low rent ?

(c) Are Government aware that European type quarters are not suitable to orthodox Indian families and that to occupy the same causes great hardship and inconvenience to them and their families on account of different mode of life and the neighbouring conditions ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if house allowance in lieu of rent-free quarters is paid to the Indian staff where no quarters are available for them ?

(e) Is it a fact that for want of Indian type quarters at Lucknow, East Indian Railway, Indian subordinates were being paid house allowance, but recently one European type quarter was allotted to about a dozen of Indian subordinates, all of whom refused to occupy the same, unless it was altered to suit the requirements of an orthodox Indian family to reside ?

(f) Are Government aware that the Railway authorities refused to alter the type of the quarter and also stopped payment of house allowance, so long enjoyed by these Indian staff, on the ground of their refusal to occupy an unsuitable house ?

(g) Are Government aware that Anglo-Indians are not posted at any station where they cannot be provided with European type

quarter, and that they are never allotted any Indian type quarter, though those may remain vacant ?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state why similar consideration is not allowed in the case of Indian staff ?

(i) Are Government aware that the Indian subordinates have been posted at Lucknow long before they were offered to occupy the said European type quarter and that, at the time of their posting at Lucknow, they were refused any railway quarter and were paid house allowance in lieu ?

(j) Are Government aware that this action of the Railway authorities has imposed a serious hardship on the Indian subordinates ?

(k) Are Government prepared to institute an enquiry into these grievances of the Indian staff and remove the same ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government are informed as follows :

(a) No.

(b) About 175 sets of clerical type quarters for Indian subordinate staff have been built at Lucknow. In addition private enterprise meets some of the demand. Anglo-Indian staff who occupy railway quarters pay rent in accordance with the rules in force.

(c) Government are informed that, ordinarily, Indian employees have no objection to occupy European (open) type quarters.

(d) House allowance is paid to staff to whom it is due under the rules.

(e), (f) and (i). Two Indian employees who refused to occupy the quarters allotted to them had their house allowance stopped, as under the rules they were no longer entitled to it. The quarters are lying vacant in consequence. Five Indian employees who sub-let their quarters to other staff have also had their house allowance stopped.

(g) The situation has not yet arisen.

(h) Does not arise.

(j) and (k). No.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** What are the rules which govern the payment of rent by Anglo-Indian officers for their quarters ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** If the Honourable Member will put down a question to that effect, I shall furnish him with the information.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Will the Honourable Member cite any case in which an Anglo-Indian has been provided with quarters of the Indian type ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** If the Honourable Member will put down a question to that effect I will try to find it out for him if possible.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** As a matter of fact the whole question relates to this grievance.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I cannot start arguing the question without notice.

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** The Honourable Member has asked for a specific question and notice to that effect may be given.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** I have asked in my question whether certain quarters which were built for Anglo-Indians and Europeans alone are being allotted to Indians and when they refused to occupy them on that ground their house allowance has been stopped. That is one part ; the other part asks whether any Anglo-Indian is posted at a place where European type quarters are not available. Both these questions are there and therefore I asked whether there is any case where Anglo-Indians have been allotted Indian type quarters.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The Honourable Member merely wants to argue the question by putting the reverse case, and if he does want to persist in the argument, I have suggested that he should put down a question to that effect.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** May I know if in important stations, like Lucknow and Asansol, there is any agency which allots quarters to the railway employees ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I believe so, but if the Honourable Member wants specific information I am afraid he will have to put down a question to that effect.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa :** Does the differing type refer to the fittings and furniture or to the structure of the building ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I am afraid I could not say without notice.

#### EXEMPTION OF THE RUNNING STAFF FROM THE OPERATION OF HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT RULES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

888. **\*Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi :** (a) Is it a fact that *Running staff* are exempted from the Operation of Hours of Employment Rules on State Railways in India ?

(b) On what particular considerations are certain categories of staff classed as *Running staff* for the purpose of :

(i) travelling allowance, and

(ii) Hours of Employment Rules ?

(c) Were the Crew staff employed on the East Indian Railway before 1st June, 1931, classed as *Running staff* ?

(d) Is it a fact that Crew staff comprised of Crewmen, Crew incharge, and Crew Inspectors ?

(e) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state under what rule they were denied mileage allowance which the *Running staff* are entitled to draw ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether Crewmen, Crew incharges and Crew Inspectors were *incharge of a running train, connected with the charge of a running train, or, considered to be connected with the charge of a running train* ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state why the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway were paid mileage allowance before 1st June, 1931 ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to his starred question No. 832 asked on the floor of this House on the 26th February, 1936.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** : Will the Honourable Member give the exact numbers of the questions and answers which contain a reply to this question ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : That matter was argued at length the other day and I suggested to the Honourable Member that if he wants the specific numbers of those questions, he should put down a question to that effect and I will give him an answer.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** : I never knew that this question also would be answered in the same way. As a matter of fact the other day.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That is an argument. The Honourable Member had better put down a question.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** : Sir, on that day the Honourable Member promised that he would give me an answer to specific questions which relate to this particular question, and so I expected that at least in answer to this question he will give me the numbers of the questions in which this question has been replied to.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : No, I said that the Honourable Member should put down a specific question as regards the numbers of the questions and answers in which this information has been supplied, and I shall give him the numbers.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : As regards (c), have Government made any attempt to classify the kind of services which may come under running staff and the class of services which are not under running staff ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : The Honourable Member had better put down a question to that effect.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : I asked if Government have made any attempt.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : I cannot answer that without looking into the matter.

**PERMANENT TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

859. \***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** : (a) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Examiners now employed on the East Indian Railway are paid a consolidated allowance, i.e., permanent travelling allowance under Supplementary Rule 22 ?

(b) Is it a fact that a Travelling Ticket Examiner who is sent to work away from his sphere of duty, is entitled to convert this consolidated allowance into mileage allowance for the portion of the journey performed by him as laid down under Supplementary Rule 68 ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if by drawing mileage allowance, he becomes a member of the *Running staff* ?

(d) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state if the Travelling Ticket Examiners on State Railways in India are not governed by the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to his starred question No. 832 asked in this House on the 26th February, 1936.

**CHARACTER CERTIFICATES FOR SERVICE IN DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT.**

830. **\*Mr. Sham Lal :** (a) Will Government please state if a Government or a public servant is due a character certificate for his services in any Department of the Government ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, can an issuing authority leave the character and conduct column blank, or make it suspicious in a service certificate ?

(c) What is the justification for such a discretion of the issuing authority, and what is the possible avenue of redress for a Government servant after he has exhausted all the appellate authorities in regard to such grievances ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) No, but the North Western Railway issue service certificate to an employee, who has rendered more than one year's service, on the termination of his service.

(b) The character and conduct column may be left blank at the discretion of the issuing authority.

(c) The issuing authority is in the best position to describe the character and conduct. With regard to the latter part, Government are unable to advise.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Is this issue of certificates on the North Western Railway done with the approval of the Railway Board ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I suppose if there is a system and it has not been abolished in spite of its coming to the Railway Board's notice, it must be with the approval of the Board.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Does a similar rule exist in regard to any other department of Government ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I am afraid I must require notice of that question.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** What about the departments under the Honourable Member himself ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I have said I am unable to answer that without notice.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Does this practice prevail on any other railway besides the North Western Railway ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Which practice ? The issue of certificates or having a particular column for character and conduct ?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Both.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I have said that this practice prevails on the North Western Railway.

#### INDIANS IN SPAIN.

891. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar :** (a) Will Government state the number of Indians living in Spain, and the amount of Indian money invested there ?

(b) Has any damage been caused to Indian life or property during the recent riots in Spain ? If so, to what extent ?

(c) Will Government please state if any attempts have been made for reparations for the same ? If so, to what extent ?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe :** (a) The Government of India understand that there are about 200 Indians in Spain. They have no information regarding the amount of Indian money invested there.

(b) No Indian suffered in person or property from the bombardments of Coastal towns in Spanish Morocco. Nor, so far as the Government of India are aware, has any damage been caused in Spain proper. The Consul-General at Tangier, however, has been instructed by His Majesty's Government to furnish a report on the position regarding British Indian interests.

(c) At the request of the Government of India His Majesty's Government have instructed Consular Officers in Spain and Spanish Morocco to do everything possible to protect property and to take note of particulars which might form a basis for possible presentation of claims for compensation.

#### BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND FILMS PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING INDIA.

892. **\*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** Will Government be pleased to state the number of books, periodicals and films which have been prohibited from entering India during the past seven years under the Sea Customs Act, Post Office Act and other Acts ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** No cinematograph film was prohibited entry into British India during this period. Twenty-five notifications prohibiting the entry of books and other publications were issued under the provisions of section 19 of the Sea Customs Act during the same period. Power to prohibit entry is not conferred by the Post Office Act or other Acts.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Will Government publish a consolidated list of all such books that have been proscribed under all these Acts ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** No, Sir ; there is no intention to publish a consolidated list.



**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Do Government revise these orders of proscription, and if so, how often ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** Not that I am aware. I do not remember any case in which the order of proscription was revised.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Is it not a fact that Ramsay MacDonald's book " the Government of India " was a proscribed book and afterwards the order was withdrawn ?

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** The Honourable Member wants information as to the number of books and not the names of the books.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Sir, the Honourable Member's answer was that he is not aware of these orders of proscription being ever revised. So I cited an instance and asked him if he is aware of the fact that Ramsay MacDonald's book " The Government of India " was proscribed and later on that order was withdrawn.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** The Honourable Member is imparting information and not asking for it.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that if a particular book or set of books is once proscribed, it is proscribed once and for all, and there is no case for revision ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** No, I have not said that. I said that I am not aware, within my own experience, of any case in which it was necessary to revise an order prohibiting the entry of a book.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Then may I know if there is any rule which permits the agency which censors these books to revise it and to cancel the ban, if necessary ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** The power to proscribe the entry of a book into India rests with the Government of India. I have no doubt that the Government of India have the statutory power to cancel any such order issued.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Do the Government of India entertain any appeals sent up by any public bodies or persons in India requesting them to revise their decision in proscribing a particular book or set of books ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** Yes, I have no doubt that they would entertain any application sent to them. I have no knowledge of any such application having been received.

#### **SUPERSESSION OF INDIANS BY EUROPEANS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

893. \***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that junior Europeans have been superseding the senior Indians in the North Western Railway services ? If so, does this import a change in the policy of the Indianisation of the services ?

(b) Was the Railway Board consulted in the matter of the change of this policy ? If so, did any correspondence pass between the Agent of the North Western Railway and the Railway Board ? If so, will Government lay the correspondence on the table of the House ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to appointments to administrative posts. These are selection posts which are filled by selection of officers considered to be best fitted to fill them. Due weight is given to seniority but none to racial considerations. There has been no change in policy.

**Sardar Sant Singh :** May I ask if it is a fact that persons who have been holding these administrative posts are being passed over in order to make room for junior European officers ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** No.

**Sardar Sant Singh :** Is it a fact that Mr. C. H. Shah, the Deputy Chief Commercial Manager, had been acting in this post for the last six months.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That question was disallowed, I think.

**Sardar Sant Singh :** May I ask, Sir, that in view of the reply given by the Honourable Member, if it is not permissible to point out to him certain facts which cannot be reconciled with the answer he has given ?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have disallowed that question because I cannot allow individual cases being ventilated in this House like this.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** May I know what is the number of senior Indians who have been superseded by junior Anglo-Indians in this respect in the North Western Railway ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I will require notice of that.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** In view of the fact that an assurance was given on the floor of this House by the Railway Member that whenever a senior man was superseded on account of inefficiency, the case would always be examined by the Railway Board and the Railway Member, may I ask whether all these cases were examined by him or by the Board ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** In every case when there is a proposal that an officer should be selected for a particular appointment and there are officers senior to him who ought to be considered for that post, the matter is always considered not only by the Railway Board but also by the Railway Member.

**Sardar Sant Singh :** May I know if there have been any cases in which the Honourable Member has overruled the recommendations put forward ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I am afraid I cannot give a reply to that question.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Was this practice observed in this particular case mentioned or was any remark entered in the service roll of the gentlemen concerned ?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I cannot allow the Honourable Member to cover such wide ground.

AGITATION IN CEYLON AGAINST INDIANS AND MALAYALEES.

894. \***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** : (a) Are Government aware that :

- (i) there is an agitation going on in Ceylon against Indians in general and Malayalees in particular ;
  - (ii) that a persistent agitation is being carried on through public meetings and through distribution of pamphlets to boycott the Malayalees ;
  - (iii) that a resolution was moved in the State Council of Ceylon in May last to repatriate non-Ceylonese and that resolution has been referred to the Ceylon Government for taking necessary action thereon ; and
  - (iv) that the Ceylon Government are going to appoint a commission to consider this question ?
- (b) Will Government please state :
- (i) what steps they are taking in this matter ;
  - (ii) whether the rights and privileges of the Indians in Ceylon are proposed to be properly safeguarded ; and
  - (iii) whether, in the event of the commission being appointed, necessary steps will be taken to see that Indian interests are properly represented on the commission ?

**Sir Girja Shangar Bajpai** : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 776 in the current Session.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** : With reference to part (b) (iii) of my question, will the Honourable gentleman be kind enough to tell me whether the Government are thinking of deputing a capable officer to present the Indian case before the commission ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : No ; because the Government of India think that their Agent in Ceylon is quite capable of dealing with the situation.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** : Seeing that the Agent in Ceylon is very much pressed for time and he is far removed from the centre of Government there—his office being in Kandy—is it not better that a special officer is deputed for this purpose, as this inquiry is very important affecting five millions of our people there ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : I am not for a minute disputing the importance of the matter ; but my Honourable friend ought to realise that while ordinarily the Agent may reside in Kandy, when an important investigation of this kind is in progress, he will take himself to the place where his presence is most needed and is likely to prove most useful.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : Do I understand that the Honourable Member's Department has not made any recommendation or indicated the feelings of India in this respect to the Agent ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : My Honourable friend is making an unduly unwarranted assumption. The proceedings of this House are

read by the Agent and whenever the occasion arises for the Government of India to address a communication to the Agent, that communication is made.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** : Has the Agent been asked to prepare a case for this commission and to present it ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : It may be of interest to my Honourable friend to know that the gentleman has volunteered his assistance to Indian associations in Ceylon to assist them in the preparation of their case.

NOMINATION OF A MALAYALEE TO THE STATE COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF A MALAYALEE OFFICER TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF MALAYALEES IN CEYLON.

895. \***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** : In view of the great interest that the Malayalees have in Ceylon, do Government propose :

- (a) to represent to the Government of Ceylon the need for nominating a Malayalee to the State Council in Ceylon ; and
- (b) to appoint a Malayalee officer in Ceylon to look after the interests of Malayalees and be an intermediary between them and the Ceylonese Government ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to pages 100 and 101 of the Donoughmore Commission's report.

(b) The Honourable Member is aware that the Government of India maintain an Agent in Ceylon to look after the interests of all Indians in Ceylon.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** : In view of the fact that it is the Malayalees against whom this anti-Indian agitation is specially directed, does not my Honourable friend think that it will be better to give them special protection and have a special officer there specially charged with matters relating to Malayalees and the agitation against them ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : I do not think so, because the agitation against Malayalees is of recent date and the Agent in Ceylon is quite capable of dealing with it.

AGITATION IN CEYLON TO REPATRIATE MALAYALEES.

896. \***Mr. Samuel Aaron** : (a) Will Government please state whether they are aware of the agitation going on in Ceylon to repatriate Malayalees ? If so, what action do Government propose to take in this matter ?

(b) Are Government prepared to enquire about a resolution said to have been passed in the Ceylon State Council to give effect to this proposal, and the action the Government of Ceylon have taken to bring it in force ?

(c) Are Government prepared to appoint a Commission to enquire into the grievances of Indians as regards the anti-Malayalees utterances

made by Mr. Goonasinjee, Member, Ceylon State Council, and the proposed action by the Government of Ceylon in this connection ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 776 of the current Session.

(c) Attention is invited to the reply given by me to part (b) of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's question No. 1673 on the 17th April, 1936.

†897\*.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT THE RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSING IN  
CANNANORE.

898. \*Mr. Samuel Aaron : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of a resolution passed by the Cannanore Municipal Council to request the South Indian Railway authorities to build an overbridge at the level crossing in Cannanore on the northern side of the Railway station to avoid considerable inconvenience caused to the public ?

(b) If Government are not aware of the fact, are they prepared to enquire into the matter and do the needful ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) No.

(b) This is a matter within the competence of the Railway Administration. If a copy of the resolution passed by the Cannanore Municipality is sent to them, they will deal with it in accordance with the rules on the subject, which lay down the proportion in which costs have to be shared.

NON-PROVISION OF OLD SCALES OF PAY FOR RETRENCHED EMPLOYEES OF THE  
EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

899. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board decided that the retrenched persons on reappointment after the 15th July, 1931 and before 1st April, 1936, will be entitled to the old scales of pay ?

(b) Is it a fact that the retrenched persons in the East Indian Railway Press, Calcutta, on reappointment on the specified dates, have not been provided with their old scales of pay ?

(c) Are Government aware that the appointment of the retrenched persons in the East Indian Railway Press in other grades causes inconvenience to the people entitled to those grades ?

(d) If the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) how many persons were reappointed in the East Indian Railway Press between 15th July, 1931 and 1st April, 1936 ;

†This question was cancelled, being the same as the Short Notice question answered on the 5th October, 1936.

- (ii) their grades of appointment ;
- (iii) the pay they were drawing at the time of their reduction ;  
and
- (iv) the number of persons not getting promotions in their respective higher grades on account of the appointment of the retrenched persons ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Railway Board's letter No. 807-E.G.-II, dated 31st August, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Government are informed as follows :

(b) All retrenched staff re-appointed before the 1st April, 1936, and who were originally appointed before the 16th July, 1931, have been granted the old scales of pay. Some of this staff have been accommodated in posts in lower categories than those held by them at the time of retrenchment and are, therefore, at present drawing lower scales of pay.

(c) It may in some instances.

(d) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

(e) The information is not readily available and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

#### STOPPAGE OF INCREMENTS OF THE BINDING STAFF OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

900. **\*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that the clerical staff Reading Branch of supervising staff, East Indian Railway Press are entitled to increment in their due course ?

(b) Is it a fact that about 70 persons in the Binding Department, who are to retire within a short time are not getting increments for the last five or six years ?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government aware that the stoppage of increment will affect the gratuity and Provident Fund of those persons on their retirement ?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, what action, if any, are Government going to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government are informed as follows :

(a) Yes, in accordance with the scales of pay prescribed.

(b) Staff in the binding section are granted increments according to their scales of pay. There are no cases of stoppage of increment.

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

#### BINDERS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

901. **\*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** Is it a fact that the posts of the binders in the East Indian Railway Press are in inferior service and those of the Government of India Press in superior service ? If so, why ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by Mr. P. R. Rau to Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 271 on the 11th December, 1933, and to the information laid on the table of the House on the 25th January, 1934, in reply to parts (b) and (c) of the same question.

**DISPOSAL OF PETITIONS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.**

902. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that as a rule, in all the Presses and other Government Offices, the petitions are to be addressed to the office master and he himself is to deal with those petitions ?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the petitions addressed to the Superintendent, East Indian Railway Press, are generally disposed of by the Establishment clerk and by the Head Clerk, and never reach the Superintendent ?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason therefor ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Government understand that the usual practice in the Government of India Presses is that petitions on which the Manager of the Press is competent to pass orders are addressed to him and are disposed of by him.

(b) Government are informed that all petitions received, addressed to the Superintendent, East Indian Railway Press, are dealt with personally by that officer.

(c) Does not arise.

**PROMOTIONS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.**

903. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** Are Government aware of the fact that the promotions in the East Indian Railway Press are to be given according to the serial number of the candidates in the classified list issued once a year, but that is not usually done ? If so, why ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information laid on the table of the House on the 7th April, 1936, in reply to Dr. P. N. Banerjee's starred question No. 1305 asked on the 17th March, 1936.

**PROMOTIONS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.**

904. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table (i) a list of the persons in the East Indian Railway Press promoted to the next higher grade, (ii) their dates of appointment, and (iii) designations ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table (i) a list of the persons who have not got promotions, (ii) their date of appointment, and (iii) designations ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The information is not readily available and Government do not consider that the time and labour involved in its collection would be justified by the results.

**ALLEGED RUDE BEHAVIOUR OF A BUS CONDUCTOR TOWARDS AN INDIAN IN LONDON.**

905. \***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. S. Satyamurti**) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to an incident reported in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 3rd August, regarding the rude behaviour of a bus conductor towards an Indian in London ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that an Indian passenger in a London bus had suggested to the conductor that he might be more civil when demanding his fare ; and was rudely treated by the conductor, calling him a ' black ' ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the bus conductor told him in the hearing of other passengers that if he was in his own country a few English soldiers would soon give him one in the jaw ; and
- (d) whether they propose to bring this matter to the notice of the Secretary of State for India for suitable action, and if not why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : (a) No.

(b) and (c). I have no information.

(d) No.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : Did not the Honourable Member see the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* or does he say that it is wrong ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : I have read the report.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : May I know if the Honourable Member has made any inquiries as regards that or made a representation to the Secretary of State for India ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : No.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : Does the Honourable Member think that the position and status and privileges of Indians going about in England is a thing which need not be protected and that it is not for the Government of India to take any responsibility in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : That is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : Why does not the Honourable Member address the Secretary of State to see that no such thing recurs in future ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : If the Honourable Member will read the article, he will see that the correspondent is apparently pseudonymous, that no address is given, no date is given, no name is given of the Indian, no name is given of the bus conductor, no number is given of the bus : and as there are many thousands of buses plying in London, and many hundreds of Indians going in them and many hundreds of anonymous correspondents, it would be a matter of considerable difficulty to trace to what Indian, what bus and what bus conductor the letter referred.



**REDUCTION OF THE SALARIES OF THE SUPERVISING STAFF AND OF THE WORKERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.**

906. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that the salary of the supervising staff, as well as of the workers of the East Indian Railway Press, was reduced in the years 1931 and 1933 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the supervising staff were allowed to have their pay with retrospective effect on restitution ?

(c) Is it a fact that the workers were not allowed their pay on restitution with retrospective effect ?

(d) If the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they intend to take any action in the matter and repay the loss of the workers ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AND STATE RAILWAY PRESSES.**

907. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that in reply to starred question No. 1301, dated the 17th March, 1936, regarding a committee to enquire into the working of the Government of India Presses and State Railway Presses, the Honourable Member in Charge, Railways, was pleased to state that the reply to questions Nos. 1301 to 1312 would be replied together, as soon as the information is collected ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the information has been collected ? If not, when are the replies expected ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes.

(b) Information was laid on the table of the House on the following dates :

|       |                       |                  |                   |
|-------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1301. | }                     | 7th April, 1936. |                   |
| 1302. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1304. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1305. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1306. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1307. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1309. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1310. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1311. |                       |                  | 22nd April, 1936. |
| 1303. |                       |                  | }                 |
| 1308. |                       |                  |                   |
| 1312. | 11th September, 1936. |                  |                   |

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS STAFF.

908. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that a Committee was appointed in 1934 to enquire into the grievances of the press staff of the East Indian Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Committee submitted a report and it was accepted by Government ?

(c) Is it a fact that in paragraph 35 of the said report it was recommended that two more posts of class II binders may be created to make the cadre more balanced ? If so, has the recommendation been given effect to ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF RETRENCHED PERSONS BORNE ON THE WAITING LIST OF RAILWAYS.

909. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board issued orders for the re-appointment of retrenched persons borne on waiting lists, which were circulated in the Railway Press, Calcutta vide Agent's circular No. A.E.-2581|1, dated the 4th September, 1934 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said order runs as follows ?

“ The Board have also decided that retrenched persons borne on a waiting list who have been, or may be, re-appointed after the 15th July 1931, but before the 1st April, 1936, will on re-appointment be entitled to the old scales of pay of the service unless they had originally been appointed after the 15th July, 1931, and in a temporary capacity, in which case they will, if re-appointed, receive the revised scales of pay with effect from the dates of their introduction.”

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the Board that persons, who had originally been appointed after the 15th July 1931, permanently or in a temporary capacity are not entitled to old scales of pay on their reappointment ? If not, will Government be pleased to state the intention of the Board on the point ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Railway Board's letter No. 807-E.G.-II, dated the 31st August, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

PROMOTION OF DEMOTED EMPLOYEES IN THE RAILWAY PRESS AT CALCUTTA.

910. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board issued orders regulating the promotion of “ demoted ” employees in the Railway Press at Calcutta ? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said order ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said orders contemplate automatic promotion of a “ demoted ” employee, whenever vacancy occurs, to the grade from which he was demoted ?

(c) Is it a fact that "seniority" in the said orders means "seniority in pay" ?

(d) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state their intention on the points in the rules ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) and (b). The Railway Board's orders regarding the promotion of employees demoted as a result of the economy campaign are contained in the memorandum which accompanied the Railway Board's letter No. 381-L, dated the 20th July, 1932, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

(c) No. Under the orders quoted the position of seniority of a demoted employee is above men holding similar posts and drawing the same substantive pay as that allowed to the demoted employee.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (a) to (c) of the question.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE RAILWAY PRESS AT CALCUTTA.

911. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that before March, 1930, the industrial employees of the Railway Press at Calcutta were hourly and daily rated staff ?

(b) Is it a fact that on and from 1st March, 1930, these employees have been designated as monthly rated staff ?

(c) Is it a fact that the provision of payment of daily wages for the efficient industrial employees has never been given effect to and has altogether been abolished ? If so, why ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes.

(b) Industrial employees of East Indian Railway Press, Calcutta, were brought on to the revised monthly scales of pay on the 1st November, 1930.

(c) A piece-bonus system was introduced simultaneously. This was abandoned shortly after owing to unsatisfactory results, the amount of work which could be piece-rated on the old hand labour rates being negligible owing to the employment of labour saving machinery.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SCALES OF PAY IN THE AMALGAMATED RAILWAY PRESSES AT CALCUTTA.

912. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that with the introduction of new scales of pay in the amalgamated Railway Press at Calcutta, the category of staff, number of posts and the grade or scale of pay was fixed by the Railway Board ?

(b) Is it a fact that the compositors and the binders were placed in three grades ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the maximum of these compositors and binders on the scale of pay as fixed ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) No.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the East Indian Railway's revised scales of pay, 1934, for non-gazetted staff, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

RECOGNITION OF THE RAILWAY PRESS WORKERS' UNION, CALCUTTA.

913. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that the Secretary, Railway Press Workers' Union, Calcutta—a registered Union under the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926, as well as a Certified Union under paragraph 18 of part IV of the Government of India Order, 1936—submitted a petition with necessary informations to the Secretary, Railway Board on the 22nd February, 1935, for the recognition of the Union ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the recognition of the Union ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Government have not been able to trace any such petition having been received in the Railway Board's Office.

(b) Does not arise.

LEAVE RULES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE RAILWAY PRESS AT CALCUTTA.

914. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board in its resolution No. 8373-E., dated the 20th February, 1930 framed leave rules applicable to the Government servants employed in the Railway Department and in the extent of application of Annexure I of the said leave rules it has been stated that these rules apply to all Government servants provided that they hold substantively a permanent post under Government on a *monthly rate of pay* or hold a lien on such post ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government in reply to starred question No. 1302 (f) and (g) of the 17th March, 1936 stated on 7th April, 1936 that services of all the staff of the East Indian Railway Press have been placed on *monthly scale of pay* ?

(c) Is it a fact that the industrial employees of the Railway Press at Calcutta are also monthly rated staff ?

(d) If the answer to parts (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the industrial employees of the Railway Press are governed by Annexure I of the Leave Rules ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to section I of Annexure I of the Railway Board's Resolution No. 8373-E., dated the 20th February, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. Industrial employees of the Railway Press like other labourers employed in the Railway workshops are governed by Annexure II of the Leave Rules referred to in part (a) of the question.

**DUTIES OF RECORD SUPPLIERS IN THE CENTRAL FORMS STORE, CALCUTTA.**

915. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya : (a) Is it a fact that the duties of record suppliers, Central Forms Store, Calcutta, are mainly :

- (i) receiving forms for the different stores and supervising their stacking on racks for issue and on floor for stock ;
- (ii) putting forms against demands by detailed counting ;
- (iii) checking forms issued by indents and making vouchers and prepare packing notes as also labels for the postal packages ;
- (iv) cutting of stencil plates and marking of packages ; and
- (v) putting up samples for reprinting, and watch stocks ?

(b) Is it a fact that the duties of the junior clerks in the Stationery Offices are mainly :

- (i) reading the addresses from writings on the indents ;
- (ii) reading receipt numbers and printing stencil marks ;
- (iii) writing labels for packages, etc. ;
- (iv) diarising letters and indents ; and
- (v) despatching letters ?

(c) Is it a fact that no minimum qualifications have been laid down for record suppliers in the Central Forms Store or for junior clerks in the Central Stationery Office ?

(d) Is it a fact that the record suppliers of the Forms Store do clerical duties independently and at least a third of the record suppliers are doing work similar to that performed by junior clerks in the Stationery Office ?

(e) Is it a fact that the rates of pay of the junior clerks, Central Stationery and Record Suppliers, Central Forms are 30-1-40 and 20-1-27, respectively ?

(f) Is it a fact that the illiterate coolies and the paper counters in the Government of India Press, Calcutta get Rs. 20-1-30 and 25-1-35, respectively ?

(g) Is it a fact that the record suppliers, Forms Store, have prayed to be placed in the grade Rs. 30-1-40 and, if allowed, the immediate increase of cost per annum would be about Rs. 3,000 ?

(h) If the answer to parts (a) to (g) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to revise the rates of pay of the record suppliers and place them in Rs. 30-40 ? If not, why not ?

(i) Will Government be pleased to lay a statement showing how many junior clerks in the Central Stationery and how many clerks in the Central Forms have been recruited from outside and how many from among the record suppliers during the last five years ?

(j) Will Government be pleased to state under which rules and regulations these record suppliers are guided in their service ?

(k) Is it a fact that some of the record suppliers are working temporarily for the last ten years? If so, do Government propose to consider the question of making them permanent?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) to (d). I am not in possession of information regarding the detailed nature of duties performed by the staff in question. So far as I am aware, no minimum qualifications have been laid down for record suppliers in the Central Forms Store or for junior clerks in the Central Stationery Office. I understand that some record suppliers have at times performed clerical duties independently.

(e) Yes.

(f) The pay of paper counters in the Calcutta Press is as stated by the Honourable Member. By illiterate coolies he apparently means labourers; they get a pay of Rs. 18 and 19 per mensem.

(g) and (h). Memorials were received from the record suppliers in the Central Forms Store but were rejected. Government do not propose to reconsider the matter.

(i) Government have no information on the subject and do not propose to collect it as it is not likely to serve any useful purpose.

(j) The record suppliers in the Central Forms Store are in inferior service and are governed by the rules applicable to such service.

(k) Orders have recently been issued transferring 20 out of 25 record suppliers from the temporary to the permanent establishment.

**MEMORIALS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.**

916. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that a memorial from the industrial employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, was submitted on 13th May, 1936, in the following manner?

“ To

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, Kt., C.S.I., C.B.E.,  
Member in Charge, Department of Industries and Labour,  
Government of India.

Through :

C. F. Weakford, Esq., M.B.E.,  
Controller of Printing and Stationery,  
and

E. G. Aylmer, Esq.,  
Manager, Government of India Press,

Calcutta.”

Is it a fact that this memorial was returned by the Controller on the ground of not being in proper form?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member in Charge be pleased to state the reasons why the memorial referred to therein was returned?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what is the condition of submitting these memorials ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) and (b). I understand that the Controller of Printing received a number of such memorials from piece-workers but these were incorrectly addressed and in accordance with orders issued by the Government of India were returned for submission after correction.

(c) The form and manner of submission of petitions are laid down in Part II of the instructions published with the Home Department Notification No. F. 6/7/33-II, dated the 19th June, 1933.

**TRANSFER OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA, FROM THE TEMPORARY TO THE PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT.**

917. **\*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that the Honourable Member in Charge, Department of Industries and Labour, stated in reply to starred question No. 1316, dated the 17th March, 1936, that Government have taken steps for transferring certain industrial employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, from the temporary to the permanent establishment ?

(b) Is it a fact that according to that statement the said order has already been communicated to the Manager of the Calcutta Press ?

(c) Is it a fact that the order has not yet been given effect to in the Calcutta Press ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) Yes, but I presume the Honourable Member refers to question No. 1313.

(b) and (c). Orders were issued for the transfer of a large number of posts in the Government of India Presses, etc., from the temporary to the permanent establishment, but were not given effect to, as the question was raised whether the confirmation of the incumbents of the temporary posts transferred to the permanent establishment was subject to the orders regarding communal representation. This matter has now been settled and effect will now be given to the Government orders.

**CONTRACTS OF AGENCY FOR PURCHASE OF GRAINS FOR MILITARY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF GRAIN DEPÔTS AT CERTAIN PLACES.**

918. **\*Prof. N. G. Ranga :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of years for which the contracts of agency for purchase of grains for Military, and the management of Grain Depôts at Peshawar, Lahore and Lucknow have been held by Messrs. Owen Roberts and Company ?

(b) How many times during this period were tenders for these two contracts invited, and in which years ?

(c) When were the tenders for these two contracts last called for ?

(d) Is it a fact that the tenders of Messrs. Owen Roberts and Company, for both these contracts, were the highest in rates when they were invited last time ? If so, why were the lower tenders of Indian firms not accepted ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to place upon the table of this House a statement showing the rates quoted by the various firms for both these contracts, separately ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to lay upon the table a statement showing the amount paid to this firm during the last three financial years, for each of the above two contracts, separately ?

(g) Is it a fact that last time both these contracts were given for a period of three years ?

(h) Is it a fact that although three years have passed, still Government have not yet invited tenders for any of these contracts ?

(i) Is it a fact that these contracts with this European firm are going to be renewed for an indefinite period ? If so, why ?

(j) Will Government be pleased to state when the indefinite period will end, and a chance given to some Indian firm ?

(k) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to give this contract to any Indian firm ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** (a) Ten years.

(b) Twice in the case of the Grain Purchasing Agency, namely, in November, 1925, and in August, 1933, and once in the case of the Grain Depot Management Agency during August, 1933.

(c) August, 1933.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The answer to the second part is that Government were satisfied that the tender accepted contained the minimum rates at which services up to the standard required could be obtained.

(e) I am not prepared to disclose the rates tendered.

(f) I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for.

(g) Yes, from the 1st April, 1934.

(h), (i), (j) and (k). The current contract has not yet expired. But Government have decided to renew it, when it expires next year, for an indefinite period subject to termination on nine months' notice by either side. The reason is that Government are satisfied with the services rendered by the firm and consider that their retention is in the public interest. If in future it is found necessary to call for tenders, all firms—British or Indian—will have an equal opportunity to quote their rates.

*Statement.*

| Year.        | Statement.               |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
|              | Grain purchasing agency. | Grain Depot Management agency. |
|              | Rs.                      | Rs.                            |
| 1933-34      | 1,03,043                 | 26,296                         |
| 1934-35      | 1,01,060                 | 27,334                         |
| 1935-36      | 1,07,988                 | 27,723                         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3,12,091</b>          | <b>81,353</b>                  |



**Pandit Krishna Kanta Malaviya :** May I know from the Honourable Member if he is convinced that there can be no other firm in this country which can supply grains as satisfactorily as is being done by this firm ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I do not think that that question arises, but we were satisfied that this was the best firm.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** May I know if it is the practice in the Military Department to give contracts for an indefinite period of time only terminable on nine months' notice ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** It is done if it is considered desirable to do so.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** I did not hear the Honourable Member.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** It has been done on several occasions.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** When these contracts are accepted for an indefinite period, how often do Government try to review the results of such contracts ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** The working of the contract is reviewed every year. We see the accounts of the firm and if we consider that a lowering of the rates is necessary we can give notice.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** In view of the fact that there may be constant fluctuation of market prices of commodities, do Government consider it advisable to have a review of the operations of the contract from time to time and settle with somebody else who can tender at lower rates and give better quality at that rate ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I have just answered that question. I have said that the working of the contract is reviewed every year and if the prices have fluctuated and we consider that the firm is making an undue profit we can give notice.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Why are not fresh tenders called for when there is a fluctuation in market prices and why are not chances given to rival firms to compete for the requirements of the Military Department ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** If we give notice, the agreement expires and tenders are called for.

**Mr. N. V. Gadgil :** Is there any proposal at present to give this particular firm a contract for a very long term ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I have replied to that in answer to parts (h), (i), (j) and (k). Government have decided to renew the contract with this firm for an indefinite period subject to nine months' notice on either side.

#### DEFORESTATION OF JAMUGURI RESERVE IN THE BORPATHAR DEVELOPMENT AREA IN GOLAGHAT, ASSAM.

919. \***Mr. Kuladhar Ohaliha :** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any proposal from the Government of Assam for the deforestation of Jamuguri Reserve in Borpathar Development

Area in the sub-division of Golaghat in the District of Sibsagar within the Province of Assam ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** No.

PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY THE INHABITANTS OF BORPATTHAR *Mouza* IN ASSAM.

920. \***Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the inhabitants of Borpathar *Mouza* enjoyed the privilege of ordinary civil and criminal jurisdiction under the High Court of Calcutta till December last ;
- (b) whether suits and criminal cases were tried by the Munsiffs of Golaghat and sub-judge of Jorhat and by Magistrates of Golaghat and Additional Judge A. V. Division and Judge A. V. D., respectively, and whether they enjoyed the privilege of trial by jury till December last ;
- (c) the reason for inclusion of the area in the Mikir Hill Tracts and the exclusion of the people from the privileges so long enjoyed ; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to consider the question of transferring the area from the Mikir Hills and allow the people the privileges which they previously enjoyed, including the right of voting in the general constituencies of Golaghat sub-division ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a), (b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to his question No. 1761 which was placed on the table of the House on the 31st August, 1936.

LATRINES FOR THIRD AND INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSENGERS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

921. \***Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the size of latrines for third class and intermediate class passengers on the Assam Bengal Railway ;
- (b) whether there is any light in the latrines ; and
- (c) whether they are prepared to advise the railway to improve the latrines in the near future ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) The sizes of the latrines vary from 6 square feet to 15½ square feet.

(b) Yes.

(c) Instructions have been issued that the area of latrines in all lower class carriages to be built in future should not be less than 12 square feet.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Is the Honourable Member aware that some of the latrines are too small for some Members of the Assembly ?

**An Honourable Member :** For instance, Mr. K. Ahmed. (Laughter.)

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Will the Honourable Member issue instructions that latrines that measure five square feet should be replaced by bigger latrines ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I will send the suggestion down to the Agent.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** And also that hygienic latrines are, as far as possible, introduced in the railways ?

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi :** Will the Honourable Member also see that in the metre gauge railways also this new dimension of the latrine is followed ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** The question does not refer to metre gauge railways.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi :** The sizes of the latrines differ in different railways.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** We have no information here as regards the sizes of latrines on the metre gauge railways.

**ARRANGEMENT FOR WATER FOR GUARDS OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.**

922. **\*Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha :** Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement for water for guards in the guard-vans of the Assam Bengal Railway ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** No. Guards may, if they so wish, carry water in their brake vans in suitable receptacles.

**Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha :** Will Government advise the Railway to make some arrangement ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** This is the arrangement which I have read out.

**AMOUNT ALLOTTED TO THE VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION FUND FOR ASSAM.**

923. **\*Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount allotted by them to the Village Reconstruction Fund in the years 1934-35 and 1935-36 ; and

(b) the sum allotted to the Province of Assam in the years 1934-35 and 1935-36 ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the Fund for the economic development and improvement of rural areas. No grant was made in 1934-35. The details of the allotment made in 1935-36 from the Government of India grant are set out in the White Paper which I laid before the House on the 6th September, 1935, in reply to Mr. Basanta Kumar Das's question No. 162. The allotment to Assam was Rs. 5 lakhs.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** Is not a statement for current year ready yet ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** I laid one on the table of the House yesterday.

**Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha :** Will Government be pleased to state why, in spite of a larger grant to this Fund, Assam has got a lesser proportion ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** Is it the Honourable Member's question that Assam has got less than its proportion according to rural population ?

**Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha :** Yes, and for its vast area as well.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** The Honourable Member is quite wrong, because in the case of Assam the population basis has been very heavily loaded and it has got nearly twice its proper proportion.

#### IMPLEMENTING OF THE CONVENTION ON FORCED LABOUR.

924. **\*Mr. V. V. Giri :** (a) Is it true that, in pursuance of the international labour convention on forced labour, the Government of Bombay have recently passed orders prohibiting the impressment of carts for the conveyance of the baggage of Government officials while on tour ?

(b) Will Government make a statement showing the action so far taken by the Central and Provincial Governments and the Governments of the Indian States to implement the forced labour convention ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 722 on the 30th September, 1936, and to the replies given to the supplementary questions asked on that occasion. I may add that steps have been taken to induce all Indian States which have not already taken action to enact legislation in regard to forced labour on the lines of the legislation now prevailing in British India, and the Political Officers concerned have been requested to ask States to ensure that the laws so enacted are duly enforced.

**Mr. V. V. Giri :** With reference to the answer to clause (a) of the question, will Government consider the necessity of directing the other Local Governments to follow the example of Bombay Government ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** I think that has already been done.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** I understood the Honourable Member to say that instructions have been sent to the Agents to initiate legislation on the lines that prevail in British India. May I know when those instructions were sent to the Indian States and whether any of those States have given effect to those instructions ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** I should require notice of that question.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Is the Honourable Member aware that at railway stations forced labour is taken from the coolies ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I answered that yesterday.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** I have asked the Home Member.....

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** It is not the business of my Honourable colleague to reply on that point. It is my business.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Is it not the business of the Home Member to see that forced labour is stopped on all stations.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I have answered that question yesterday.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi :** May I know whether the Government have come to any decision as regards the publication of the reports from Local Governments on this question ? In reply to my question last time the Honourable Member stated that he would consider the question of publishing the report.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** I have not had much time to think it over, but I hope I will probably be able to publish a summary.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Are Government aware that landlords insist upon forced labour from their tenants, and where the tenants are not in a position to supply this forced labour to the landlords they are made to pay money in lieu of that forced labour ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** The Honourable Member is attempting to put in the form a supplementary question a question which was disallowed by the Chair.

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** This question has been disallowed.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** What steps do Government propose to take to see that extra Government agencies do not insist upon forced labour from tenants and workers ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** There, again, as far as I remember, it is a question which was disallowed by the Chair. In any case it refers to forced labour by private persons and the main question refers to forced labour for public purpose.

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## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### PERSONS SUSPENDED IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

82. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** Will Government please state :

- (i) how many persons were suspended in the East Indian Railway Press from January, 1935 to December, 1935 ;
- (ii) the reason for their suspension ;
- (iii) if any appeals were filed with the Government or the Agent regarding the suspension ; and
- (iv) the result of the appeals ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent, East Indian Railway, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

**COURT OF ENQUIRY REGARDING THE RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF ON RAILWAYS.**

83. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the All-India Railwaymen's Federation has applied under the Indian Trade Disputes Act for a Court of Enquiry to enquire into the dispute regarding the retrenchment of staff on Indian Railways ;
- (b) if so, whether they propose to grant the application ; and
- (c) if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) No.

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

**RETRENCHMENT ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

84. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that they propose to retrench certain categories of the staff on Indian State Railways ;
- (b) the number of men to be retrenched on each railway and the categories to which they belong ;
- (c) the amount of saving which is expected to be secured on each railway by the retrenchment of the staff ; and
- (d) the principles and method followed in selecting the staff for retrenchment ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : (a), (b) and (c).

As stated by me in reply to part (a) of question No. 644 asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 28th September, 1936, the adjustment of the numerical strength in various categories of establishments to current requirements is proceeding, involving in some cases the discharge of surplus staff.

The number of men to be discharged is not fixed with the intention of securing any pre-determined amount of saving, and as the adjustments are progressing I am unable to give any definite numbers or amounts.

The latest estimates available, however, indicate the approximate numbers surplus at present on the State-managed Railways to be :

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| North Western Railway             | 613 |
| Eastern Bengal Railway .. ..      | 61  |
| Great Indian Peninsula Railway .. | 67  |
| East Indian Railway .. ..         | 195 |
| Burma Railways .. ..              | 278 |

In addition there are on the North Western Railway 2,638 men at present being carried in categories in which the pay is lower than that which they are drawing and whose position has also to be adjusted.

The approximate additional numbers estimated as likely to become surplus in the course of the next six months are :

|                                |    |      |
|--------------------------------|----|------|
| North Western Railway          | .. | 740  |
| Eastern Bengal Railway ..      | .. | nil. |
| Great Indian Peninsula Railway | .. | 808  |
| East Indian Railway            | .. | 664  |
| Burma Railways .. .. .         | .. | 69   |

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of starred question No. 371 asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

#### WAGES IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR AND IN THE CULTIVATION OF SUGAR-CANE.

85. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether manufacture of sugar is a protected industry ;
- (b) whether the Local Governments have been given power to fix the price of sugar-cane for the protection of the growers of sugar-cane ;
- (c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether they propose to enquire into the effect of protection and of fixing the price of the sugar-cane, on the wages of the wage-earners engaged in the manufacture of sugar and in growing sugar-cane and publish a report regarding the wages in the manufacture of sugar and in the cultivation of sugar-cane ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai** : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council.

(c) Many of the wage-earners are themselves producers. It does not seem possible in practice to differentiate between the agricultural worker in a cane-field and the agricultural worker in fields growing other crops for which no minimum price has been fixed. But as I promised in reply to the Honourable Member's supplementary question to Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's question No. 10 on the 31st August, 1936, I shall pass the suggestion on for the consideration of the Local Governments concerned.

#### PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS.

86. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have recently considered the question of the regulation of the work of building construction with a view to preventing accidents to those engaged in that kind of work ; if so, what is their decision ; and
- (b) whether they had collected the opinions of the Provincial Governments and organisations concerned on the subject and, if so, what they are ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) and (b). My department received from the International Labour Office on the 15th August a questionnaire and report drawn up on the basis of the preliminary examination of this subject by the recent International Labour Conference. These papers are being examined with a view to framing a reply. No conclusion has been reached regarding the desirability of a reference to Local Governments at this stage and no question of taking a final decision will arise until we are in possession of the conclusions that may be reached at the Conference to be held next year.

ADVISERS TO DELEGATES REPRESENTING INDIAN LABOUR AT THE  
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCES.

87. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take steps to increase the number of advisers to the Delegate representing Indian Labour at the annual conferences held by the International Labour Organisation at Geneva ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** They have no such proposals under consideration at present.

FIXATION OF THE VALUE OF A SHILLING IN INDIAN CURRENCY FOR THE SALE OF  
ENGLISH BOOKS AT THE WHEELER'S STALLS ON RAILWAY STATIONS.

88. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have fixed the value of a shilling (British) in Indian currency for the sale of English books at the Wheeler's stalls on Indian Railway Stations and if so, what it is ; and
- (b) if not, whether they propose to do so shortly ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) and (b). The matter was taken up by Government with Messrs. Wheeler and Company who have agreed to reduce the price of *The Strand Magazine* and *The Wide World Magazine* from Re. 1-2 to Re. 1 and are also arranging, with effect from 1st January, 1937, to reduce the price of shilling novels from one rupee to fourteen annas.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND SICK LEAVE FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

89. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have received the opinions of the Provincial Governments and of the public organisations concerned on their latest circular regarding Health Insurance and sick leave for industrial workers ;
- (b) if so, whether they propose to publish those opinions and when ; and
- (c) whether they propose to take any other action on the subject ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) to (c). The last reply to the Government of India's circular on sickness insurance was received in July last and all the replies are now under examination. The question of publishing the opinions will be considered in that connection.



## SPECIAL LABOUR REPRESENTATION IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

90. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they are aware that in the Provincial Legislative Councils (Upper Chambers), to be set up under the new constitution, there is no special labour representation ; and
- (b) whether they propose to recommend to the Secretary of State for India to include in the draft Instrument of Instructions an instruction to the Governors to nominate one person to represent labour interests in the Provincial Councils in their provinces ?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar** : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

## VERNACULAR SCHOOLS IN THE RAILWAY COLONY AT FREELANDGANJ, DISTRICT PANCHMAHALS.

91. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : (a) Is it a fact that there are four vernacular schools conducted within the colony at Freelandganj, District Panchmahals ?

(b) If so, how many boys and girls are there in each of these schools ? What is the number of teachers in each school ?

(c) What is the total expenditure incurred on each school :

Marathi, Hindi, Urdu and Gujarathi ?

(d) Does the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company give any grant to any of these schools ? If so, what is the amount of grant paid to each ?

(e) Are there any schools which do not receive such grant ? If so, why ?

(f) Has the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company made any arrangement for the buildings for these schools ? If so, what is that arrangement ?

(g) Does the Company charge any rent to these schools ? If so, to which school and what amount ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : Government are informed as follows :

(a) Yes.

(b) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information.

(c), (d) and (e). The Gujarathi is a Railway School and the entire expenditure—which is Rs. 2,200 approximately per annum—is borne by the Railway. The other schools are private schools and receive no grant from the Railway. It is not obligatory on the Railway to make grants to non-Railway schools.

- (f) All the schools are housed in residential quarters.
- (g) In the case of the Railway Gujarathi School the question of rent does not arise.

A concessional rent of Rs. 25 is charged to the Marathi School instead of the standard rent of Rs. 32 per mensem. No rent is charged to the Hindi and Urdu schools which are held in Railway quarters rented by the staff.

*Statement showing number of Pupils and Teachers in Different Schools at Freelandganj.*

|                         | Gujarathi. | Marathi. | Hindi. | Urdu. |
|-------------------------|------------|----------|--------|-------|
| No. of Boys .. .. .     | 82         | 81       | 40     | 20    |
| No. of Girls .. .. .    | 86         | 69       | 15     | 22    |
| No. of Teachers .. .. . | 4          | 4        | 2      | 1     |

#### LAWS AFFECTING LABOUR.

92. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of the laws affecting labour in India, passed by Central or Provincial Legislatures, together with a list of any rules or regulations framed under these laws, stating in each case the latest year in which they were passed ?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of publishing all these laws and regulations as a handy labour law manual and, if so, what is the result ? If not, do they propose to consider the question at an early date ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) No complete list of the rules and regulations is readily available, and I assume that the Honourable Member is acquainted with the important labour laws. But a review of labour legislation is under preparation and will, I hope, be published shortly. This will cover all labour legislation, Central and Provincial, passed since the Whitley Commission reported and will contain references to labour Acts of any importance which are of an earlier date and are still in force.

(b) The answer is in the negative. The Acts and the more important regulations are available separately in a handy form at cheap rates. The number of persons who are interested in all of them is very small, and it is not likely that there would be any appreciable demand for the bulky volume that would be required to contain them all. Some manuals of limited scope are already available ; for example, the Central Government has published a manual containing the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, the various rules made by the Central and Provincial Governments under it and certain other relevant matter.

#### LABOUR LAWS IN FORCE IN INDIA.

93. **Mr. V. V. Giri** : Will Government lay on the table a list of the various labour laws promulgated by the Central and the Provincial Governments which are now in force in the country ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Mr. Joshi's unstarred question No. 92, to-day.

**DISPOSAL OF APPEALS AGAINST ORDERS OF DISCHARGE OR DISMISSAL ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

94. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) With reference to the reply given in this House to unstarred question No. 53 on the 4th February, 1936, regarding disposal of appeals against orders of discharge or dismissal passed on employees on State-managed Railways, will Government please state whether the Agent, East Indian Railway, vide his circular No. 449, dated the 14th September, 1925, delegated powers, with effect from the 1st October, 1925, to Divisional Superintendents in regard to discharge, dismissal, appeals, etc. ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state :

- (i) what rules were in force in regard to discharge, dismissal, appeals, etc., between the period when the State assumed the management of the railway, i.e., from 1st January, 1925, up to the 30th September, 1925 ?
- (ii) whether non-gazetted staff could be discharged or dismissed during the period referred to in part (i) by Divisional Superintendents ; if so, under what rules ; and
- (iii) under what rules were such discharged or dismissed staff governed in the matter of appeals ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government are informed as follows :

(a) Yes.

(b) (i) and (iii). Pending the formal delegation of powers arising out of the re-organisation of the East Indian Railway on a divisional basis Divisional Superintendents continued to exercise whatever powers had hitherto been exercised by District Officers under the old organisation, subject to any subsequent orders which might have been issued on specific matters during the interim period.

So far as *ex-company* employees were concerned the right of appeal to the Home Board was conferred on all employees. When the State assumed the management of the East Indian Railway on the 1st January, 1925, it was necessary to modify these orders and the staff were accordingly advised that the Agent would entertain appeals regarding dismissal and discharge and loss of gratuity while in other matters appeals would only lie to the officer immediately above that passing the order.

(ii) Yes, to the extent that this was permissible under the orders previously in force as explained in my reply to (b) (i) and (iii) above.

### RULES FOR CHARGING RENTS FROM THE EMPLOYEES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

95. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board have introduced, with effect from the 1st October, 1932, new rules governing rent to be charged from employees on the East Indian Railway? If so, do these rules apply to the gazetted and the non-gazetted staff?

(b) Is it a fact that the non-gazetted staff are required to pay more rent for the rooms occupied by them than the gazetted staff?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government please state :

(i) whether shunters, drivers, guards, etc., on the Allahabad Division are required to pay ten per cent. of pay and overtime for one room and at Rs. 10 per room if in occupation of more than one room ;

(ii) whether the Superintendent, Staff, a senior scale gazetted officer, who deals with the house-rent matters on that Division, pays Rs. 29 for a large bungalow with an immense compound ;

(iii) the number of rooms and out-offices in the said bungalow ;

(iv) whether the Divisional Superintendent pays Rs. 160 for a partly double and partly three storey palatial building ; and

(v) the number of rooms and out-offices in the said buildings ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent has recommended that non-gazetted staff in receipt of less than Rs. 120 should be given one room ; less than Rs. 299 two rooms ; less than Rs. 449 three rooms ; and on Rs. 450 and over four rooms ? If so, has he made similar recommendations for the gazetted staff on his Division ?

(e) Do Government propose to take action in the matter and see that the non-gazetted staff are better treated in regard to accommodation ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes, except that in the case of junior and senior scale officers the date of introduction of the rules was earlier, viz., 1st October, 1931.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent, East Indian Railway, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

### SELECTION AND PROMOTION OF GUARDS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

96. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) With reference to the reply given in this House to starred question No. 1693 on the 17th April, 1936, will Government please state :

(i) whether similar instructions were issued by the Railway Board to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway ; if not, why not ;

(ii) what action has been taken by the Agent ;

- (iii) whether vacancies in the higher class of guards are filled by selection or by seniority from among those in service as guards, and
- (iv) whether such vacancies are also filled by direct recruitment; and if so, under what rule of the rules issued by the Railway Board for the recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways is this permissible?

(b) Is it a fact that guards recruited direct to class "B" and on the revised scales of pay are treated as senior to those in class "A", representative of the facts that they are in receipt of more pay and have many years of service to their credit? If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment in favour of outsiders?

(c) Are new recruits to the gazetted service on the Eastern Bengal Railway appointed to the senior classes and on the revised scale of pay of those classes and are treated as senior to the gazetted officers already in the service but on the junior scales? If not, what are the reasons for this difference in the treatment between the gazetted and the non-gazetted staff?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions to safeguard the prospects of those who are in the service against this method of filling up of posts in the senior classes by the direct recruitment of outsiders? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) (i). The Railway Board are unable to trace any instructions having been issued either to the Agent, East Indian Railway or the Eastern Bengal Railway.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) Promotion of 'A' class guards to higher classes is made by selection.

(iv) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to note 1 of rule 17 of the 'Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways', a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) Government are informed that seniority is determined by pay.

(c) The question is not understood.

(d) Government do not consider any action is necessary.

#### NOTICE TERMINATING THE SERVICES OF A NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY EMPLOYEE.

97. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government please state the actual meaning of the words:

"you are discharged with immediate effect with a month's pay in lieu of notice. You will cease to be in service on and from date",

occurring in a notice terminating the services of a Railway non-gazetted employee, dated the 19th September 1944.

(b) When is such notice to be issued, *i.e.*, previous to the date on which it is to take effect or on that particular date ?

(c) Up to what date will a non-gazetted employee who has been served with a month's pay in lieu of notice on the 19th September and which notice has been served on him during the course of that day be paid his wages (i) for the days he has worked, and (ii) for the month's pay in lieu of notice ?

(d) Is it a fact that Railway Administrations have issued such notices and have served them on the staff on the dates shown on the said notices and have declined to pay them the one day's wages involved ? If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) to (c). If the notice was served on the employee on the forenoon of 19th September, he would cease to be in service from the same date and that day will not be included in the days worked by the employee but will be included in the month's pay in lieu of notice.

(d) Government have no information, but I am sending a copy of the question and the reply to the Agents, State-managed Railways for information and such action as they may consider necessary.

**STAFF WITH DEFECTIVE VISION EMPLOYED AS DRIVERS AND ASSISTANT LOCO. FOREMEN, ETC., ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

**98. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether staff with defective vision are permitted to be employed in such posts as drivers, Assistant Loco. Foreman, etc., on State-managed Railways ? If so, is not the safety of the travelling public endangered ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government please state :

- (i) whether this rule is in operation on the Eastern Bengal Railway ;
- (ii) whether staff with defective vision are employed as Assistant Loco. Foremen at Calcutta ;
- (iii) whether in emergencies the Assistant Loco. Foremen are required to move trains ;
- (iv) whether they are also required to go out in charge of relief trains ;
- (v) whether such staff are required, at regular intervals, to be tested in vision by the Medical Department ; and
- (vi) what officials are responsible for seeing that staff with defective vision are not utilised till such time they pass the medical examination ?

(c) Do Government propose to instruct the Agent to see that the safety of the travelling public is not endangered by the employment of staff with defective vision in such responsible posts ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a), (b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the "Regulations

for the Medical Examination of candidates and employees, non-gazetted (including inferior) and labourers' grades, Indian State Railways", a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Government are informed that these regulations are being followed on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

**PURCHASE OF COAL BY STAFF FROM THE RAILWAYS FOR THEIR OWN USE.**

99. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) What is the policy of Government in the Railway Department in regard to the gazetted and non-gazetted staff purchasing coal from the railways for their own use ? Is this permissible ? If so, are the staff charged the same rates as incurred by the Railway for the purchase of the same ? If not, what concession is given ?

(b) Does the policy referred to in part (a) apply to the East Indian Railway ? If so, is this Railway permitted to treat its staff differently in the matter of charges ?

(c) Is it a fact that at Howrah the gazetted staff are supplied with steam coal at Re. 0-2-6 per maund and the non-gazetted staff at Re. 0-4-0 per maund and that while soft coke is sold to the gazetted staff at Re. 0-3-0 per maund, it is refused to the non-gazetted staff ?

(d) Has this leakage to revenue in the matter of the lower charges to the gazetted officers been scrutinized by the Job Analysis staff ? If so, with what results ? If not, why not, and is it a fact that they also purchase at such low rates ?

(e) Do Government propose to recover the loss or the difference in the prices of coal and soft coke from the pay of the officers concerned for purchases made during the past year ? If not, why not ?

(f) Do Government propose to take action in the matter and order that there must be one charge applicable to all the staff ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) No policy has been laid down by Government in this matter but they are informed that both gazetted and non-gazetted staff on the four State-managed Railways are permitted to purchase coal and coke from the Railway for their domestic use at prescribed rates which are higher than the cost of the coal to the Railway.

(b) Government are informed that gazetted and non-gazetted staff are treated alike on the East Indian Railway.

(c) Government are informed that gazetted and non-gazetted staff of the Howrah Division are supplied with coal and coke at the same rates.

(d) to (f). Do not arise.

**PASSING OF THE GOODS ACCOUNTS EXAMINATION BY GOODS CLERKS AT HOWRAH.**

100. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) With reference to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 24th February, 1936, in reply to unstarred question No. 90 of the 4th February, 1936, will Government please state whether the Head Goods Clerks, Goods Clerks

and Assistant Goods Clerks at Howrah are required to pass the goods accounts, higher or lower examination ?

(b) Is it a fact that staff employed on grades below that of an Assistant Goods Clerk at Howrah are required to pass the goods accounts lower examination ?

(c) What are the present grades of pay of the posts of Head Goods Clerks, Goods Clerks and Assistant Goods Clerks at Howrah Goods ?

(d) Have any of the staff occupying these posts passed the higher examination ? If so, how many have and how many have not ?

(e) Do Government propose to take any action in the matter ? If so, what ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) The passing of the Goods Accounts Examination (Lower) is necessary for promotion to the posts of Head Goods Clerks, Howrah (which posts were formerly designated as Assistant Goods Clerks, inwards and outwards) and also for Goods Clerks.

(b) No. The designation of Assistant Goods Clerk at Howrah no longer applies.

(c) The revised scales of pay introduced in 1934 are shown below :

|                   | Rs.           |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Goods Supervisor  | 260           |
| Head Goods Clerks | 180           |
| Goods Clerks      | 100—10 2—120. |

(d) and (e). Government have no information. This is a matter of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information.

#### APPLICABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' CONDUCT RULES TO THE STAFF ON STATE RAILWAYS.

101. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya :** Is it a fact that the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, corrected up to July 1936, have been superseded by those framed by the Secretary of State for India, *vide* Home Department Notification No. F. 50|20-34-Pub., dated the 24th December, 1935 ? If so, will Government please state :

- (i) when these rules became operative on State-managed Railways ;
- (ii) why the extracts from enactments relevant to the conduct of Government servants, published as an Appendix to the old rules have been omitted from the new ones ;
- (iii) whether those enactments have ceased to operate with the introduction of the present rules ; and
- (iv) what procedure must be observed before action can be taken under Rule 15 ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes, in respect of those Government servants who are referred to in rule 2 (1) of the rules published in the Notification of the 24th December, 1935.



(i) These rules are not operative on the State-managed Railways. The question of framing similar rules for State-managed Railways is under consideration.

(ii) and (iii). As the purport of the enactments has been included in the Government servants' conduct rules, Government did not consider it to be necessary to reprint extracts from those enactments in the pamphlet.

(iv) I do not understand the question. Rule 15 lays down a prohibition : it does not provide for action.

#### FORWARDING AGENTS AT THE HOWRAH GOODS SHEDS.

102. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** : (a) Is it the policy of Government in the Railway Department that Europeans and Anglo-Indians, who are employed as Forwarding Agents at Goods Sheds or Stations, must confine their work to European and Anglo-Indian firms only ? If so, what is the reason for this racial discrimination ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government please state :

- (i) why such restrictions have been imposed by the Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Howrah, in respect of the Forwarding Agents at the Howrah Goods Sheds ;
- (ii) how many European and Anglo-Indian forwarding agents are employed at the Howrah Goods Sheds ;
- (iii) whether any licence fee is paid by these agents ; and
- (iv) whether their appointments are the gifts of the Superintendent, Commercial ; if not, what are the required qualifications ?

(c) Do Government propose to put a stop to this racial discrimination ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

Government are informed as follows :

- (b) (i) No restriction has been imposed by the Divisional Superintendent, Howrah.
- (ii) One European and one Anglo-Indian Forwarding Agent are now employed in Howrah Goods.
- (iii) No licence fee is paid by them.
- (iv) The appointments are made by the Divisional Superintendent on recommendations received from the Mercantile community and other credentials of the applicant.

(c) Does not arise.

#### PROCEDURE *re* CONDEMNATION OF AN EMPLOYEE ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

103. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** : Will Government please state the procedure on the East Indian Railway that must be observed

before an employee can be condemned as unsuitable for the post he holds ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Agent, East Indian Railway, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information.

COMMERCIAL AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

104. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Will Government please state :

- (i) whether the Commercial and Transportation Departments of the East Indian Railway are considered as one unit for the promotions or transfers of the non-gazetted and the gazetted staff ;
- (ii) whether the Transportation non-gazetted staff are eligible for promotions or transfers to the Commercial side ; if so, whether this is in accordance with the rules framed by the Railway Board for the recruitment and training of the non-gazetted staff ;
- (iii) whether the non-gazetted Transportation staff must have practical experience in Commercial working before they can become eligible for promotions or transfers ;
- (iv) whether non-gazetted staff of the Transportation side without any Commercial experience have been posted to the higher Commercial posts of Commercial Inspectors, Luggage and Parcel Supervisors, Goods Clerk at Howrah Goods Sheds, etc. ; if so, why ;
- (v) whether the non-gazetted Commercial staff are refused both promotions or transfers to the Transportation side on the ground of inexperience in Transportation work ; and
- (vi) whether they are aware that the non-gazetted staff on the Commercial side have grievances as to the blocking of their avenues to promotions in the higher grades by men of the Transportation side ?

(b) Do Government propose to take any action in the matter ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) (i) to (v). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to parts (a) (i) to (iv) of Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's unstarred question No. 1 asked on the 31st August, 1936.

(vi) No.

(b) No action is called for.

POSTS OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS SANCTIONED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

105. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) With reference to the reply given in this House to unstarred question No. 5 on the 2nd

September, 1935 relating to posts of Transportation Inspectors sanctioned by the East Indian Railway, will Government please state who is the promoting authority when the Head of a Department and his subordinate officer, the Superintendent, Staff, sit on a Selection Board to nominate certain men for promotion ?

(b) Is it a fact that that was the only occasion when the Chief Operating Superintendent sat on a Selection Board to nominate employees for promotions to senior posts under his control ? If so, why ? If not, is this practice still in force ?

(c) How many of the seven Inspectors have passed the goods account higher examination ? If the passing of this examination insisted on for the Commercial staff before they can be promoted to this post ?

(d) Is it a fact that the seven Inspectors who have been promoted belong to the Transportation side while the posts are on the Commercial side ?

(e) Is it also a fact that these Inspectors have since been absorbed in other posts ?

(f) Do Government propose to take action against this method of promotions ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to part (b) of Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's unstarred question No. 5 asked on the 2nd September, 1935.

(b) to (f). Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information.

#### CONGESTION IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

106. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that the office of the Chief Commercial Manager, East Indian Railway, is overcrowded with non-gazetted staff and that the rate of death and sickness is unduly high ?

(b) What is the floor area and how many clerks are accommodated ?

(c) How many deaths have taken place in the past year and what diseases did these men die of ?

(d) Do Government propose to have this room inspected by the Chief Medical Officer of that Railway and another Government official with a view to relieve the congestion in that office ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government have no information. The matters referred to are within the competence of the Agent, East Indian Railway, to deal with and a copy of the question has been sent to him for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

**PRECAUTIONS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.**

107. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that it is obligatory on the part of Railway Administrations to take all reasonable precautions for the safety of the travelling public ? If so, will Government please state :

- (i) whether conductor guards were posted on the mail trains during the night journeys on the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways ;
- (ii) the reasons why these men were so employed ;
- (iii) whether both these Railways have recently, as a measure of economy, discontinued this precautionary measure ; and
- (iv) whether an upper class passenger has recently, after the discontinuance of this protectionary measure on the Eastern Bengal Railway, been murdered ?

(b) Do Government propose to set aside this avenue of economy with a view to restoring the confidence of the travelling public ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes.

(i) Yes.

(ii) To assist passengers on long journeys, particularly ladies travelling alone.

(iii) On the Eastern Bengal Railway, Conductor Guards have not been employed since April, 1929, and on the East Indian Railway, out of six Conductor Guards four were withdrawn about three months ago and the remaining two will be withdrawn as soon as they can be absorbed in other categories.

(iv) It is presumed the Honourable Member is referring to a case in which it is alleged a passenger was murdered in 7 Up Mail on the night of 4th/5th August, 1936, a train on which a Conductor Guard has not been provided since 1910.

(b) Government do not consider that the provision of a Conductor Guard on a train would eliminate the possibility of murderous attack on passengers.

**EMPLOYMENT OF THE INFERIOR STAFF OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA, ON CLERICAL DUTIES.**

108. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** Will Government please state whether the inferior staff of the Imperial Library at Calcutta are regularly employed as clerical staff ? If so, is it a fact :

- (i) that they are not given the difference in pay when they are employed in more responsible posts ; if so, why ;
- (ii) that the starting pay of the sorters is Rs. 20 and that of the clerks, Rs. 50 ;
- (iii) that, when employed as clerks, they are punished with fines, the minimum amount being rupees two ;

(iv) that these fines are inflicted on all the staff, when it is found that any books or pages of books are missing ;

(v) that many readers have been caught red-handed removing books or pages from books and in such cases they have been warned, or their cards forfeited as a temporary measure ; and

(vi) that there are twelve sorters and sixteen clerks employed ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** (a) The answer to the first part is no.

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

(ii) Is correct except that the starting salary of clerks under the Revised Pay Rules is Rs. 45 per mensem.

(iv) Fines are only inflicted in cases of gross negligence on those guilty of it.

(v) There have been such cases.

(vi) There are 13 clerks and 12 sorters.

#### SORTING OFFICE OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA.

109. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that the Ritchie Committee, consisting of Sir Ashutosh Mukerjee and Sir Phillip Buckland, recommended that the sorting staff of the Imperial Library should be treated as clerical and not as inferior staff ? If so, why has the recommendation not been given effect to ?

(b) Is it a fact that the duties performed by these men are of a clerical nature ? If so, why have they been designated inferior staff ?

(c) Do Government propose to have this matter examined again with a view to treating this body of men more equitably ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** (a) and (b). No. The duties performed by the sorters of the Imperial Library are not of a clerical nature ; the sorters cannot therefore be classed as "superior".

(c) No.

#### TREATMENT OF RAILWAYS AS A COMMERCIAL PROPOSITION.

110. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that it is the declared policy of Government that railways are to be treated as a commercial proposition ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state :

(i) whether the Divisional Superintendent, Howrah, has issued a tender notice inviting tenders for various works to be done at Howrah station in connection with provision of new waiting rooms, booking offices, platform sheds, sanitary arrangements, etc. ;

(ii) whether the estimated cost is over rupees three lakhs ;

(iii) whether the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, in opposing the expenditure of this large sum of money at a time of financial

stress, has stated that the present arrangements have stood the test of time ;

(iv) whether waiting rooms have since been provided for gazetted officers only at Howrah Station ; if so, what is the cost of the same ; and

(v) whether any such waiting rooms are to be provided for the non-gazetted staff ; if so, what is the estimated cost ?

(c) Is there any policy in regard to the expenditure of large sums of money on remodelling on the East Indian Railway ? If so, what conditions must first be satisfied before expenditure is incurred ?

(d) Do Government propose to have this matter investigated with a view to the prevention of large sums of money being spent on improvements ? If not, will Government please state the reasons why ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The scheme has been sanctioned. Government are not aware of the stage it has reached.

(ii) No.

(iii) The Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, has approved of the scheme.

(iv) and (v). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply laid on the table on the 20th April, 1936, in answer to his question No. 465 put on the 7th April last.

(c) Remodelling must be financially justified unless required on account of damage such as that caused by earthquakes, or to deal with increased traffic.

(d) No. Government consider that the present system of control is adequate to prevent unjustifiable expenditure.

#### DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

111. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) With reference to the reply given in this House to unstarred question No. 155 of the 18th February, 1936 (statement laid on the table of the House on the 27th February, 1936), regarding disciplinary action against the non-gazetted staff on the Eastern Bengal Railway, will Government please state whether subordinate heads of sections, e.g., Station Superintendents, are permitted when forwarding reports against the non-gazetted staff to the Divisional Superintendent to request that punishment be inflicted in order to maintain his prestige ? If so, under what rule ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Station Superintendent, Sealdah, invariably concludes his reports with this request ?

(c) Is it also a fact that punishments are inflicted regardless of the fact that the employee is not guilty merely to maintain the prestige of the Station Superintendent ?

(d) Do Government propose to take any action in the matter ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information.

**WELFARE COMMITTEES ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

**112. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Will Government please state whether they have laid down any policy in regard to Welfare Committees on State Railways? If so, will Government please lay a copy of the instructions on the table of the House?

(b) Is it a fact :

- (i) that there is no uniformity in this matter on the four State Railways ;
- (ii) that the East Indian Railway have Welfare Committees under the direction of the Divisional Superintendents ;
- (iii) that the Eastern Bengal Railway have a Welfare Officer and an Assistant Welfare Officer ;
- (iv) that these Welfare Officers are junior officers selected from the different departments ; and
- (v) that they are not permanently attached to the Welfare Branch ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, has published in his Railway's Gazette No. 16 of 1936 the functions of the Welfare Officer in which he has stated ?

“ The Welfare Officer can only act as a liaison officer between the staff and the District Officer in the first place, and with the Departmental Head if and when the case is referred to him. . . The Welfare Department is there to advise and assist the staff, but it does so as an agent of the District Officer or other immediate superior officer of the employee concerned, and cannot be used as a means of passing over or short-circuiting that Officer. In the circumstances, the Welfare Officer, as a friend of the staff, can be approached direct by any of the staff provided that it is clearly understood that he can only put forward the man's case as his advocate to the District Officer, or to the officer dealing with the case ”.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) As regards the first part of the question, no special instructions have been issued to Railway Administrations. The latter part does not arise. I would, however, add that available information describing the constitution and working of the various forms of Staff Committees on State-owned Railways will be found in the documents placed in the Library of the House in reply to unstarred question No. 7 asked by Mr. V. V. Giri on the 5th February, 1935.

(b) (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) and (iv). No. The Eastern Bengal Railway have only one Welfare Officer who is a Junior officer.

(v) The Welfare Officer is not permanently attached to the Welfare Branch.

(c) Government have no information.

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

113. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Is it a fact that racial discrimination is still maintained in the Mechanical Department of the East Indian Railway in regard to the promotions in the higher grades of the non-gazetted service by giving such posts to Europeans and Anglo-Indians irrespective of their qualifications ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, are Government prepared to investigate the claims of those who have recently been promoted in the Heat Treatment Section of the Alambagh Workshops ?

(c) Is it a fact :

- (i) that promotions have been given to staff who have neither received theoretical nor practical training ;
- (ii) that the Agent had decided that staff of the O. and R. section, after the transition period, would be governed by the East Indian Railway scales of pay ; and
- (iii) that exceptions in favour of Europeans and Anglo-Indians have been made by placing them in the O. and R. chargeman's grade ?

(d) Do Government propose to take action in the matter ? If so, what ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government have no information. The matters referred to are within the competence of the Agent, East Indian Railway, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

**APPLICABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' CONDUCT RULES TO THE STAFF ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

114. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Will Government please state whether Government Servants' Conduct Rules are applicable to both the gazetted and non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether an exception has been made in the case of the Accounts Department of the East Indian Railway ?

(c) Is it a fact :

- (i) that the Agent has issued Notification No. 544 in his Railway's Gazette No. 18 of 1936 that neither Government servants nor their wives are to engage, either directly or indirectly, in trade or business ;
- (ii) that these instructions do not apply to the Accounts Department ;
- (iii) that the Deputy Chief Accounts Officer, General, posted at Calcutta and an officiating Accounts Officer also stationed at Calcutta are engaged indirectly in motor business at Waterloo Street and at Chowringhee Road respectively ; and



(iv) that the Inspector of Accounts at Moradabad is indirectly interested in an Oil and Flour Mill at that station ?

(d) Do Government propose to take any action in the matter and also to instruct the Railway Administration that the Government Servants' Conduct Rules are applicable to both the gazetted and non-gazetted staff and to all departments ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) (i) Yes.

(ii) The instructions apply to the Accounts Department as well as other Departments.

(iii) and (iv). If the Honourable Member will give me the names of the officers referred to by him, I shall consider whether any enquiries are necessary.

(d) The fact that the Government Servants' Conduct Rules are applicable to both the gazetted and non-gazetted staff and to all departments on State-managed Railways is so well-known that Government consider it unnecessary to issue any special instructions.

**APPLICABILITY OF THE CIVIL SERVICES (CLASSIFICATION, CONTROL AND APPEAL) RULES TO THE STAFF OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY.**

115. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Will Government please state whether the Civil Services Classification, Control and Appeal Rules are applicable to the clerical and inferior (not menial) staff of the Imperial Library, Calcutta ? If not, what rules govern these men ?

(b) Is it a fact :

(i) that no procedure is observed before punishment is inflicted on the staff by the Librarian ;

(ii) that punishments invariably are of a general nature, i.e., all the sorters are fined or made to contribute towards the cost of missing books ;

(iii) that cases have been detected in which readers have attempted to remove books ;

(iv) that the general method of punishment operates harshly on low paid staff and is against the rules prescribed by Government ;

(v) that punishment by the Librarian also takes the form of compelling the staff to work longer hours of duty, i.e., two hours daily for a period of two or three months ; if so, under what rule ; and

(vi) that recently a peon in receipt of pay of Rs. 14 was fined Rs. 2 for returning a requisition direct to a reader ?

(c) Do Government propose to take action in the matter ? If not, why not ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** (a) The answer to the first part is yes. The second part does not arise.

(b) (i) and (ii). No.

(b) (iii). Yes.

(b) (iv). No.

(b) (v). Sometimes this is done as a disciplinary measure.

(b) (vi). Yes.

(c) Government do not consider that the Librarian's action calls for intervention.

**DEFINITIONS OF "CLERICAL", "INFERIOR" AND "MENIAL" STAFF AS APPLIED TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.**

116. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** : Will Government in the Home Department please give a definition of "clerical", "inferior", and "menial" staff as applied to Government servants ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : The term "clerical staff" is generally applied to Government servants whose service is "superior" and who are employed in a subordinate capacity on work of a clerical nature. The term "inferior staff" is applied to Government servants, such as record sorters, *daftaries* and peons, whose service has specially been classed as such and in this connection the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the definition of the expression "inferior service" in rule 2 (13) of the Supplementary Rules made by the Governor General in Council under the Fundamental Rules. A copy of these rules will be found in the Library of the House. Menials are also inferior servants but this term is applied to sweepers, water carriers, etc.

**INVIDIOUS TREATMENT IN THE ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENCES TO THE STAFF OF THE LOCOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT AT CALCUTTA.**

117. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** : (a) Is it a fact :

- (i) that Government have introduced "State Railways Rent Rules, Buildings and Residences" ;
- (ii) that these rules are binding on the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration ;
- (iii) that the subletting of rooms by non-gazetted staff to outsiders is not permitted ;
- (iv) that it is prevalent in the Locomotive Department at Calcutta ;
- (v) that the rules provide that due consideration must be given to those employees who have large families in the matter of accommodation ; and
- (vi) that these rules are disregarded by the Locomotive Department at Calcutta ?

(b) Do Government propose to take action in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : (a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(iii) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Supplementary Rule 314 under which sub-letting of quarters by Government servants is permissible, subject to certain conditions.

(iv) and (vi). Not as far as Government are aware.

(v) No.

(b) No. These are matters of detailed administration within the competence of the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

#### MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

118. **Mr. Nabi Baksh Ilahi Baksh Bhutto** : (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce and Railway Member be pleased to state whether the Agent, North Western Railway, has, while fixing the percentages of representation for the minority communities in various branches of the Railway, laid down that 42 per cent. of the new daily-rated and menial appointments should be given to Muslims in Electrical Department, and 27 per cent. in the Accounts Department ?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to ask the Agent to increase the percentage of Muslim representation in these departments to 60 per cent. which is the minimum fixed by the Government of India ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : Government are informed as follows :

(a) The percentage fixed for Muslims in the Electrical Branch is 40.3 and in the Accounts Branch 27.5.

(b) No. Orders fixing 60 per cent. of direct recruitment for Muslims apply only to the subordinate staff. As regards the inferior servants and labourers, the orders are that the percentage of each minority community should be maintained as it existed on 31st March, 1935, on the North Western Railway as a whole. The percentage for Muslims varies on each division and in departments but taken together for the whole railway is 61.3 per cent. and this is being maintained.

#### PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANT WIREMEN IN THE KARACHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

119. **Mr. Nabi Baksh Ilahi Baksh Bhutto** : (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce and Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that electric wiremen and assistant wiremen on the North Western Railway used to be recruited direct from outside before the fixation of minimum percentages for the minority communities ?

(b) Are Government aware that the above practice shuts out Muslim entrants inasmuch as the non-Muslims are already in a preponderating majority in the old services, and promoting people from old service means promoting non-Muslims at the expense of the Muslims ?

(c) Are Government aware that in the current year as many as eleven people have been promoted as assistant wiremen in the Karachi Division alone, none of whom is a Muslim ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government are informed as follows :

(a) and (b). Electrical Wiremen and Assistant Wiremen are classed as labourers and the practice has been and is to fill such vacancies by promotion in all cases where possible and otherwise by direct recruitment.

(c) Six posts, viz., one of Wireman and five of Assistant Wiremen, were created in May, 1936, on the Karachi Division and these have been filled by promoting men from lower categories. Of the men selected one is a Muhammadan, one is a Sikh and four are Hindus.

**MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN THE ELECTRIC SUB-STATION OPENED AT JACOBABAD.**

120. **Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto :** Will the Honourable Member for Railways and Commerce be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a new electric sub-station has been opened at Jacobabad in the Karachi Division ;
- (b) whether some new staff has been recruited for the above station ; and
- (c) what is the percentage of Muslim representation in the newly recruited staff in each category ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government are informed as follows :

- (a) A new electric sub-station at Jacobabad is under construction, but has not yet been opened.
- (b) and (c). Staff spare from Karachi Cantonment and other stations has been posted there for the time being and no new staff has been recruited.

**BATHING ARRANGEMENT FOR HINDU AND MUSLIM RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT SUKKUR.**

121. **Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways and Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway has provided a bathing tank for their employees at Sukkur ?

(b) If so, is it a fact that whereas Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Christians and Parsees are allowed indiscriminately the facility of bathing in the said tank, the rest, namely, the Hindu and Muslim railway employees, however high their position may comparatively be, are not allowed the same facility ?

(c) Are Government aware that there is no bathing arrangement for Hindu and Muslim railway employees, at a hot place like Sukkur, whereby they may refresh themselves after a day's toil ?

(d) Are Government prepared to order that hereafter the tank in question be kept open to Hindus and Muslims as well ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** Government are informed as follows :

- (a) and (b). A bathing tank attached to the institute for Europeans and Anglo-Indians at Sukkur is open to the members of that institute only, who pay for the water supply and also for the rent of the building.
- (c) The Hindu or the Muslim Railway Employees at Sukkur have not so far represented to the North Western Railway Administration their need in this respect.
- (d) No.

GAZETTED MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

122. Mr. Muhammad Nawman : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the number of Muslim employees in the gazetted rank of the Income-tax Department, Bihar and Orissa, as given below, is correct ?

| Name of post.              | Total strength. | No. of Muslims. |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Commissioner            | .. 1            | ..              |
| 2. Assistant Commissioners | 3               | Nil             |
| 3. Income-tax Officers     | .. 16           | 2               |
|                            | 20              | 2               |

(b) Is it a fact that the attention of Government was drawn from time to time to the inadequate representation of the Muslims in this Department ?

(c) What action did Government take to remove this grievance of the Muslims ?

(d) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take to grant adequate representation to the Muslims in this Department ?

(e) Is it a fact that the cadre of the Bihar and Orissa Income-tax Department is composed of youngmen, recruited in the course of a few years and as a result there is a serious block in promotion ? If so, have Government ever considered the advisability of evolving some solution to remove the hardship of the staff ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes, except that one of the 16 Income-tax Officers is supernumerary.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). Since the orders of the Government of India contained in the Home Department Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, refer only to original recruitment, an improvement in the proportion of Muslim officers to the total strength of the service can only take place gradually.

(e) It is a fact that most of the present Income-tax Officers in Bihar and Orissa are comparatively young, but none of them has yet reached the maximum of the scale. The question of a block in promotion does not therefore arise.

**DETERMINATION OF SENIORITY AMONG THE STAFF OF THE BIHAR AND ORISSA  
INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.**

123. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the principle on which the seniority and juniority is determined among the staff of the Income-tax Department, Bihar and Orissa ?

(b) Is it a fact that as the cadre now stands, no Muslim can ever become a Commissioner or even Assistant Commissioner ? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove this grievance of the Muslims ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** (a) There are several factors which determine the seniority of officers in a cadre but generally the position of an officer is fixed by the date of his confirmation in a particular grade. A consideration of communal percentages is not one of the factors taken into account.

(b) The present Muslim Income-tax Officers in Bihar and Orissa have still a long time to serve and it is premature to say whether or not any of them will get an opportunity to become Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner. Moreover, higher appointments are filled by selection and seniority is only one of the factors that are taken into consideration in filling selection posts. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

**NON-INTERFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT WITH THE COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS AND DISCIPLINE.**

124. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman :** (a) Is it a fact that Government seldom interfere with the Commissioners of Income-tax in the matter of appointments, promotions and discipline ?

(b) Do Government propose to avail themselves of the advice of the Public Service Commission in all matters of appointment and promotion in the Income-tax Department ?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** (a) Certain clearly defined powers have been delegated to the Commissioners of Income-tax in respect of certain classes of establishment in the matter of appointments, promotion and discipline and there is no reason why there should be any interference with those powers. An appeal lies to the Central Board of Revenue against the decision of the Commissioners.

(b) The Government consult the Public Service Commission in making permanent appointments of Assistant Commissioners but do not consider it practicable that they should be consulted in regard to other appointments.

**APPOINTMENT OF A MUSLIM AS A COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX IN BIHAR  
AND ORISSA.**

125. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman :** (a) Is it a fact that the present Commissioner of Income-tax, Bihar and Orissa, is shortly to retire ? If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing a Muslim Commissioner in Bihar ?

(b) Is it not a fact that senior Muslim officers are available in other provinces to fill the above post ?

(c) Do Government propose to grant extension of service to the present Commissioner of Income-tax? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) No. The second part does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question is premature as the present Commissioner is not due to retire for about seven years.

#### CLERICAL AND STORE-KEEPING APPOINTMENTS IN THE ROYAL INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

**126. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Is it a fact that a certain percentage of clerical and store-keeping appointments in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps is reserved for the sons of retired clerks and store-keepers of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps?

(b) Subject to medical fitness and agreement to abide by all the conditions of military service, are Government prepared to reserve as a special case about ten per cent. of Indian Officer and Indian Warrant Officer appointments for the highly educated graduate sons of Royal Indian Army Service Corps head clerks and storekeepers fulfilling the following conditions?

- (i) rendered good and excellent services in India and were always given excellent and exemplary characters throughout their long service of 25 to 30 years;
- (ii) rendered meritorious services in the Great War of 1914—18 on field service in France, Belgium, Mesopotamia, Egypt, etc.;
- (iii) again rendered meritorious services in the prosecution of the Great War, 1914—18, in India after their return from field service overseas; and
- (iv) disabled on account of diseases or injury and assessed 75 to 100 per cent. disability due to field services.

(c) If the grandfathers and great-grandfathers of such graduate applicants had also rendered meritorious services to the Government in the Great Mutiny of 1857, Burma Annexation and North-West Frontier, etc., etc., will it be a further ground, along with those mentioned above and the university degree, for a special and preferential consideration?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) Ten per cent. of the vacancies occurring in the respective establishments of clerks, store-keepers and checkers are reserved for sons of those categories who are serving or have served in the Corps in a permanent capacity.

(b) and (c). As special consideration is already shown to candidates' family qualifications, Government are not prepared to change the existing system of recruitment.

#### DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDATED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

**127. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) With reference to the reply given in this House to parts (a) and (b) of my starred question No. 376 on the 16th September, 1935, will Government please state the

total percentage of disability that will be taken in assessing the disability pension of a civil officer or subordinate who is assessed 60 per cent. disability on account of Field Service and 40 per cent. disability on account of Post War Service ?

(b) Is it correct that the wife and minor children of a civil officer or subordinate retiring on a pay of Rs. 200 per month and over on account of diseases contracted on Field Service are eligible for family pensions agreeably to paragraphs 740 and 741-A, Civil Service Regulations ?

(c) Will Government please state the weekly rate of disability family pensions admissible to the wife and three minor sons of a civil officer retiring with the relative rank of a sub-conductor and assessed 60 per cent. disability on account of diseases contracted on Field Service ?

(d) Is it correct that disability pension claims of those retiring on a pay of Rs. 200 per month or more are payable in sterling and they are to be converted at the rate of one shilling four pence to the rupee if the pensioner was in Government service on 1st February, 1921 in the spirit of paragraph 24, Pension Regulations, India ?

(e) Is it a fact that, following their final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934, Government called for marriage and birth certificates from the Collectors or Deputy Commissioners of Districts for the admission to disability pension of the wives and children of the individuals involved in the Government's reply and that necessary certificates were furnished to the pension authorities by the civil officers concerned ?

(f) Is it correct that the admissibility of disability pension to those who contracted diseases on Field Service during the Great War of 1914—18 and eventually retired on Rs. 200 per month and over in 1928—30 on account of the same diseases has been accepted by Government in their replies to the questions noted below in the Assembly ?

- (1) Government reply to question No. 592-A and B of 4th September, 1933,
- (2) Government reply to question No. 1182-A of 27th November, 1933,
- (3) Government reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934,
- (4) Government reply to unstarred question No. 248, dated the 9th March, 1936.

(g) Will Government be pleased to state why the claims involved in Government's final reply to question No. 331 of the 2nd March, 1934, have not been assessed and adjusted up to date ?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham :** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon's unstarred questions Nos. 25, 26 and 27 on the 15th September, 1936.

#### ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF LOCAL BALUCHISTAN EMPLOYEES BY THEIR OFFICERS.

128. **Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Are Government aware that local Baluchistan employees are being harassed by their officers, who are almost non-mulkis, and that the former are restrained from



subscribing to any of their mulki newspapers and if subscribed, they are asked to give explanations in writing ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the mulkis are debarred from patronising their local organs ? Is it a fact that non-mulkis are enjoying that privilege of subscribing to newspapers according to their own discretion ?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe :** (a) The suggestion made is, so far as Government are aware, incorrect.

(b) Does not arise.

#### LOCAL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN BALUCHISTAN DUE TO EARTHQUAKE.

129. **Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** Will Government be pleased to state how many local persons have been employed in the superior and inferior vacancies which occurred recently at Baluchistan due to earthquake ?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe :** The information is being obtained from the Local Administration and will be laid on the table in due course.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL PERSONS IN THE INFERIOR SERVICES IN BALUCHISTAN.

130. **Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Colonel Parson, the present Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan, has issued a circular to the effect that all inferior vacancies should be filled in by mulkis only ? If so, are Government prepared to see that the circular is strictly adhered to and enforced.

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe :** A circular has been issued to the effect that local inhabitants should be given preference in appointments to certain inferior grade posts, where higher education is not a necessary qualification. Government are confident that the Agent to the Governor General will see that his orders are carried out.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF BALUCHIS IN SIND IN SUPERIOR SERVICES IN CASE SUITABLE BALUCHISTANIS ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

131. **Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** Are Government prepared to instruct the authorities at Baluchistan that if, in case of superior vacancies, no suitable Baluchistani is available, these vacancies may be filled from among the Baluchis of Sind where suitable candidates of Baluch community are available ?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe :** There is no bar to Baluchis from Sind being recruited in the Civil Service, should it not be possible to obtain the requisite quota locally and provided they have the requisite educational qualifications and are fully conversant with Urdu, which is the Court language of Baluchistan and which is commonly used in other official correspondence.

#### REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIM SINDBIS AND BALUCHISTANIS IN RAILWAY SERVICES.

132. **Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Are Government aware that representation of Sindhi and Baluchistani Muhammadans in Sindh and Baluchistan railway services, respectively, is equal to zero ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to see that steps are immediately taken to give adequate representation to Sindhis and Baluchistanis in railway services ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** (a) Government have no information.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 811 asked in this House on the 22nd August, 1934.

#### RECRUITMENT IN THE BALUCHISTAN POLICE FORCE.

133. **Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Are Government aware that the Baluchistan Police force consist of non-mulkis ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to see that steps are immediately taken to stop non-mulki recruitment in the Baluchistan Police forces ?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe :** (a) No. The Baluchistan Police Force contains local inhabitants as well as inhabitants of other Provinces.

(b) It has always been the policy of Government to encourage the recruitment of the indigenous inhabitants of Baluchistan in the local Police, due regard being had to the qualifications of candidates and the efficiency of the Police Force.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE SUPERIOR SERVICES OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

134. **Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan :** (a) Is it a fact that the percentage of Indianisation is highest in the superior grade of Engineering Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway ?

(b) What is the actual percentage of the Indians in the superior service of this Department ?

(c) Is it a fact that in spite of such a high percentage of Indianisation in the superior service of the Engineering Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, there is not a single Muslim in the superior grade of this Department ?

(d) Is it a fact that from time to time several Muslims with high engineering qualifications, including foreign education, have applied for a post in the superior service of the Engineering Department without any success ?

(e) How many new appointments and promotions to the superior service of the Engineering Department have been made during the last three years, and to what communities do the entrants belong ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why Muslims are so obstinately left out from the superior engineering service of the railway, although their percentage is *nil* ?

(g) Are Government prepared to take such action as they deem fit so as to ensure proper representation of Muslims in the superior service of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway in general and

in the Engineering Department in particular, and arrange in future to give all the posts to the Muslims until such time as their proper percentage is attained.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are informed as follows :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 39 per cent.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) With the exception of one appointment no direct recruitment has been made in the last three years ; the staff re-appointed being retrenched hands.
- (e) I place a statement on the table of the House giving the required information.
- (f) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to part (d) of the question.
- (g) As regards the first part, the Government of India's orders fixing 25 per cent. of vacancies in the superior services in future direct recruitment for Muslims, provided qualified candidates are available, are being carried out on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. With regard to the latter part, Government regret they are prepared to take action as suggested.

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Statement.

*Engineering proper—*

Direct appointment from  
retrenched staff.

Five Hindus.

*Engineering Signals—*

One Anglo-Indian\*.

Promoted subordinates.

Two Hindus.

One European.

Two Hindus.

\*Post was advertised and the officer selected was the only one who possessed the necessary qualifications and experience.

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REVISED EDITION OF THE MOORE'S FAMILY MEDICINE.

135. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar : (a) With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 83, dated the 16th September, 1933, regarding the revised edition of the *Moore's Family Medicine*, will Government please state when they propose to bring out a revised edition of it ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a great demand for its revised edition, especially by the low-paid Government servants ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of bringing out a revised edition of this important and useful book at an early date, and take the advantage of the presence of Major-General Sir C. A. Sprawson at the headquarters of the Government of India ? If not, why not ?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai :** (a), (b) and (c). Moore's Manual of Family Medicine and Hygiene for India has been revised by Major General Sir Cuthbert Sprawson and Captain R. D. Alexander, I.M.S. The work has been completed and printed copies of the new edition will be ready by the end of next month.

#### REPRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL CASES BY SERVICE UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

136. **Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that service unions and associations recognised by Government are not allowed to represent individual cases of their members ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article on pages 111 and 112 of the *Telegraph Review* for April, 1934, under the caption "Individual cases and Union's right of Representing them", and are Government aware that recognised service associations in Great Britain are allowed to take up and represent individual grievances of their members ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the matter and allow the recognised service unions to represent the individual grievances of their members ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) The rule is that no representation or deputation will be received from a recognised service union or association except in connection with a matter which is, or raises questions which are, of common interest to the class of employees represented by the union or association.

(b) Government have seen the article. They are aware that certain recognised service unions in Great Britain are permitted to represent individual grievances in serious or exceptional cases.

(c) Government have considered the matter and they adhere to the view that recognised service unions cannot be permitted to represent individual grievances of their members. They are of opinion that the appeal and memorial rules afford full and adequate opportunities for the individual members to represent their grievances.

#### NON-PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENTS IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

137. **Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of appointments that are still non-pensionable in the Telegraph Department under each of the following categories :

- (i) Inspectors of ponds,
- (ii) time-keepers,
- (iii) mistris,
- (iv) mechanics,
- (v) Conservancy Inspectors, and
- (vi) distributors of Government Press.

(b) Is it a fact that the number of remaining non-pensionable appointments in the Telegraph Department is much less than that of Telephone Operators recently granted pensionable status ?

(c) Are Government prepared to grant pensionable status to the remaining non-pensionable posts referred to in part (a) above ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) A statement containing the required information in respect of Inspectors of Peons, Time-keepers and Conservancy Inspectors is given below. As regards the other categories of posts, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(b) The number is only slightly less.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

*Statement showing the number of Non-Pensionable Posts in the Grades of Inspectors of Peons, Time-keepers and Conservancy Inspectors.*

|                        |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Inspectors of Peons    | .. | .. | .. | 7  |
| Time-keepers           | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| Conservancy Inspectors | .. | .. | .. | 12 |

#### HOURS OF DUTY OF TELEGRAPHISTS.

138. **Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that a committee was appointed by Government in 1908 to report on the hours of duty of telegraphists in the Indian Telegraph Department ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if the recommendations of the said committee were accepted by them ?

(c) Is it a fact that this committee recommended that each signaller would have to perform night duty about two weeks in nine ?

(d) If the replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the recommendations regarding night duty are followed in regulating night duties of the signalling staff and if the manual rules on the subject have been amended accordingly ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

#### CONCESSION IN TELEGRAPH RATES ALLOWED TO RAILWAYS, PRESS AND INDIAN STATES.

139. **Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it not a fact that the Telegraph Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is being run at a loss ?

(b) Is it not a fact that a concession in the rate of telegrams is allowed to Railways, Press and Indian States, etc. ?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to withdraw the concessional rates granted to those parties in an attempt to increase the revenue of the Telegraph Branch ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) Yes.

(b) Only to the Press but not to Railways and Indian States.

(c) Press rates have been increased from the 1st May, 1935. No further increase in these rates is considered to be possible without interfering seriously with the rapid dissemination of news.

#### RECOVERY OF THE COST OF ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF TELEGRAPH LINES USED BY RAILWAYS AND INDIAN STATES.

140. **Sardar Sant Singh** : With reference to the reply given to question No. 605, dated the 19th February, 1936, will Government be pleased to state if the cost of erection and maintenance of telegraph lines used by railways and Indian States is recovered from the railways and Indian States ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : Telegraph lines which are supplied by Government for the use of Railways and Indian States are erected and maintained at the cost of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department which charges the users an economic rental.

#### REPORT OF THE POSTAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

141. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Postal Enquiry Committee submitted their report and when the orders of the Government thereon may be expected ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for the delay in issuing orders on the said report ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) and (b). The Committee submitted their Report on the 2nd January, 1935, and Government have passed orders on all the recommendations made in it.

#### GRANT OF HIGHER INITIAL RATES OF PAY TO GRADUATE AND INTERMEDIATE CLERKS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

142. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that higher starting salary was granted to graduate and intermediate clerks in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and subsequently withdrawn ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government said in reply to part (g) (i) of starred question No. 1289, dated the 17th March, 1936 by Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, that this concession was allowed in the interests of departmental efficiency in order that men of superior education should be available for promotion to higher posts at an earlier age than men with no such special qualification ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the concession was stopped, and whether they are prepared to reconsider the matter and grant higher initial rates of pay to graduate and intermediate clerks of the Posts and Telegraphs Department ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The concession was abolished as it was not considered necessary in order to attract graduates and intermediates to the service. Government do not propose to reintroduce it as it would involve avoidable expenditure.

RECOVERY OF OVERDRAWN LEAVE ALLOWANCES FROM THE INFERIOR STAFF  
OF THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPHS OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

143. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) With reference to the reply given to part (a) of question No. 599, dated the 19th February, 1936, will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that no option was granted to the inferior staff of the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, to remain either under Civil Service Regulations or Fundamental Rules in the matter of their leave ?

(b) Is it a fact that no information was given to the inferior staff, while bringing them twice under the Civil Service Regulations and thereafter under the Fundamental Rules ?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, why did Government recover the alleged overdrawn leave allowance from the inferior servants without granting them the option or giving them information in the matter, and are they prepared to order refund of the amount so recovered ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to parts (c), (d) and (e) of the question referred to by him in part (a) of his question.

ROTATION OF DUTIES OF CLERKS IN THE TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

144. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that some clerks in Telegraph Offices have to perform fixed regular day duties, while others are employed on irregular and night duties ?

(b) Is it a fact that those who are employed on regular day duties get the privileges of all holidays (Government, Bank and local holidays), including Sundays ?

(c) Is it a fact that those who are employed on irregular and night duties get no holidays, not even Sundays ?

(d) Is it a fact that, on representations from the staff, the Director General issued orders in 1933, introducing rotation of duties between these two classes of workers to give respite to men from irregular and night duties and also to increase efficiency and experience of staff ? If so, will Government be pleased to place a copy of the said order on the table ?

(e) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether full effect to the order has yet been given in the Madras, Rangoon, Bombay, New Delhi and Simla Telegraph Offices ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) Yes, but existing orders prescribe rotation of duties amongst the clerks in telegraph offices so that the same set of clerks do not always get irregular and night duties.

(b) Clerks employed on regular day duties outside the signal room are granted all holidays including Sundays on which telegraph offices are closed.

(c) Clerks employed on irregular and night duties are required to perform certain periods of duty on all telegraph holidays.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, Government do not propose to lay on the table of the House copies of departmental orders issued on the subject.

(e) Government are satisfied that effect is being given to the orders as rapidly as is possible consistently with the efficient working of the Department. The last part of the question does not therefore arise.

#### REDUCTION IN THE TASK-WORK EARNINGS OF FOOT PEONS OF THE MADRAS CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

145. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Are Government aware that the task-work earnings of foot peons of the Madras Central Telegraph Office were reduced with effect from the 1st November, 1935 ?

(b) Is it a fact that no notice or information was given to the peons beforehand and they came to know of the reduction of their earnings when they drew their pay for November, 1935 in December, 1935 ?

(c) Are Government prepared to enquire about the reason for the said reduction and restore their earnings ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The task-work earnings of foot peons are required to be maintained at a level which does not raise their total emoluments beyond the average wages paid to inferior servants in the locality in which they serve. When such an increase occurs, a reduction in the rate per message becomes obligatory and is carried out by the Postmaster-General. The reduction in the instance given by the Honourable Member was the result of the application of one of the recognised conditions of service. Government see no grounds for a restoration of the rates to their former figure but they do not regard the general system as satisfactory and are examining the possibility of altering it.

#### PROVISION FOR ADEQUATE MEAL RELIEF TO CERTAIN TELEGRAPH STAFF.

146. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that according to existing rules the telegraph staff employed on 19-1 hour duty cannot claim meal relief and in consequence they have to go without meals on this duty ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to amend the rules and make provision for adequate meal relief to the staff on 19-1 hour duty and thereby protect the staff from a real hardship ?

(c) Are Government aware that the staff of the Madras Central Telegraph Office are being employed on 19-1 hour duty ?

(d) Are Government prepared to make an enquiry into the matters referred to in part (c) and take steps to protect the staff affected from the hardship ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a). The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, there is no reason why the staff should forego a meal if they do not elect to have one before coming on duty. Short periods of relief are always obtainable and can be prolonged if traffic conditions permit.



(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are aware that the term of duty referred to is in force in the Madras Central Telegraph Office.

(d) Government understand that the Postmaster-General is examining certain representations made by the staff for the abolition of this term of duty. Government do not propose to make any enquiry as the Postmaster-General is fully competent to deal with the matter.

RECREATION CLUB OF THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

147. **Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published at page 197 of August, 1936 issue of the *Telegraph Review*, under the caption "Dances in the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta" ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the rate charged by the Recreation Club of the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, from outsiders for these dances ?

(c) What is the total amount of wine sold on an average in the bar per month ?

(d) Does the Recreation Club hold any licence for sale of wines ?

(e) Does the Recreation Club pay any rent to Government for their dancing hall ? If so, what is the rate per month ?

(f) Is it a fact that the dormitory of the staff is attached to the dancing room in the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta ?

(g) Is it a fact that the staff sleep in the dormitory before their duty commences at 2 o'clock at night, and disturbances are likely to be caused by music and dancing in an adjacent hall ?

(h) Is it a fact that these amusements are likely to distract the attention of the staff on duty in the instrument room ?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state the number of female staff employed on irregular duties in the Traffic and Telephone Branches of the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta ?

(j) Is there any other Department in which such dances are allowed in Government office premises ?

(k) Is it a fact that the Dalhousie Institute in Dalhousie Square, Calcutta, holds dances on payment and that this hall is not far off from the Government Telegraph Building ?

(l) Is it a fact that the Young Men's Christian Association and many hotels in Calcutta have arrangements for dances and they may be utilised by any one on payment ?

(m) Are Government prepared to stop these dances in the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, early ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) Government have seen the article.

(b) to (m). Government have no information and do not propose to call for it. The matters referred to are all of a nature with which the

Director<sup>941</sup> General is fully competent to deal and a copy of this question and answer has been sent to him for such action as he may consider suitable.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF TELEGRAPHISTS FOR WORKING ON PIE-MONEY LINES.

148. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that telegraphists cannot be compelled to score on pie-money lines after they have given the required standard of outturn ?

(b) Is it a fact that according to existing procedure, volunteers are invited for working on pie-money lines and generally younger telegraphists, having greater working capacity, volunteer and are employed on these lines ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. No telegraphist can demand to be excused from work after having disposed of messages up to the limit of the standard outturn during any period of duty and disciplinary measures would be taken against any telegraphist who declined to dispose of traffic with all possible expedition on the excuse that he had done a standard outturn.

(b) No specific call for volunteers is made and it is open to all telegraphists irrespective of age to work on pie-money lines. It is a fact, however, that junior telegraphists preponderate among those who work on such lines but the seniors as such are not excluded either by rule or custom.

#### DUTY HOURS OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

149. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that the Telephone Operators like the Telegraphists are required to do 50 hours' duty in a week ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Telegraphists are required to do night duties for six hours and evening duty for seven hours and this six or seven hours' duty is considered as equivalent to eight hours' duty according to rules for the purpose of calculating fifty hours' duty during a week ?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to extend the concessions referred to in part (b) to Telephone Operators also ? If not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No ; the nature of duties of the signalling staff of the Telegraph Traffic Branch differ from those of the Telephone Operators. Government are satisfied that there is no case for exactly similar treatment in respect of hours of duty of the signalling staff and the Telephone Operators.

#### <sup>941</sup> SUPERVISION OF SIGNAL ROOM CLERKS IN TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

150. **Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee recommended for the supervision of signal-room clerks by selection grade clerks in telegraph offices and that this recommendation was accepted by Government with effect from 18th December, 1935 ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article appearing at pages 134 and 135 of the *Telegraph Review* for June, 1936, under the caption "Replacement of Telegraph Masters by Selection Grade Clerks" ?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason why the replacement of Telegraph Masters by selection grade clerks has not yet been effected in Bombay and Rangoon Telegraph Offices ?

(d) Is it a fact that some vacancies have of late occurred in the cadre of Telegraph Masters due to retirement and promotion of senior Telegraph Masters ?

(e) If so, do Government propose to appoint selection grade clerks in those vacancies in the Bombay and Rangoon Offices ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce :** (a) Yes, but subject to the occurrence of clear vacancies in the Telegraph Masters' cadre.

(b) Government have now seen the article.

(c) The replacement of Telegraph Masters by selection grade clerks will be effected gradually, as vacancies occur among Telegraph Masters and as suitable clerks become available.

(d) and (e). Government have no information and do not propose to call for it. The matter referred to is one with which the Director-General is competent to deal and a copy of the question is being sent to him for such action as he may consider suitable.

#### DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

151. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have given effect to their answer to starred question No. 336 (b) of 12th February, 1936, in which they said that the Secretary of State had agreed to the re-continuance of pension where a widow marries her deceased husband's brother and that orders will shortly be issued on the subject ? If so, will Government please lay a copy thereof on the table ?

(b) Are Government aware that there has been much hardship in the cases of men who had served all their life under the rules that their widow would get a life pension unaffected by a "karewa" and whose agreement was violated by the introduction of fresh rules on 6th August, 1918 ?

(c) Where an individual nominated his widow as heir to the family pension under the old rules in force prior to 6th August, 1918, in the hope that her re-marriage or "karewa" would not affect the pension, will Government please state if his family is entitled to nominate any other heir, such as son or father or mother, under the new rules which imposed the new condition of withholding the family pension on "karewa" or re-marriage ? If so, will Government please state how they proceeded to nominate the heir in the cases where the children were minors and the deceased sepoy could not avail of the right of nominating the heir, being in trenches or in hospital ?

(d) Is it a fact that the new rules imposed two conditions on the families of the Indian ranks, namely, that (i) pensions to the widows would cease on their entering a "karewa" or "re-marriage", and (ii) the right of the nomination as heir to pension would be exercised by Government where the same could not be made by the deceased sepoy?

(e) Are Government aware that under the old rules, the son was the highest amongst the heirs and that under the new rules the widow was made the highest and Government nominated the widow as heir to the family pension in preference to the son, mother or father, and that this entailed hardship on the members of the family and the widow's nomination was not in the interest thereof?

(f) Are Government prepared to re-consider such cases in the spirit of their resolution No. 4863, dated the 4th December, 1891, as regards deferring the introduction of the change after its publication or to give to the officers affected the right of choosing whether they shall come under the operation of the old or the new rules? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) Orders giving effect to the re-continuance of family pension to the classes referred to will issue shortly and they will cover past cases.

(b) Before the old rule was altered the views of the Army were obtained and it was found that the consensus of opinion was in favour of the change. Government are not aware of any cases of hardship.

(c) At the time of enlistment, every soldier nominates for family pension any one of the following members of his family:

- (1) Wife—lawfully married by valid ceremony.
- (2) Father.
- (3) Mother.
- (4) Son, actual and legitimate.
- (5) Daughter, actual and legitimate.

If the widow is nominated but becomes disqualified by re-marrying a person other than her deceased husband's brother, the pension may be continued to the next eligible heir if the financial circumstances of the family justify it.

(d) (i) Yes.

(ii) Where a nomination could not be made by the deceased soldier, the family pension is admissible to one of the surviving relatives highest in the list referred to in part (c) above, or if that relative is disqualified to the one next below.

(e) As explained above, it is not the Government but the soldier himself who nominates his heir to the family pension.

(f) Does not arise in view of the position explained above.

#### DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

152. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Army Regulations admit pension from the date of death, or from the date of the application for pension,

and are Government aware that in the case of Indian sepoy's and families, it takes over five years and in some cases even seven years and that the pension is allowed from the date of their last letter and all the accumulated pension is either disallowed or is given in instalments of Rs. 4 per mensem ?

(b) Are Government aware that during this long time of investigation, the claimant is summoned to Tehsil or Thana for more than 20 times with witnesses who have to be fed and carried in conveyance and the disallowance of the pension for the period of investigation is very hard ?

(c) Are Government aware that in the villages the rate of interest is very high and where the earner died and the family is in semi-destitute state (as is the condition for the transfer of pension under their Regulations) the families secure loans on very very high interest ?

(d) Have Government considered an additional pension of Rs. 4 per mensem, *vice* accumulated sums of pension amounting Rs. 800 as sufficient compensation for (i) the destitute period of correspondence over ten years, as in (a) above, (ii) for difficulties of maintenance and high interests paid during the period of non-grant and (iii) for the cost of investigation, and correspondence ?

(e) Was it the intention, in accepting Recommendation No. VII of the War Pensions Committee, that accumulated pensions amounting to Rs. 800 and over would be paid in instalments of Rs. 4 per mensem ?

(f) Is it a fact that Government have already earned an interest on the accumulated pension and by non-disbursement thereof they would be earning interest for ever, and are Government aware that the families whose dues these accumulated sums of pensions are, have been and will be deprived from utilizing the sum for their benefit ?

(g) Is it a fact that for British ranks and civil officials the principles of commutation of part pension is recognized ?

**Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham :** (a) to (f). A service pension is payable from the date following that of discharge.

A family pension is ordinarily payable from the date following that of the casualty which creates the claim.

Arrears of pension in respect of belated claims are granted in accordance with the rule in paragraph 44-B, Financial Regulations for the Army in India, Part I.

The implication that it generally takes five to seven years to dispose of a representation is totally incorrect. Each belated claim to arrears of pension is considered promptly and sympathetically on its merits. In cases where no pension is admissible under ordinary rules and one is granted, as a special case and purely as an act of grace, the grant takes effect from the date of Government orders or any other date the Government of India may determine in view of the circumstances of the case.

Accumulated arrears of pensions are paid in the form of an additional monthly pension in exceptional cases. Such payments are not always fixed at Rs. 4 per mensem, but have in some cases been even double the above amount. This method of payment is adopted when Government

apprehend that the lump sum arrears, if sanctioned, would fall, in full or in part, into unauthorized hands or where the money may not be utilised for the sole benefit of the recipient.

(g) Yes. So far as British personnel are concerned, only regular officers of the Indian Army, departmental and warrant officers of Indian Army Departments and soldier mechanics employed in the Indian Ordnance Department have the right of commuting their pensions.

#### RESTRICTION OF THE POWERS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES IN CERTAIN MATTERS.

153. **Mr. B. B. Varma** : Will Government please state whether there is a rule in the postal department, restricting the power of the Divisional Superintendent of Post Offices in matters of transfer and punishment of officials under the power and control of appointment of second class Head Postmasters ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : Yes, but in respect of punishments only and not in respect of transfers.

#### RETRENCHMENT IN THE RONGPUR POSTAL DIVISION IN DISREGARD OF THE GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

154. **Mr. B. B. Varma** : (a) Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the present Superintendent of Post Offices, Jalpaiguri Division, was in charge of Rongpur Postal Division during the period the Government order of retrenchment was in force ?

(b) Is it a fact that postal officials were retrenched in the Rongpur Postal Division in disregard of the Government order on the subject during the regime of the present Superintendent of Post Offices, Jalpaiguri Division in the Rongpur Division ? If so, was the position remedied by the Head of the Circle ? What steps were taken against the officer responsible ?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** : (a) Yes, for about 2½ months.

(b) Government have no information and do not propose to call for it as it is open to the officials concerned to represent in the usual manner.

#### MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

##### CANCELLATION OF THE PRESS GALLERY PASS OF THE CORRESPONDENT OF THE *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the Honourable Member, Mr. Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal. It is to this effect :

" I beg leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, ' further restriction on the liberty of the Press as a result of the cancellation of the Press Gallery Pass of the correspondent of *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on account of certain offending notes and leading articles of that paper with which the correspondent had nothing to do '."

Has the Honourable Member got the order ? Whose order was it ? Will the Honourable Member read out the order ?

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal** (Agra Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : It is in the *Hindustan Times* of the 8th. It runs like this :

“ Simla, 6th. Sir Abdur Rahim, President of the Assembly, has addressed a letter to Mr. M. Roy, Representative of.... ”

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I want the Honourable Member to read the order itself.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal** : This is the letter from the Secretary of the Assembly which says.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Has the Honourable Member read the whole of the order ?

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal** : No, Sir.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Then the Honourable Member is wholly unjustified in bringing up this motion. The Honourable Member knows very well that an order passed by the President in the exercise of his duties cannot be brought up on a motion for adjournment. He is a Member of the House and he ought to know it. The motion is disallowed.

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#### PROTECTION OF FEMALE PASSENGERS TRAVELLING IN FEMALE COMPARTMENTS OF TRAINS.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have received another notice of a motion for the adjournment of the House from Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar which runs as follows :

“ I hereby give notice that I intend asking the leave of the House to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, ‘ the failure of the Government to adopt adequate measures for the protection of female passengers travelling in female compartments of trains, as disclosed by the latest incident of the robbery of jewels from and assault on one Mst. Annapurna on the night of the 2nd October in No. 103 Up-Passenger train on the Grand Chord Line after the train left Ismailpore ’.”

I should like to know whether this is an isolated incident.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : This is one of a series of incidents which we have been noticing in recent times.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : When did these incidents take place ?

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : The incident referred to in the motion for adjournment occurred on the 2nd October. The other incident occurred on the 25th August and is reported on the 26th September. This is the account which appeared of that incident :

“ With tears rolling down her disfigured face, and in the presence of gruesome exhibits, including pieces of her own flesh and those of her infant, together with an index-finger of a Police Sub-Inspector, Mst. Sukhdevi, a 17 old married Hindu Girl, related before the Court of Mr. U. L. Bose, Headquarter Magistrate, Hoshangabad, in a pathetic tone, a heart-rending account of the blood-curdling and the inhuman atrocities alleged to have been perpetrated on her and her tender baby, by Kudus, a Moslem of Delhi, in broad day light, when she was travelling all alone with her child in a ladies compartment of the Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train in the last week of August last.

[**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.**]

The unfortunate girl, in narrating the pitiable tale of her suffering before the court, stated that on August 25th last while she was proceeding from Cawnpore to Ujjain, with her brother and her one year old baby, she alighted at Bhopal to change for Ujjain, and went into a zenana compartment of the Bhopal-Ujjain passenger, leaving her brother in an adjoining compartment with some other passengers.

At about 10-30 A.M., at Shujalpur Station, when the train was about to move, the accused, taking advantage of her loneliness, entered into her compartment from the off-side, and as the train gathered speed, drew a knife and threatened to kill her unless she consented to his overtures. She tried to pull the communication cord, but was frustrated by the assailant, who, despite her protest, criminally assaulted her.

Proceeding further, the girl stated that after ravishing her, the accused demanded the ornaments, which she refused to part with, whereon he pulled her ear-ring and tore off the lobes of her ears. She attempted to offer resistance, and this further made the assailant more blood thirsty and violent, and he bit off her nose, parts of her cheeks, fore-head and arms.

Not satisfied with the lust for blood, the girl further proceeded to say, the accused picked up the infant by the throat, bit off its nose, pulled down one of its eye lids, tearing it off, cut the cheeks and forehead. She then snatched away the child and placed it on her lap, when he again bit it thrice on its stomach, after which he mercilessly thrashed her.

By this time the train halted at the railway station of Akodia."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : When was this incident reported ?

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : It was reported in the *Indian Express* of the 26th September.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** (Member for Commerce and Railways) : My objection to this motion is that the matter is not urgent. The two incidents referred to took place in the latter half of August and the beginning of October. The last incident was reported in the papers on the 6th and notice of this motion was not given till 10-43 A.M. today. That is my first objection. My second objection is that these two incidents, however regrettable they may be, do not show any system for which in any sense Government should be held responsible and I submit that they are not fit subjects for an adjournment motion. It appears from the Honourable Member's recital of the facts of the first incident that the matter is already in court and is being tried. The matter is therefore *sub judice* and cannot be discussed here.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : My point refers not only to the acts of commission but also acts of omission.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** : No act of omission is set forth.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The arrangements have been in vogue for a long time ?

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : I would say, Sir, that I have got many other instances which I can cite, on the South Indian Railway, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, etc., where women have been the brutal victims. . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : On the Railways as elsewhere such crimes are sometimes committed, unfortunately.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : Such brutal attacks are constantly made by bad characters who get into compartments, there is no protection afforded, such men get in and get out, almost every day in



the railway system. The other day, when it was mentioned here that a man's head was actually cut off on a railway platform, my friend the Commerce Member said that that was none of his business and he said, "let it go".....

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan :** I have no recollection of that, Sir. I must protest against that suggestion. I have never given such an answer.

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** This is not a matter of urgent public importance under the Rules and Standing Orders, and I disallow the motion.

#### REVISION OF THE INDIAN CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE POLICY.

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** There is another motion for an adjournment of the Assembly standing in the name of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, who wants to move for the "leave of the House to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the failure of the Government of India to revise the Indian Currency and Exchange policy, in view of the devaluation of their currencies by Italy and other Western countries having trade relations with India". Is any objection taken to this ?

**Mr. G. H. Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) :** Yes, Sir. I submit, Sir, that this motion is covered by your own ruling of the 9th September. On that day you said, Sir :

"There is an adjournment motion in the name of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant about the externment of Mr. M. R. Massani from the Punjab. Under Rule 11 I cannot consent to the motion being made as the identical motion by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena has been disallowed by the Governor General."

In this case, it is true, Sir, that the two motions are not textually identical, but I submit that they are substantially identical, and if they are substantially identical.....

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** At that time I think it was not known—so far as I remember that is what the Honourable the Finance Member stated—how many countries had gone off the gold standard.

**Mr. G. H. Spence :** I will deal with that point, Sir. The previous notice was in these terms :

"to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of the Government of India to review their currency policy and keeping an appreciated value of the rupee in spite of the world-wide depreciation of the currencies chiefly brought about by the decisions of the European States.".....

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) :** I think the Finance Member pointed out then that as a matter of fact "world-wide" was not the proper description of what happened, and that so far, France only had depreciated her currency,—I think that was his contention ?

**Mr. G. H. Spence :** What the Honourable the Finance Member said was that the only decision to depreciate known to have been taken up to that time was by France, that similar decisions by Holland and Switzerland were expected, and that the rest was speculation. The motion that was then sought to be discussed was the failure of the Government of India

[Mr. G. H. Spence.]

to review their currency policy in spite of *world-wide* depreciation of currencies, actual or prospective, and I submit that subsequent depreciation by Italy introduces no new factor. The motion that was disallowed by the Governor General was a motion to discuss the failure or the supposed failure of the Government of India to review their currency policy in spite of what was happening.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Is it not possible that the Governor General decided to disallow the motion on the ground that there was no world-wide depreciation of currencies as alleged ?

**Mr. G. H. Spence** : I cannot of course say what passed in the mind of the Governor General, but I do not think.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : As objection has been taken, Honourable Members who want leave to be granted to move this motion will please rise in their places. (More than twenty-five Members rose.) The motion will then be taken up at 4 o'clock.

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#### BILL PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

**Secretary of the Assembly** : Sir, in accordance with the provisions of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a copy of the Bill to make better provision for the administration of the Dargah and the Endowment of the Dargah of Khawaja Moin-ud-din Chisti, generally known as Dargah Khawaja Saheb, Ajmer, which was passed by the Council of State at its meeting held on the 7th October, 1936.

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#### RESOLUTION *RE* INTERFERENCE FROM PUBLIC SERVANTS IN THE ENSUING ELECTIONS—*contd.*

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The House will now resume consideration of the Resolution moved by Dr. Khan Sahib, on the 24th September last, *viz.* :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps to secure that Public Servants do not interfere directly or indirectly in the ensuing elections to the Reformed Legislatures.”

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** (Home Member) : Sir, it is always rather difficult to resume a speech that has once been interrupted,—and the difficulty is increased when a speech has twice been interrupted, on one occasion by a motion for the adjournment, on the other by an actual adjournment of the House. I feel rather as if I have to make my breakfast out of a dish from yesterday's dinner heated up again and that would be a task which I can approach with no enthusiasm, and indeed with a certain amount of repugnance.

I have however very little to add to what I said last week. One point was raised, I think by way of an interjection during the course of the debate, and that was in regard to a certain circular dealing with elections issued by a Court of Wards in the United Provinces. I have been able to obtain some information about that. The argument, I take it, is that because the President and Secretary of that Court of Wards are Government officers and because some assistant managers are also Government

officers, therefore the Court of Wards is an official or at any rate a semi-official body. Now the fact is that the Court, under an Act passed by the United Provinces Legislative Council in 1933, is now a purely non-official body. There is no statutory provision that the Secretary or the President should be officials, and Government are only directly concerned with two questions that come under the purview of the Court of Wards. Those are whether control should be taken of an estate, and whether an estate should be released from the Court of Wards. The President and the Secretary are purely servants of the Court of Wards, which is an entirely non-official body. It consists.....

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative) : We cannot hear you. We cannot follow you.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : If some of these gentlemen will cease carrying on their conversations, Honourable Members will have a better chance of following me. The Court of Wards is now, as I say, a purely non-official body. It consists, in addition to the President, of three members elected by the British Indian Association, which I understand represents the land-owners of Oudh, three members elected by the Agra Zemindars' Association, two members elected by the United Provinces Legislative Council, and one member nominated by the Local Government. It is therefore not surprising that the court, as trustees of what are in the main purely agricultural estates, should wish to protect those estates from the policy of confiscation advocated by the President of the Congress. The best method of securing the defeat of that policy is of course to make sure that the voting power which the Court of Wards estates exercise is not dissipated by the court lending its support to candidates who support the policy of the Congress or to candidates who have no chances of success and thus splitting the voting strength represented by the court. At the time of the last elections, the court enjoined strict neutrality upon all its servants. At that time the court was not a purely non-official body, as it is now, the Act re-constituting it having been passed in 1933. But the result of that neutrality was that the Congress got hold of most of the Court of Wards officials, and, through them, used influence on behalf of the Congress candidates.....

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : When was it ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : In the last general elections.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : In the last council elections the Congress did not take any part ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : In the Assembly elections.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** : The Assembly elections were held in 1934 after this Act had been passed.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : I am obliged to the Honourable Member ; he is right, but the point is not, in my opinion, very material. The Court has now decided that that arrangement whereby the voting strength was wasted either on the wrong side or was split up should not arise again, and that decision was taken in particular reference to the Congress policy of attacking the large landholders. The position then is that, while subordinate officials like the Patwari or the Chowkidar are servants of Government, the Zilladar, the subordinate official of the Court

[Sir Henry Craik.]

of Wards, is purely a servant of the Court, he is not a public servant in the sense that he is a Government servant, and it is presumed, and I think rightly presumed, that he has just as much right to canvass on behalf of the candidates selected by the Court as has the Zilladar or the local agent of Congress candidates. Equally, the District Officer came into this picture only because he was asked to furnish the Court with information as to who was the candidate most likely to achieve the Court's object of protecting the large estates entrusted to his care, and his function was confined purely to giving that information. His interference went no further than that. The District Officer and his subordinates cannot of course go about canvassing on behalf of any particular candidate, but he has no right and no authority over the subordinate officials of the Court of Wards, and he has therefore no power to prevent them from canvassing.

That, Sir, is the position as regards that point, and I do not think I have anything further to add. I have attempted, so far as information in my possession enables me, to meet the very few charges that have been made in the course of this debate or that have reached me from other sources about alleged acts of interference by Government servants in elections. The total sum of these charges is very small indeed. In most provinces no such charge was even preferred, and where it has been preferred, and it has been inquired into, in a great majority of cases the charge has been found to be either completely baseless or greatly exaggerated. At the same time, I do not claim that there have not been cases where Government servants may have acted with indiscretion or may have omitted to take the precautions to observe the rule in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. Where such cases have occurred, they have been suitably dealt with.

That, Sir, is all I have to say, and if any other Members have knowledge of further incidents that have not been brought up in this debate, I suggest that if they will communicate them to me, I shall certainly be glad to have them investigated, but as I have said, I have spoken about all the incidents that have been mentioned in this debate or that have come to my notice either from statements in the press or by other means. That, Sir, is all I have to say on that point.

Then, as regards the second aspect of this question, that embodied in my friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub's amendment to the main Resolution, I have stated when speaking during the first chapter of this somewhat disjointed speech, what the policy of the Government is. So far as I am aware, the only reference, to that aspect of the question, was made by the Honourable Member who moved the Resolution, and so far as I could follow his speech, the only charges or the only complaints he had to make were that the police attended the electioneering meetings of his party. I submit that in view of the previous record of that party and the possibility of its opening a new chapter on the same lines as the last chapter, the action of the police was wholly justified.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution and to oppose the amendment. Now, Sir, what does this Resolution seek to do ? It makes a recommendation to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps to secure that Public Servants do not interfere directly

or indirectly in the ensuing elections to the Reformed Legislature. So far as the principle involved in this Resolution is concerned, there is hardly any difference of opinion. We have had the assurance from both the Honourable the Law Member and the Honourable the Home Member that strict neutrality in elections is the accepted policy of the Government of India, yet there is a controversy over this matter, and that is with respect to the circumstances which have been the cause of action, if I may so term it, for tabling this Resolution, or which prompted the Mover to table this Resolution. The question is, has there been actual interference by Government servants or not? On that point, the Government version and our version do not agree. On the last occasion the Honourable the Home Member made a distinction between the allegations, made in the press and those made on the floor of this House. As regards the allegations of official interference made in the press, the Honourable the Home Member told us that he disputed such allegations. Having said that, he proceeded to point out that inquiries showed that in the majority of cases the allegations were unfounded. I say let us take his own words. Supposing in 60 or 75 per cent. of the cases, the allegations on inquiry were found to be unfounded. The question then arises what about the remaining cases. Here I say that it is an admission on the part of the Honourable the Home Member that our grievance about official interference in elections is true.....

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** I made no such admission.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** I might not have heard him quite correctly, but I find it reported in the papers, and his language is exactly as I have described. As regards the allegations in the press, no doubt he first said that he did not admit them, but in the very next sentence, he said that inquiries showed that in the majority of cases the allegations were unfounded. What is the inference that one must draw from this? If it is unfounded in the majority of cases, it is well founded in the rest of the cases. The whole question is whether there has been official interference in a very large number of cases or not. Now, Sir, I heard him saying only 5 minutes ago that in the majority of cases the allegations are either unfounded or exaggerated. So, the confession made on the last occasion is made all the more worse by his confession today that even in the majority of cases they are not unfounded but are either unfounded or exaggerated.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** The Honourable Member is misinterpreting what I said. I said that in the majority of cases that are investigated the allegations were found to be wholly unfounded and in the remainder they were found to be largely exaggerated. The Honourable Member speaks as if I have had hundreds of complaints. As a matter of fact, I have not had more than a dozen complaints altogether or even less than that I should think.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** We have not been told by the Honourable the Home Member whether the number of cases was hundred or more or less.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** I am telling you now. There are less than a dozen cases.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** Now, Sir, as I have said, it is not a question of percentage but it is a question of number. My question is :

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

can he cite one single instance in which an offending Government servant has been punished for that interference? What steps have been taken against those officers? Have any steps been taken?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :** Yes.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** Have the Government issued any statement on these cases? That is one fact. Then, on the last occasion the Honourable the Home Member told us that the Government of India have already issued circulars asking the Local Governments to see that there is no interference. Then what follows? The next statement is very significant. The Honourable the Home Member proceeds to say—I am quoting his exact words—that it is difficult to see what more could be done in this matter beyond issuing some circulars. In this connection, I am reminded of another statement made by the Honourable the Law Member. He said that the Government of India have got tens of thousands of servants and if there has been some interference in some individual cases, it cannot be helped. Now, Sir, my answer is that interference has been not only in isolated instances but in an organised and open manner and on an extensive scale. This happened in the district from which I come. There opposition was offered to Congress candidates during the last Local Board election by the officer in charge of the sub-division, by the other Deputy Magistrates, by the other sub-deputy magistrates, by the Circle Officers and by the Police Officers and by the officers of the Registration Department.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Resolution is confined to the elections to the Legislatures and the Honourable Member must confine himself to the Resolution.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** My case is that this Resolution has been tabled because there have been instances of interference with the elections, and the importance of the Local Board election was this.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I cannot allow the Honourable Member to go beyond the scope of the Resolution, which is large enough.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** The Local Board elections and the District Board elections are very important elections.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have given my ruling that this Resolution is confined to the ensuing elections to the reformed Legislatures. Of course, the Honourable Member is at liberty to refer to anything that has happened in the past with regard to the elections to the Legislatures.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I rise on a point of order.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have given my ruling and there can be no point of order on my ruling.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** I bow to your ruling, Sir. I will now deal with other points. The Honourable the Home Member said that certain circulars have been issued and what more could be done in this matter. Am I to understand that the Government is so helpless that they

can only issue circulars and cannot enforce those circulars? If that is the position, it is tantamount to saying that the whole duty of the Government in this matter is finished as soon as certain circulars are issued and they have nothing further to do. My submission is that either the Government is incompetent or is not sincere with regard to the issue of these circulars. So, the apprehension on the part of the people with regard to this interference by Government servants is well-founded. My Honourable friend, Maulvi Fuzlul Huq, is here and I shall not dilate on this matter. He will tell the House the interference that is going on in my province in the matter of the ensuing elections. I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Home Member one fact in this connection. At all events, in my province postings of officers and transfers of officers are being manipulated with an eye to election. So-and-so is an out-and-out pronounced enemy of the Congress and therefore he must be retained in or transferred to a particular station to aid a certain party, whether it is the Ministers' Party or any other non-Congress party.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra :** The Executive Councillors' Party.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** In my province amongst the Muhammadans there are two Parties, one party is being led by the Ministers and Executive Councillors, who are Muhammadans, and the other party by my Honourable friends Maulvi Fuzlul Huq, and Maulvi Ashrafuddin Chowdhury. It is an open scandal in my province that transfers are being manipulated with an eye to election. There is one glaring instance of a non-transfer of an officer like this. He is an I. C. S. officer and is in charge of my sub-division. Very serious allegations have been made against him—allegations so serious that even a hundred criminals ought to be ashamed of such allegations. These allegations were made under the signatures of two gentlemen. One of the allegations is that he is inciting Hindu-Muhammadan tension and disturbance. It is a very serious charge to be brought against a high Government official. Those allegations were made by two gentlemen in writing. One of them, as a Muhammadan, an ex-M. L. C. and the other is a Hindu, who is a Member of this House.

**Mr. M. S. Aney :** That other gentleman is the speaker himself, if I mistake not.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** That is obvious. These allegations were made long ago. Thereupon, an inquiry was made by the Government, but up till now the allegations have not been repudiated. Our demand was that, in view of the fact that he was exciting Hindu-Muhammadan feeling, he should be transferred. That has not been done. I have been told by a high official—I am sorry I cannot mention his name—that we cannot expect his transfer because these transfers are being manipulated in the interests of so-and-so and he gave me the names also. I bring this to the knowledge of the Honourable the Home Member and I hope he will kindly inquire into this matter because it is being openly asserted by the Ministers' Party and by various members of that party that so-and-so will not be transferred until the election is over. Of course, I have not mentioned the name of this officer, but the Honourable the Home Member, I am sure, knows it because I myself took the opportunity of bringing this matter to his notice. What is the result of this official interference in the elections. Why, the inevitable result is that

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the elections are reduced to a farce. We are going to have a new constitution and a new constitution is always brought about either by shooting or by voting. There is no third method. It is proposed to introduce the new constitution by voting, not by shooting. If any Government servant reduces that free voting to a farce, I say he is a rebel against the Government and against the new constitution. He is destroying the Government. Now what is the recommendation made by my Honourable friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, in his Resolution? He says let us have the new constitution by the method of voting, genuine free independent voting and if anybody interferes with that freedom of voting, I say he is guilty of wrecking the constitution and he is only throwing the seeds of shooting. With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution.

**Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq** (Bakargunj *cum* Faridpur : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, so many references have been made to me in the course of the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, that I deem it my duty to say a few words regarding the development which has recently taken place in my Province of Bengal in the matter of the interference by officials with the course of the forthcoming elections. In order to appreciate the position in Bengal, I wish to draw the attention of the House to one or two essential facts. There are at the present moment in Bengal three parties contesting the ensuing elections,—firstly, is the Congress, secondly, the Agriculturist party commonly known in Bengal as the Praja Party with which I am officially connected, and, thirdly, is the party which came into being suddenly towards the end of May last, sponsored by some fairy god-mother of an official consisting of the Muslim Members of the Bengal Cabinet, Nawabs, Khan Sahibs and Khan Bahadurs and other supplicants for titles and favours whose applications have long been pending and who are desperately anxious to see their names in the Honours List of the New Year's Day. Now, it is not correct to say that the Muhammadans of Bengal, as such, are divided. The party with which I am associated, namely, the Praja Party, has been in existence for the last thirty years, and it has been organized purely on economic lines, it is a non-communal party working for the good of the country. (Applause.)

Sir, in view of the fact that the elections are going to be fought on the basis of separate electorates, we have got to set up Muhammadan candidates for the Muhammadan constituencies and Hindu candidates for the Hindu constituencies and so far as the Muhammadan constituencies are concerned, we come into direct conflict with the ministerial party which consists entirely of Muhammadans. We are therefore fighting not as between Muhammadans and Muhammadans, but as Muhammadans representing a non-communal party and Muhammadans representing a purely communal party. We have taken up this attitude because we consider that in the present circumstances, communal parties are detrimental to the best interests of India. (Hear, hear.) We consider that to bring communalism in the forthcoming elections would retard the progress of India (Hear, hear) as a whole and instead of furthering the interests of any particular party, we will act to the detriment of all interests, of all communities which compose the population of India. (Hear, hear.) Now what happened in Bengal was this. Two Muhammadan Members of the Cabinet, one a Minister and the other an Executive Councillor are the



prospective candidates for election. As the House is aware, the Education Department, the Department of Agriculture and Industries, the Registration Department and the Department of the Co-operative Credit Societies are all transferred subjects under the control of the Ministers. The Inspecting Officers and the Touring officers of these departments thought that the best way they can serve their masters, namely the Ministers, would be by helping them in the matter of election. They went out ostensibly on their official tours, but they went on canvassing on behalf of the Ministers. The scandal became so very prominent that we had to make representations to the authorities for the purpose of restricting the zeal of these officers of these various departments in contravention of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. I am glad to be able to inform the House that our representations had some effect. One gentleman, a Professor of the Islamia College in Calcutta which is a Government institution—I am not going to mention any names—who happened to be going on tour suddenly stopped his tour, but developed his activity in other directions. He has been writing to the newspapers under various *nom de plumes* and we have found out at least half a dozen of the articles contributed to the *Star of India*, the *Mussalman* and even the columns of the *Statesman* reflecting on parties other than the Ministerial party in Bengal.

Now, Sir, the officers who are acting in this way are carrying on their operations in secret. It is very difficult to find out what they are actually doing. But in one or two instances we have come across and we have found out that the method they pursue is both artistic and ingenious. They go to a village and they talk for instance with the members of certain co-operative societies and incidentally they begin to talk regarding the elections and in the course of their talk, they extol the virtues of the Ministerial party and begin to damn the other parties that may be in the field of election. This kind of activity is very difficult to combat with and the only way we thought best to adopt was to bring it to the notice of the Secretaries of the Government who have kindly promised us to issue further circulars prohibiting this kind of interference. I know certain circulars have been issued, but it is strange that all the circulars are being more honoured in the breach than in their observance. Either there is gross insubordination prevalent and rampant in Bengal or these prohibitory circulars are perhaps followed by other confidential circulars to the effect that the prohibitory circulars are not to be followed. We cannot understand why in view of the incessant number of circulars, Government servants are still going on interfering with the free course of the elections. Then, Sir, the latest development is that certain orders have been passed by at least one District Magistrate to the effect that certain of the Praja Party workers should be interned and home internment orders under certain repressive laws have been passed against them just on the eve of the elections. One can understand that there may be circumstances and occasions on which orders like that may be thought to be justifiable or necessary, but I fail to see why just a couple of months before the election one or two of our best workers should be interned and deprived of their activities in favour of our party. It is easy to conceive that at a time like this all the energies of all the workers would be directed towards the elections and I do not see that any more young men will have extra energy to conspire in secret in order to overthrow British rule in India. These persons who are working for the elections have at least for the moment

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become cooperators from being non-cooperators. And it is very difficult to conceive why the rigours of the repressive laws should be applied against them. Sir, I do not wish to say anything more on this subject because I propose to bring this matter to the notice of His Excellency the Governor when I go back to Calcutta, and I will very gladly take advantage of the suggestion that has been made by the Honourable the Home Member to bring to his notice any cases of dereliction of duty by members of Government so far as interference with the elections is concerned. Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House any further. But I want to emphasise one fact and I hope I will not be considered as saying anything by way of a threat or anything on which any interpretation may be put other than as a piece of friendly advice. It is true that the officials of the Government of India, for instance, are very sincere in their intentions that the elections should have a free and unhampered course. Personally, I am quite prepared to believe that they are sincere when they say that they do not wish to interfere with the elections. It does not affect them personally how the parties rise and fall and how elections develop in particular provinces. But, Sir, in the provinces there are overzealous officials whose zeal to serve their masters has got to be curbed. And I believe that if proper action is not taken, the rules prohibiting Government servants from taking part in the elections will be broken by Government servants, and as a matter of fact it will put the other parties in a position of great disadvantage. Already we are working under great handicaps. For instance, in Bengal the Council has been allowed to go on for seven years and the Ministers and the Executive Councillors have been in office for seven long years to consolidate their position and to nurse their electors to their hearts' content. Then, Sir, orders have been passed that they should be in office up to the 31st March, 1937. This means that they will be in power all throughout the elections, free to go and visit their constituencies at public expense and meet their voters with all the powers which they possess and all the influence which they enjoy.

Then, Sir, there is another fact which very much hampers us in our elections. Appointments in the Registration Department, in the Department of Agriculture and Industries and in the Education Department have been held up for some time past, and there is a rumour that these appointments are going to be released on the eve of the elections, not for the purpose of efficiency and the interests of public justice but to help the Ministers in securing votes. Whatever may be the reason these appointments have not been made and the public have got a right to make the inference that they have been held up for particular purposes. Now, Sir, faced with all these handicaps, if over and above this Government comes down upon our workers with all the rigours of the repressive laws, it is not difficult to conceive that it is putting the Ministerial party in a position of tremendous advantage over the other parties in the province. I therefore request the Honourable the Home Member to consider whether this particular aspect should not be inquired into. Unless of course there is a very bad case in which drastic action is necessary, I would suggest that no action under any of the repressive laws against any of the workers and against any of the parties should be taken just on the eve of the elections.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has reached his time limit.

**Maulana Shaukat Ali** (Cities of the United Provinces : Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member a question through you ? Now that there is a Muslim League and Mr. Jinnah's party, the Parliamentary League and they have combined with the United Muslims, will it not be possible.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I cannot put any such question.

**Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan** (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I rise to thank my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, in giving me an opportunity to speak on the elections in the North-West Frontier Province. I also congratulate my Honourable friends, Dr. Khan Sahib and Sir Muhammad Yakub, on their Resolution and amendment being accepted by Government. I will remind the House that Dr. Khan Sahib said the other day in his speech that wherever he toured, in Peshawar, Kohat, and Bannu, he saw some hostile demonstrations. But the result was very pleasant because the speaker himself said that instead of subtracting some voters from him there was an addition of voters on his side. If this is the result, then if I had been in place of the Honourable Member I would have thanked the demonstrators for such a good demonstration. And I assure the House that if these demonstrations had been by Government officials in which Government had a hand, the result would not have been so pleasant as the Honourable Member himself has admitted. I may inform the House that when the same Honourable Member went in my own district and city, Dera Ismail Khan, he was my guest. He had his morning meal with me and I took him in my motor car and drove round the whole city, showed him the bazars, the cantonment and the civil station and he was everywhere treated with respect. The city gave him a very cordial reception. At night there was a big meeting in the heart of the city ; there was not a single voice against, or show of any insult or anything undesirable nor any demonstration which was not in honour of him. He and his party said what they liked to say but there was no interruption, no policemen and no official pressure of any kind. I proclaim this in the presence of the Honourable Member in this House now.

**An Honourable Member** : But you were there !

**Another Honourable Member** : He was in safe custody !  
(Laughter.)

**Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan** : I may tell the House that there could not be a better and more cordial reception of a Congress leader or a Congressman in Dera Ismail Khan city than my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib got. Then from Dera Ismail Khan he went to Tonk and passed through our district. Whatever reception he had, I think he was very pleased with it. The present complaint of Dr. Khan Sahib is that the North-West Frontier Province Government interferes in these elections. So far as my knowledge, experience and information go the Government have never done in any district anything of any kind to interfere against any candidate or in favour of any other candidate. There is one point which I say now candidly, because the Government has accepted the Resolution. I shall speak of my own district of which I have

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personal knowledge and on which I can speak with authority. Some of the petty Indian officials like tahsildars and sub-inspectors of police do help their individual friends on account of personal friendship or enmity : but for such individual actions no sane man can blame the Government of any province. I do not want to give any names, but the present Sayed tahsildar of Dera Tahsil in the Dera Ismail Khan district recently has openly helped one candidate against another and the candidate against whom he helped is very loyal, highly educated and a man belonging to the most respectable family in the whole district. Therefore there cannot be a chance of thinking that there is a Government hand in that, but what is the reason ? There is nothing but personal friendship. Our province is well known for such questions of enmities or friendships. There is a proverb that a Pathan will take revenge after the seventh generation. The people are very touchy. Their temperament is very different from that of the people of other provinces. In the Peshawar district alone, which is the seat of the Government, where there are colleges and there is shortly going to be a university, where Dr. Khan Sahib and the Congress has been preaching non-violence and which district should therefore be a model for other districts in that province, in one year there have been 400 murders, while in the whole of the province of the Punjab there have been 600 murders. The temperament of the people is so uncontrollable : that notwithstanding the policy of the Government of India and our own Local Government, the temperament and hostility, and the feeling of dislike and like among the petty officials are so great that sometimes they do violate the rules in favour of or against their friends or foes. These are individual cases ; and after seeing such a case in my own district my own intention is that after returning from Simla, to bring such cases to the notice of the local higher authorities and also make suggestions to remove these defects. I have decided to suggest the local authorities that in future the polling or revising or returning officer should not be an officer of the same district, but of another district ; and in Hindu constituencies a Mussalman officer should be appointed and *vice versa*, because it is supposed—and to a large extent it is quite right—that a Hindu officer would be more impartial in a Muslim constituency than a Muslim officer and a Muslim officer would be more impartial in a Hindu constituency than a Hindu officer.

**An Honourable Member :** What about private friendships ?

**Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan :** I leave this question and its remedy to my valued friend, Dr. Khan Sahib. My district of Dera Ismail Khan is the safest district so far as murders are concerned and has less crimes than even the many districts of the Punjab.

Like all other provincial Governments the Government of the North-West Frontier Province is very careful about all the criticisms that are often levelled in newspapers about interference in elections or other questions. The Local Government of the North-West Frontier Province is doing its utmost to remain neutral and keep their officials neutral ; but they cannot always do so. I remember that a few years ago the Red Shirts stopped other candidates and their voters from the polling booth to such an extent that the other candidates had to apply to the District Magistrate and asked for the help of the police and with police help the lorries could pass through. In some cases military help was also

required. If things come to such a pass, what can the other candidates do? Interference by Government becomes inevitable there. In the face of experience of that kind, Sir Muhammad Yakub put in that amendment, because he has seen on such occasions such interference in his own province. In such cases police intervention is very necessary; but I lastly and strongly assure my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, that if he sees calmly and coolly and makes thorough inquiries, he will never find that the Local Government or high British and Indian officials do it as a part of policy of Government to give help to one candidate or to oppose the other. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Sardar Sant Singh** (West Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I stand to support the Resolution and oppose the amendment. The Resolution is of such vital importance for the maintenance of representative institutions in this country that it is surprising why the Government is coming forward with "ifs" and "buts" in accepting this Resolution. I want to inform the Honourable the Home Member of one fact which is that we who have gone through elections know much more by personal experience than all the logic that can be brought to bear upon the subject. I am sure he will not contradict us when we say that there is a lot of interference by the civil service in the elections to the Legislatures both central as well as provincial. None can deny that the duty of the administration is to be very vigilant over this question of interference by the civil service on the ground that it leads to indiscipline in the services and consequent corruption for which ultimately the State suffers.

The Honourable the Home Member, while speaking on this subject, said that he could not allow the maintenance of law and order to be jeopardised even during the election days. I think it was made clear from this side that nobody advocates the abdication of the functions of the Government by any executive officer of the State. But at the same time nobody would like that under the plea of maintaining law and order lawlessness should be committed by these executive officers. The stories about interference by civil servants in ordinary election times are so many and so numerous that it really seems an irony of fate that denial should come from official quarters. The plea that is always taken up is that on inquiry such complaints have been found, in the majority of cases, by the Government unfounded. My submission is that, even accepting this to be the case if there was a single case where interference has been proved, we are perfectly justified in condemning the Government in not taking suitable, swift and summary action. One instance is sufficient to spoil the whole course of elections. I may here be permitted to mention that in England this convention is enforced with very great rigour. No Government whether Labour, Conservative or Liberal, would permit its civil servants to interfere in elections. . . .

**Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan** (Nominated Non-Official) : How do you know that? You have not been to England?

**Sardar Sant Singh** : Those who care to read can learn, but those who come from the Army are not expected to know these things (Laughter), particularly Nominated Members.

Sir, as I was submitting, the discipline in the civil service is insisted with so much vigilance by the British Government in England that it is not at all surprising that civil servants know their proper place in the

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constitution of their country. The recent case of the Secretary of the Air Ministry will be fresh in the minds of Honourable Members. He was a member of the Home Civil Service. He was dismissed from service. Why? For interfering with matters which did not concern his duties as a civil servant. Is it not a good example to be followed? Is it not absolutely essential that the discipline of the services should be enforced in this country as well by the same strict standard. Sir, our grievances in this country are two-fold. Our one grievance is that we have bad laws and the second is that if there be some good laws, the same are badly administered. Whenever good laws are proposed, if they are passed here at all, they are rejected in the other place. There they have got a safe place to reject what is passed here as good and salutary. The bad administration of laws makes us feel extremely resentful against some of the actions of the civil servants.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can resume his speech after Lunch.

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

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

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**Sardar Sant Singh** : Sir, before we adjourned for lunch, I was submitting before the House that we are suffering from two-fold grievances in this country. The first grievance is that we have bad laws, and the second grievance is that even if there are good laws, they are so badly administered that we find out ourselves placed in a difficult position not knowing how to meet them. Even if we succeed in introducing some sort of reform by private legislation, there is a safe House where the legislation considered fit and passed here is thrown out if Government chooses to oppose it, and invariably the Government do choose to oppose such legislation. What we desire to point out to the Government is this, that if they are sincerely . . .

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, may I point out that neither the Honourable the Home Member nor the Honourable the Leader of the House is here,—I believe the Leader of the House is unwell today,—but who represents the Government in this debate today?

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : There must be some one here.

**Mr. J. A. Thorne** (Government of India : Nominated Official) : The Honourable Member in charge of the Department is not present in this House. I am the Joint Secretary, and I am present.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : I think it very desirable that the Honourable Member in charge of the Department should be present on such occasions.

**Sardar Sant Singh** : I was submitting that if the Government are really serious that representative institutions should develop in this

country, it is of the utmost importance to see that the people who are returned to the Legislatures are really the peoples' representative and not the representatives of the bureaucracy. In regard to this matter, one grievance was specifically brought to the notice of the House in the Delhi Session by means of a Resolution which was carried by a huge majority, that the United Provinces and the Punjab Governments have decided to maintain a system of marking the ballot paper, which distinction is really not understandable. While the other provinces have adopted the use of the coloured box, the Punjab and the United Provinces Governments have recommended to retain the system of marking the ballot paper,—and the United Provinces Government have probably issued a gazette notification to that effect. Why do these provinces insist to retain that system? Because they are determined to interfere in the election of the peoples' representatives. There can be no explanation of this extraordinary course they have adopted. If the Government decides to prohibit direct interference in elections by civil servants, then there is another form of interference of which the Government will have to take note, and that is the system of demi-official's by the executive officers to their favorites. I should be excused, Sir, if I refer to a personal matter in this connection. In the Lyallpur Municipality, when the Municipality decided to present an address to Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, a demi-official was written by the Deputy Commissioner to the President, who was his own creature, a few days before the matter was to be discussed by the Municipal Committee asking him what steps he had taken to prevent this address being presented to Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru. It would be interesting to read that demi-official to show the House how interference is made in such matters....

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : How did you manage to steal this demi-official ?

**Sardar Sant Singh** : Unfortunately for the D. C. and fortunately for us, the President put it in the file of the Municipal Committee, and we discovered it. In that D.-O. the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner wanted to know from the President how he intended to deal with the motion which had been tabled by certain members to present an address to Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru. This is another way of interfering in elections. May I ask, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter of writing such D.-O.'s stealthily, surreptitiously to their own confidantes in order to interfere in election matters.

Then, Sir, there is another menace from which the country is suffering, and that menace is the peculiar conditions of the presence of the Indian States in this country. I remember that in my election one important State in the Punjab sent some of its own officials, who drew the travelling allowances from that State, to interfere in my election and to preach against me. Even now in the Punjab elections, candidates are being set up who are in the service of the States to contest the elections in the Punjab. (At this stage, the Honourable the Home Member entered the Chamber.) May I ask the Honourable the Home Member who has now come to the House what steps he proposes to take in this matter. Is he or is he not aware that the States are setting up their salaried servants as candidates, in the coming elections ?

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) :** The Honourable Member has got only one minute more.

**Sardar Sant Singh :** Then, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Home Member an important point, so that he may elucidate the position for the benefit of the country, and that is this. What is the position of the paid servants of the Government,—and I am referring here to the paid Advisory Council of the Sind Province ? What is their position in the matter of interfering in the coming elections and organizing a party ? These are questions which are peculiar to India ; they cannot be found in England, because conditions there are quite different to those prevailing here. I would request the Government to take all these matters into serious consideration and review the position in the light of the circumstances prevailing in this country.

**Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division : Muhammadan Rural) :** In the meantime, I would request you to read paragraph 307 of this book, Government of India Act, 1935, first. (Laughter.)

**Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran : Non-Muhammadan) :** Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Dr. Khan Sahib. I take the opportunity on this occasion to place before this House, and particularly for the information of the Honourable the Home Member, certain facts in regard to the interference of the Government of Bihar in elections, especially in the coming elections to the Provincial Assembly and the Council. The matter had come to such a pass that I was compelled to give notice of an adjournment motion which the President disallowed on the ground that the conduct of the Governor could not be discussed in this House. I knew that it was a drastic step but the House will agree with me that more often than not, a drastic situation requires a drastic remedy.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** It cuts both ways.

**Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha :** You will be surprised to know that the Government of Bihar in this respect is a confirmed sinner or criminal, by whichever name you may choose to call it. This is not the first time, though I admit that this time it has beaten all previous records, that it has been found guilty of casting to the winds all rules of conduct of Government servants with regard to the elections to the Legislatures and the like. There have been consistent and persistent efforts on the part of the highest officials of the said Government to organise parties of reactionaries and *jo-hukums* to fight the progressive parties there. In the year 1932 a party was formed in our province at the instance of a gentleman whom I cannot name, Sir, lest you might pull me up, but it is an open secret and any man in the street in the province knows about it. No pains were spared to make the party active and kicking, but it died a premature death. A daily newspaper, *The Indian Nation*, was also started with the money of the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga to support the policy and programme of the party. The Commissioners of Divisions were asked to collect subscriptions from the big zamindars for the party and they did collect some money. One gentleman defined the party in a humorous way, but all the same, it conveyed the true definition of the party. He said, Sir, that the United Party was united against the Congress but divided against itself. (Laughter.) The heterogenous elements who under pressure from above were forced to join the party could not pull together for long because some of them found their self interests clashing.



Great efforts were made this year also to resuscitate the party but it failed for reasons, by narrating which I do not want to waste the time of this House.

This time they have chalked out a new plan altogether. Not many years ago, I think it was towards the end of 1933, in the election of the District Board of Gaya in my province of which I have positive proof, a sub-divisional officer, not content with helping a candidate by all possible means, went to the polling booth and sat on the door of the room where ballot boxes were kept. He remained sitting for hours, brow-beating the voters who wanted to put their ballot papers in another candidate's box and beckoning them to put the ballot papers in his favourite's box. At another place, the same officer put his coat on the box of the rival candidate and thereby prevented illiterate voters from putting their ballot papers in the box of the candidate whom they wanted to support.

[At this stage, Mr. K. Ahmed interrupted sitting.]

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : If any Honourable Member wants to interrupt, he must get up in his seat.

**Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha** : He is incorrigible, we ignore him, he is beneath contempt.

In the year 1935, during the election of the present Assembly, the Government of Bihar tried its utmost to influence the landed magnates to set up their nominees against the Congress candidates and in some constituencies they succeeded in having such candidates, though all had to suffer ignominious defeat. I have definite and correct information at least about my own constituency. Several questions were put in this House in the winter Session of 1935 regarding that matter and the Honourable the Home Member, as usual, gave evasive replies. Sir, three months before the election of the Assembly there was a conference at Darbhanga which was attended by the highest official of the Province and pressure was brought to bear on the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga to take keen and active interest in defeating me.

**Mr. K. Ahmed** : Question.

**Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha** : It is a fact. You may question yourself. (Laughter.) It is a fact, Sir, that before the said conference the Maharaja of Darbhanga was somewhat lukewarm in his support to the candidate who fought the Congress. But I must admit that the District Magistrate, Mr. Preston, who I am sorry has recently resigned on account of some difference with the Government of Bihar, in spite of his being cognisant of the highest official's interest and his close and intimate relation with the Maharaja of Darbhanga and his chief manager, behaved like Caesar's wife above suspicion. We all admired his fair dealings. But such officers are very rare and they cannot very long pull on with the present Government. In the same year, in the election of my esteemed friend, Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha, in the district of Gaya an over-zealous deputy magistrate went from house to house of all the big zamindars of his Ilaka, telling them that if they voted for the Congress they would incur the displeasure of the Government and would be put to trouble. I do not want, Sir, to name the gentleman because he is dead. But, this year, Sir, things are being done so openly that it has really become scandalous in my province. Go there and ask any man who has even little intelligence and

[Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha.]

you will, I am quite sure, get the same report of the interference of the Government everywhere. In the months of last July and August reactionaries of almost all district of the province were called to attend conferences at Ranchi and Patna. For days together, there were pour-parlers and confabulations with the highest officials where plans were hatched and lists of prospective candidates were drawn up to fight the candidates of the progressive views tooth and nail. Big zamindars were asked to finance the party and some of them who have enough money promised to contribute reluctantly because they dared not say no, lest they might incur the displeasure of the high gods there. A series of editorial comments has appeared in the local newspapers regarding the alleged participation of the highest officials of the Government of Bihar in the formation and organisation of groups and parties with the avowed object to fight the Congress in the forthcoming elections. Its publicity officer, Sir, who is known to be garrulous and ultra-sensitive does not let go any allegation against the Government unchallenged, but in this matter even he could not muster courage to refute the charge. The fact is so palpable that it has touched even his conscience and he decided to keep mum, thinking perhaps discretion to be the better part of valour.

Sir, both the Ministers of Bihar are touring in the districts at the public expense for organising parties and rallying all reactionaries to fight the Congress. I know, Sir, that a Minister is entitled to organise his own political party, but certainly not at the expense of the public exchequer. Questions regarding their such tours were asked in the local Council in the last month and they were thoroughly exposed because they could not defend it.

One of the Ministers makes no secret of repeating before his friends and satellites that he is doing these things at the instance of the Government. Some of his friends to whom the Minister had spoken have personally told me what I have said here.

Sir, the effect of this open move on the part of the Government of the province is bound to be very undesirable for the candidates of the parties who do not carry favour with them. You know that the subordinate officials in the districts when they come to know that the highest officials are interested in particular candidates or groups of candidates they will, I am afraid, go to any length to help those candidates by means fair or foul, more generally by latter means. The presiding and polling officers at every polling booth are these people. They can exert undue pressure on the voters in various ways and if the aggrieved party will have to complain against it, whom will it approach ?

The ballot boxes will be in the charge of the Government. The Government officials will be the counters of votes. If they so like, they might break open the ballot boxes and take out as many ballot papers from the boxes of one candidate and put them into their favourite's box. They might even declare one who secures less number of votes than his rival, duly elected. If things are allowed to go as at present, the day is not far off when all that I have said might be realities.

Sir, if Government are so anxious to act in the partisan spirit, they should, in all fairness, set up some other agency to conduct the election, otherwise why enact a farce of election of this kind ? When the Congress

had boycotted the Legislatures, I remember very vividly how the Anglo-Indian papers, the oracles of the Government, were not tired of condemning the great national organisation for its decision, and now that it has decided to enter the Legislatures several unfair devices are resorted to, to keep its nominees off. Sir, when the present Viceroy came to Delhi first, he made a statement that his Government would remain strictly neutral in the coming elections. High hopes were raised amongst the people that the elections would be conducted in all fairness this time. His Excellency in his recent address which he delivered to the Joint Houses the other day laid stress on the point, that he would work to the best of his power with any and every political party that may succeed in winning the confidence of the electorates. In view of both the statements, may I through you, Sir, appeal to the Viceroy that he should exert his influence to put a stop to the vagaries and nefarious activities of the Provincial Governments without any further delay. We want a fair field and no favour.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh : Muhamadan Rural) : Mr. Deputy President, I oppose the Resolution of my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, and support the amendment of my friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub. The Resolution is this—to take immediate steps to secure that public servants do not interfere directly or indirectly. Government cannot help my Honourable friend in any way whatsoever. They cannot restrict the liberty of public servants, Government can do whatever they like with their own servants but they have no business to come near any public servants or tell them what they should do or should not do.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : Can Government servants do whatever they like ? Is that the contention of the Honourable Member ?

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : I will tell you what the Government servants can do and cannot do, if you will have a little patience. So far this Resolution is concerned, it is practically out of date and it cannot be considered by this House at all. Government cannot interfere with public servants. There is not a word said in this Resolution about Government servants. If they had said, Government servants, I would have understood the subject being discussed on the floor of the House. The amendment is the real thing that ought to be considered and debated. Before I deal with the main Resolution I want to answer my Honourable friend, Mr. Fuzlul Huq, who is not here. He made sweeping charges against the Ministers and the Moslem Member of the Bengal Government. I think it is unfair that these charges should be made against these gentlemen behind their back. It was open to Mr. Fuzlul Huq to make these charges in Bengal, in their presence or in a public meeting or by means of an open letter but he takes no steps whatsoever in that connection.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : He has done it. He has also written to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : It is my friend's colossal ignorance that is responsible for these suggestions. He has done nothing of the kind.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : You are more in the know of Government secrets than I am.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : One of the charges he made was that in their capacity of Ministers and Member, they were touring in Bengal and carrying on an electioneering campaign. They are Ministers and they will be Ministers till the 31st March. They are touring and they will tour. You cannot prevent their touring at the Government expense or the public expense.

**An Honourable Member** : They cannot canvass for votes.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : They can do so. What about ministers in England. They engage in election campaign while they are ministers and while they are not out of office. They have every right to go to the voters and make whatever propaganda they like and there is no law to prevent that. That is the law in England and that must be followed here if we want democratic Government. What is the contention ? It is that the voters will be influenced by these Ministers, because they are Ministers. If that is the position in India, then we had better not have democracy at all. Every man who will go before an elector must prove to the elector that he is a fit person to be elected, not because he is a Minister or a Member of the Government.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** : A Daniel come to judgment !

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : Except yourself. Speaking for Bengal, my experience is quite different. The tyranny of the Congress has got to be prevented and the Government officials will have to be told to safeguard the interests of the minorities. But before I deal with that, I want to say one thing. Mr. Fuzlul Huq had mentioned that there are two Muslim parties, one is the United Muslim Party, which he said consisted of Ministers, Members of Government, title holders, etc. (*An Honourable Member* : "and yourself.") I do not belong to any party whatsoever. Nor am I seeking election to the Bengal Assembly. When the Congress put up a candidate in opposition to me, they failed and failed absolutely in spite of the fact that they brought tons of money to support my rival candidate. If you want, I can give some more evidence as to the money that was being spent to put up a candidate against me. But they failed absolutely, and the candidate had to disappear at the last moment. Then there was another party, called the Proja party which had been in existence for the last 30 years. If that was so, where was the Proja party in 1921. Where was it in 1924 and 1926 ? Where was that Proja party even in 1930 ?

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta)** : All that is not strictly relevant to the question before the House.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : Sir, it is relevant to the speech of the Honourable Mr. Fuzlul Huq who made his speech this morning about the Proja party. I understand that there was no Proja party in existence for the last thirty years !

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta)** : The fight between the two parties can certainly be discussed, but certainly not the history of the Proja Party.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : Whatever that may be, the position is this, that there is now a Proja Party and there is now also a United Muslim Party. What I want to tell my Honourable friends is that there are not only these two parties but

there are many other parties,—e.g., the Muslim League Party, the Majlis Party, the Independent Party, and the Muslim League Election Board Party. (An Honourable Member : “and Loyalist Party.”) There is no Loyalist party in Bengal, as there is in Bihar. (An Honourable Member : “and Purdah party ?”) (Laughter.) I want to tell my friend, Mr. Fuzzul Huq, that this party or that party will not help any candidate to get himself elected. Let it be said to the credit of the Mussalmans of Bengal now that although they were not allowed for the last eight years to exercise their franchise because there was no election to the Bengal Council, the Muslim electorates will test every Member before they exercise their vote, and will consider whether they should vote for him or vote for any other person. No “party” ticket is going to guarantee the success of a candidate in the forthcoming elections—I can tell the House ; and they will know this in the course of two months’ time.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : Then why are you not standing ?

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : I am sure that if I stand, I shall be returned uncontested, and I can throw out a challenge to my friends opposite to set up as many candidates as they can to contest me. (Hear, hear.) Sir, what I want to say about Bengal is this. So far as I know, His Excellency the Governor has made it abundantly clear to every one of us that Government will not interfere in these elections and he has made it abundantly clear by an open letter to the Press that the Government will do all in their power to be absolutely neutral so as to allow the electors to elect whomsoever they like. (Interruptions.)

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta)** : Order, order. Let the Honourable Member proceed with his speech uninterrupted.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : What we want in Bengal is this. We do not want outside interference. Leave us there alone. We do not want Jinnahs and Maulanas. We do not want Parmanands, we do not want Malaviyas, we do not want Munjis. Sir, we, the Hindus and Muhammadans of Bengal, will settle our communal differences, and we will stand together as Bengalis, and as Hindus and Mussalmans afterwards. (Hear, hear.) You will see that. Every Hindu and every Muslim in Bengal will work to settle the communal dispute that is going on in Bengal, in a very short time, and we will stand as man and man together, as Hindus and Mussalmans together. We shall solve our communal differences and stand together as Bengalis first and everything else afterwards. (Hear, hear.) Now, Sir....

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta)** : The Honourable Member has got only one minute more.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : Now, Sir, as I said, I may close now by saying, “save us from the tyranny of the Congress”,—and that is why I want to support my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub’s amendment. He wants to give us that protection that we want,—namely, from the tyranny of the Congress which I am afraid will put us to a tremendous trouble in the new elections. Sir, what is the way they do it ? They set up candidates unknown in Bengal and finance them, and the man who ought to be elected finds himself in a difficult position to contest them because of the abundance of money which is behind them, and I have documents in my possession to show that every candidate who was set up by the Congress was financed by them up to heavy amounts. Sir, we

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want in connection with the next elections that Government should give us due protection and that they will see that any undue coercion....

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi** : ..... by any party in order to gain their object in view should be prevented and should not be allowed. Sir, I oppose the Resolution and support the amendment.

**Seth Govind Das** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan) : Sir, I could not understand the definition just now made by my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, about the terms "public servant" and "Government servant". Sir, Government servants, are "public servants", and what the Resolution asks is that they should not interfere directly or indirectly with the coming elections. Now another thing which my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, said was that Ministers in England are free to do propaganda for their own election and also for their party. Now, Sir, the status of Parliament and of the Indian Legislatures is not the same. If that status is given to the Central Legislature and the provincial Legislatures, we shall not have any grudge if the Ministers do propaganda in favour of their own election or in favour of their party. In fairness to Indian conditions, in the Government of India Act of 1935, in section 69, it was prohibited for any salaried officer under the Government, be he an Executive Councillor or a Minister, to stand in the forthcoming elections. Later on, to favour certain individuals, section 307 was added, lifting this ban as far as the first elections go.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : Section 307.

**Mr. K. Ahmed** : You better read that section.

**Seth Govind Das** : I do not think I have time enough to read it, but I would refer that section to my Honourable friend and would ask him to read it.

Now, Sir, just like the Frontier Province, Bengal and Bihar, there is direct and indirect interference in the forthcoming elections in the Central Provinces by Government officials, but, Sir, the methods of the Central Provinces Government are not so crude as the methods of the Frontier Government or of the Government of Bihar and that is perhaps on account of a shrewder man being at the helm of affairs there. The Government and the public know that man and I think I cannot do full justice to my province without naming him here. He is the Honourable Mr. E. Raghavendra Rao, the Home Member of the Central Provinces.

The Honourable the Home Member said that definite allegations were not made by us as far as this interference goes. Let me point out to him that we have neither Censor Department to open letters of Government officials nor we have C. I. D. to run after Government officials. When there are one thousand cases of interference or even more we can get trace of one and that we place before the Government. The whole thing is that even the Government of India do not know to what extent their subordinate Governments and their officials are interfering with the elections. As far as the Central Provinces Government go, they have been doing this by adopting many methods and here I shall describe a few of them. The first method

which they have practised is the appointment of such officials at places where the Congress has its stronghold who are notorious for their partisan spirit. This has been done mostly in the Hindi districts of the Central Provinces where the Congress commands a tremendous influence. The Government as well as the public know that there are two kinds of officials in Government service. One class of officials does not bother much about politics and it looks after the work which is entrusted to it in its official capacity. The other class has very little to do with its official duties, which are performed by its subordinates, and its main business is to dabble in politics to please its higher authorities. Now, Sir, the officials of the latter class are being appointed and are being transferred to the districts where the Congress has stronghold. These officials are organising zamindars, bankers and the monied classes who are going to oppose the Congress in the next elections. This is going on in my province for the last two years since the Congress has decided to contest the elections. Another method which is being followed is the creation of Honorary Magistrates in abundance. This is being done chiefly in Chattisgarh, and especially in district Bilaspur, the home of Mr. E. Raghavendra Rao. Sir, such persons are being made Honorary Magistrates who do not know anything about the law, who do not know how to conduct the cases and whose main purpose is to organise a party against the Congress. The third method is that some high officials are touring throughout the province organising receptions for themselves, using official influence in collecting subscriptions for these receptions, inducing certain local bodies to present them welcome addresses and, while replying to these addresses, they say very little about civic matters but do a lot of propaganda against the Congress. In this connection, my Honourable friend, Seth Sheodass Daga, tabled a motion of adjournment but it was disallowed. I am tempted to quote some of the speeches of Mr. Rao here but I am sure I shall be also declared out of order and therefore I resist my temptation. However, I would ask the Honourable the Home Member to read speeches those of Mr. Rao which were made by him as Governor in reply to certain addresses. From these speeches the Honourable the Home Member will find how much propaganda has been done against the Congress. Then, Sir, there is a rumour afloat in my province that a master-stroke of interference is going to be struck very soon. Certain likely Congress candidates are disqualified to stand for elections because of their taking part in the civil disobedience movement and being sent to jail for more than one year. It is rumoured, Sir, that Central Provinces Government is not going to remove their disqualification. We would not have believed in this rumour but that has been done in my province in the last Assembly election. Government know that Pandit Dwarkadas Misra and myself were nominated by the Congress Parliamentary Board to contest the Assembly elections. We were both sentenced in the same case by the same Magistrate on the same offences for two years. We were both disqualified, my disqualification was removed but not of Mr. Misra. I hear that the same thing is going to be done in my province and the disqualification of some strong candidates who are going to be set up from my province is not going to be removed. This, I say, is the master-stroke of interference.

Now, Sir, it is an open secret in my province that Government somehow or other has fallen in love with our present Home Member, Mr. E. Raghavendra Rao and it is rumoured that section 307 in the Government of India Act was added to the Act on account of some favourite persons of

[Seth Govind Das.]

Government foremost amongst them is Mr. Raghavendra Rao. Sir, in the name of fairplay it was desirable that when the term of his office of Home Membership was coming to an end, it should not have been extended. He should have stood as an ordinary individual. If the Government was so enamoured of him or if he was so anxious to enter the Provincial Legislature this was the right way for him as well as for the Government. But his term of office has been extended and now he is standing as a Home Member. Legally, he can do so. But I look at the whole question, not only in this respect but in other respect also, from the moral point of view—and I say that it is against all canons of justice and fairplay to allow any individual to stand for the elections as an official with all the influence of his office at his back and with the whole machinery of Government organisation at his disposal.

Sir, if the Honourable the Home Member really wants that the Government should not interfere in the elections, directly or indirectly, he should make real inquiries in this matter and not content himself by issuing circulars which is generally done at such times. These circulars have very little value in the provinces or in the districts. The Provincial Government and the district authorities think that such formal circulars come every time and they do not attach any importance to them. They go on with their activities as usual. If the Honourable the Home Member is satisfied with these circulars let me tell him that interference will be made and he would not be able to prevent these interferences.

In spite of all this, I am absolutely certain that there is going to be a majority for the Congress in the Central Provinces Assembly. There was a Congress majority in the Central Provinces Council in 1923. This time, again, the Congress has decided to stand for the Legislatures, and there is going to be a majority for the Congress in Central Provinces. When this Resolution is brought forward, in fairness to my Province, it is my duty to put forward what is going on there. Sir, I support this Resolution.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya :** Sir, it would have gladdened the heart of Sir Bamfield Fuller, if he had only been living today, to see that his wrong Ghuznavi is righted and is on the right path now. This is all I have to say so far as my Honourable friend is concerned. Sir, you have heard the tale of misery, as narrated here, in this House, by my Honourable friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, so far as the North-West Frontier Province is concerned. You have heard about the doings of the Government in the Central Provinces and in the Punjab. I want to tell you just what is going on in my Province. I want you to have a peep into what is going on in our blessed United Provinces. I hope you are aware of the fact that we had a Governor, Sir Malcolm Hailey, now Lord Hailey. He toured round the Province, went to every district and sent for the zamindars of the Province, the zamindars of the district and organized a party which is known as the National Agricultural Party to fight the elections. He retired and Sir Harry Haig took possession of the provincial *gadi*. Now he has taken up the work and is implementing and supplementing with all his might the work left over by his predecessor. Sir Malcolm Hailey was the father and Sir Harry is the God-father of the party.



**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : I rise to a point of order. May I call your attention to Standing Order No. 29 under which no Member while speaking may reflect upon the conduct of any Governor as distinct from the Government of which he is the Head. I submit any reference to His Excellency the Governor or any reflection on his conduct is under that Standing Order out of order.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** : If the facts are as narrated by me and the Honourable the Home Member takes them as a reflection on the Governor and the *ex*-Governor of the Province, I have only to say that I am simply speaking the truth and narrating facts which are known to every single inhabitant in the Province and they cannot be denied even by the all-powerful Home Member.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta)** : It is a well known rule that an Honourable Member while speaking cannot make any reflection against the Governor of a Province. He can certainly make a reflection against the Governor as the head of the Government, but not personally.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** : I bow to your ruling, Sir, most respectfully. What I want to say is this. I want to know if it is denied that the National Agriculturist Party owes its existence and its birth to Sir Malcolm Hailey (now Lord Hailey). Is this fact denied by the Honourable the Home Member ?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** : My reference was not to the *ex*-Governor. There is no Standing Order so far as I know preventing reflections upon the conduct of an *ex*-Governor. No reflection is permitted upon the conduct of the present Governor.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** : My contention is only this that the National Agriculturist party owes its existence to the indefatigable labours of the *ex*-Governor and unfortunately or fortunately the Members of the present Government and the Government servants deem it their duty and are doing everything in their power to support the party in the coming election. Not only that. Even today the *Leader*, the only paper of our Province, daily comes out with reports from its correspondents that the present occupant of the Provincial *gadi* sends for the leaders of the Agriculturist party, tries to organize them, compose their differences and is actually running the party from behind the *pardah*. If this is a reflection, as I have said, Sir, I do not want to cast any reflection, I cannot help it, but I am simply narrating the facts as they are and as they are known to everybody in the Province.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural)** : That is not correct. I do not know it.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** : If the Honourable Member prefers living in darkness, I cannot help it. In our province there are only two parties, the Congress party and the Government party. It is only these two parties that are in the field of election. The Government party or the National Agriculturist party is led by highly placed officials, by men who have been in the Government, who are in the confidence of the Government and by some others who aspire to gain the ministerial *gadi*. It is an open secret that a terrible fight will be fought in the United Provinces between the Government and the Congress party in the coming elections. (Hear, hear.) Does it stand to reason, is

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it fair, Sir, then that the Government should in any way interfere in the coming elections when it will be itself a party in the coming elections ? The Honourable the Home Member told us that he had examined about a dozen cases and has come to the conclusion that the charges are untenable. I am prepared to believe his statement, but let me respectfully add this also :

*"Vahi Katil vahi shahid Vahi munsif tehre*

*Akraba mera Karen Khūn ka dava kispe."*

You see, Sir, they are the accused, they are the witnesses and they themselves are the judges, they decide the cases, they have the papers in their own hands, we simply stand aside, they see the papers, they let in their own evidence and then write out their decisions according to their own sweet will. You must have read, Sir, that the Provincial Congress Committee of our province recently met and they were thinking of keeping aloof from the elections. They say that if the Government are so keen on having their own men, on having their own majority by fair means or foul in the coming elections, when, even the secrecy of the ballot box will not be respected, what is the good of contesting elections then. The position in our province will be this : a voter goes to the polling booth to give his vote. The agents of the candidate will be present there. Now, let us take the case of a big zamindar and a tenant or any other man who is standing as a rival candidate. The agent, ziladar or the manager of the zamindar will be standing at the polling booth. The illiterate voter has to go there and name the man in presence of the agents for whom he wants to cast his vote. Does it stand to reason, Sir, that in the presence of the agent of his own zamindar, the illiterate voter who is a tenant under him, will have the courage to vote for any candidate as against his zamindar. If the poor voter should do so, the moment he goes out of the polling booth, he will be given a good shoe-beating, and he may be driven out of his land and his life may be made impossible in the village.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** What about the agent of the other candidate who intimidates the poor illiterate voter to vote for him ?

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya :** How can he intimidate ? Well, I can understand persuasion, but I cannot understand coercion. Sir, if the leader of the Government or the highest officials of the Government were to stand in the polling booth and plead their cause and try to convince the voters that they are on the right path, I would have nothing to say against them.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Where is the evidence ?

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya :** Don't interrupt. You don't understand what I am talking about.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal (Agra Division : Non-Muhamadan Rural) :** Your interruptions are the greatest evidence.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya :** We in the United Provinces want that Government should not interfere and there should be no intimidation and interference by Government servants so far as the coming

elections are concerned but if it does so, it should come out in the open and fight with clean hands. I can narrate a tale about my own election. One of the Executive Councillors during the time of election campaign began his winter tour. He came to my district, sent for the zamindars and spoke to them to vote for my rival candidate. I had to send him a personal letter requesting him not to do these things. Fortunately my rival was defeated and as soon as the result of the polling was known the rival candidate was made a Rajah. He is a friend of mine and I have nothing against him, but this is the way in which Government support their own candidates and try to defeat those who want to represent the people. I have given you an idea of what is going on in the United Provinces and I request every Member of this House to see that so far as the United Provinces are concerned, there should be fair fight. I challenge the Government to fight the Congress party with clean weapons. I do not seek any favour, I want a fair contest, no coercion, no shoe-beating, no dispossession of land, no victimization of voters and we will see which party wins.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** (Bengal : Nominated Official) : Sir, I have listened with considerable interest to the speeches of the Opposition, speeches which have consisted of the usual hotch-potch of the wildest allegations against Government and its officers unsupported by any shred of evidence. If I had listened 10 or 15 years ago to the allegations made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Datta and Mr. Fazlul Huq, I should indeed have been perturbed ; but I have learnt from long experience on how slender a foundation such allegations can be and constantly are based.

**Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal** : Your record in Bengal is notorious.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : If the Honourable Member can possibly restrain himself for 15 minutes, he will perhaps learn a good deal in that period.

Let me take first the allegations made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta....

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : Order, order. I am afraid the Honourable Member cannot refer to my speech so long as I am in the Chair.

**An Honourable Member** : You come down, and let there be a Chairman.

**Several Honourable Members** : Order, order.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : Sir, I am going to criticise your speech, not in your capacity as Deputy President, but as a Member of this House.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : Supposing the Honourable Member makes a statement about me, I am not in a position to contradict it from the Chair. So my ruling is that as long as I am in the Chair, the Honourable Member cannot refer to my speech.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : I will submit to your ruling....

**Mr. K. Ahmed** : Sir, on a point of order, is it not the long-standing practice here....

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) :** Order, order. I have given my ruling, and the Honourable Member must obey that.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Sir, if you allow me to go on and then after hearing me.....

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) :** Is it on that point of order ?

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Yes, Sir, something else. (Laughter.)

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) :** I will not allow it ; Mr. Griffiths is in possession of the House.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** Very well, Sir.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths :** Sir, I accept your ruling, but in view of the necessity of that ruling, would it be possible for you to allow me to resume my seat now and continue my speech when the President takes the Chair ?

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) :** The Honourable Member may resume his seat, but he will do so at his own risk and if any standing order stands in the way of his speaking for the second time, I shall not be able to help it.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths :** In that case I will continue my speech, and I will deal first with the allegations of my Honourable friend, Mr. Fuzlul Huq, and hope that when I have finished with him I shall not be hampered by your still having to occupy the Chair.

I was much interested to hear those strong objections taken by Mr. Fuzlul Huq, that redoubted champion of public integrity, in connection with this particular matter of elections ; and if he were here.....

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** Sir, on a point of order, may I know if the expression "redoubted champion of public integrity" which has been used sarcastically is in order ? Does Mr. Griffiths say that it is a sincere and frank expression ? If it is used sarcastically, is it in order ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways) :** Is no sarcasm ever indulged in on that side ?

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** It is open to the other side to object when it is indulged in.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths :** I am surely entitled to take every Member of this House at his face value ?

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) :** If the insinuation is that he is dishonest and wanting in integrity, it is certainly not in order.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths :** I am surprised that such a suggestion has occurred to my Honourable friend, the Pandit.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** If the Honourable Member says I am wrong in thinking so, I do not mind. I will take him at his face value.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths : Sir, to resume my speech, I was much interested to hear from Mr. Fuzlul Huq his very impassioned championship of the cause of public integrity, and if he were here, I should have much pleasure in congratulating him upon the very able way in which he made this Assembly an electioneering platform for the Praja Party. All of us present in this House must have great sympathy with him in his distress. It is indeed hard that for the last seven years there should have been no elections in Bengal and that Mr. Fuzlul Huq should thereby have been excluded from office. So far as he confines himself to lamenting his fate, he is on safe ground. But when he turns from that to complain of the action of Ministers in carrying on election campaigns, he is on ground which is very far from being safe—what is a veritable quicksand. I would ask him, in what country in the civilised world do not the Ministers of the Crown carry on their election campaigns while still in office? Mr. Fuzlul Huq tells us almost with tears in his eyes that these evil Ministers will be in power till March, 1937, and that while they are in power, under their very eyes, as it were, this election campaign will have to be conducted. If Mr. Fuzlul Huq lived in any of those more advanced countries where democracy has been in force for a considerably longer period, he would have exactly the same galling experience to face there. I can see no kind of logic in Mr. Fuzlul Huq's contention that the practice which exists in every civilised country in the world should be discontinued here.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

But Mr. Fuzlul Huq proceeded from the general to the particular. He told us that Government servants were daily influencing election campaigns, and in respect of this he produced one astonishing instance. He told us of a professor of a college who was even canvassing for the *Star of India* and, worse than that, was making election speeches. Mr. Fuzlul Huq's passion was entirely wasted, because his facts were completely incorrect. The professor concerned was Mr. Altaf Hussain, Professor of the Islamia College. The only action taken by Mr. Altaf Hussain was to gather together a meeting of his students and tell them that they were quite right to take an intelligent interest in public affairs, but that that interest should remain theoretical until their student days had passed; that they should concentrate their energies on their studies, and, until that period of their lives was finished, should not devote themselves to active political campaigning on either side and so interfere with the prospects of their success in examinations. Does my Honourable friend, Mr. Fuzlul Huq, really think that such action on the part of a professor is unwarrantable? Then, again, Mr. Fuzlul Huq told a very sad story about the internment of members of the Praja party and he suggested that there should be a kind of criminal moratorium during the currency of the elections; that until the elections were over no member of the Praja party ought under any circumstances whatsoever to be interned or, presumably, to be made subject to any other processes of the criminal law. That is a contention which on the face of it bears its own answer. If Mr. Fuzlul Huq wishes his party followers to be immune from internment let him see that they are equally immune from subversive activities.

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths.]

I now come to the main point in my criticism of the unfortunately absent Mr. Fuzlul Huq. Mr. Fuzlul Huq spoke with great indignation about the action of officials in taking part in elections. But Mr. Fuzlul Huq forgot to tell this House that he himself tried to secure for his own party the help of the highest official in the province of Bengal. Mr. Fuzlul Huq forgot to tell this House that on the 8th of August he wrote a letter to the Governor of Bengal in which he started off by saying " May I, through the medium of the press, make a respectful but earnest appeal to Your Excellency to help the peasant movement of Bengal as against the activities of the newly formed United Moslem Party ? " This the very Mr. Huq who pours such withering scorn upon those poor officials who dare to interfere with elections, is the same Honourable Member who two months ago sought the assistance of the highest official in the province in support of his own party against a party of his co-religionists. But fortunately, as always, the attitude of the Government was more correct than the attitude of its opponents. To that letter of Mr. Fuzlul Huq, His Excellency replied in terms which made it perfectly clear that neither he nor any Government servant could or would have anything to do with political parties in any place whatsoever. I draw your attention to this : Mr. Fuzlul Huq the apostle of electioneering purity is found guilty of attempting to drag the Governor into party politics and the Governor of the province is seen taking, what perhaps my Honourable friends opposite do not relish, an attitude of perfect correctness.

I turn now briefly to the allegations made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta. Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta is a gentleman for whose sincerity and honesty I have a very high personal regard ; and I am convinced that, in every word he utters, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta sincerely believes that he is telling the truth. But unfortunately, sincere and honest though he is, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta has some very queer friends. He has friends who have a habit of misleading him about matters of gravest importance ; and I suspect that the very same people who have misled him this year were also those who misled him last year into making an entirely unfounded statement about the Dacca riots.....

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** I challenge you to disprove my allegations.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths :** If the Honourable the President would rule a discussion on the Dacca riots in order, nothing would give me greater pleasure. I turn now to the specific matter which was the subject of Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta's allegations. Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta told us in the first place that in the province of Bengal transfers were being manipulated for political purposes. As an official in Bengal, reasonably familiar with the transfers which take place and with the reasons for which they take place, I deny that statement categorically, and I challenge Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta to produce one single piece of concrete evidence in support of it. Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, not content with alleging that transfers are manipulated, tells us a very sad story of a certain officer in the district of Tipperah.....

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** I did not say Tipperah : you are wrong.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : I stand corrected. **Mr. Akhil Chandra** referred to a certain officer who was busily engaged in fomenting communal trouble and he said he had laid information regarding this officer's activities before the highest authorities in the land. I shall give you very briefly the history of the facts on which **Mr. Datta's** allegations are based....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has got only one minute more.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : Sir, may I submit that, before you came to the Chair, interruptions took away a good deal of my time—nearly five minutes....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can go on for another five minutes.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : The facts of the case were that the sub-divisional officer of the place concerned, a very energetic young Muhammadan officer from the Punjab, found on his arrival there that the district was suffering badly from malaria, that the crops were getting worse year after year, and that the canals were choked up with the water hyacinth.....

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** : On a point of order, Sir : can he make reference to these matters ? I did not make the least reference to them.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : I am explaining the facts which, in spite of the opinion of **Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta**, are the real grounds of the allegation which he innocently made....

**An Honourable Member** : That is your imagination—not fact.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : The sub-divisional officer of this place finding things in such a sad condition set to work to secure the co-operation of the local public. As a result of his efforts and of the confidence which he inspired in the local public, a canal 18 miles long was excavated by voluntary labour, without any expenditure from public funds. These are the facts of the case : these are facts which led to the complaints made against him today.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** : Nothing of the sort. I did not make any the least reference to this.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** : What has that got to do with electioneering and with the Resolution ?

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : I have no objection to interruptions so long as my time is correspondingly extended. The result of this piece of first class constructive activity was to arouse the intense jealousy and hatred of the Congress. The Congress, as might be expected, thought that the Government was likely to get credit for all that had been done, and the Congress with its usual astuteness at once set to work to turn the situation to its own advantage. Hence proceeded those allegations which have been made to the effect that the sub-divisional officer of that place is busily engaged in fomenting communal dissensions....

**An Honourable Member** : Government did not contradict the statement.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : If Government had to spend their time contradicting every allegation of that sort in this Assembly, they would have no time left to carry on the Government of the country.

(Interruptions by Members on the Opposition Benches.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Let the Honourable Member speak without being interrupted.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : I merely wished to establish the fact that this achievement aroused the jealousy of the Congress and led it to make unfounded allegations of communal interference. I should have thought myself that the Congress Party would have been most anxious to avoid this question of interference with the freedom of the citizen. I should have thought that the Congress Party would have been most careful to abstain from allegations that this official or that had been engaged in collecting subscriptions for political purposes,—I should have thought this all the more in view of what has recently taken place in Bihar. Honourable Members are aware that serious floods have recently occurred in Bihar, and for the relief of the suffering consequent on those floods, certain sums have been earmarked by the Bihar Central Relief Committee. There are here ample reports from the Collectors concerned....

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh** (Chota Nagpur Division : Non-Muhamadan) : Can the Honourable Member take more time ?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair is the sole judge of time in the Chamber.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : There are ample reports from the Collectors concerned that that sum is being used by Congress agencies for purely electioneering purposes.

**Some Honourable Members on the Congress Benches** : Entirely false.

**An Honourable Member** : He is a liar.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member must withdraw that word. It cannot be used in this Chamber.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** : The Congress agents are going round from village to village distributing rice and grain even in places where there is no shortage of food. (*Cries of "Oh, oh!"* from the Congress Party Benches.) Special attention has been paid to certain villages in which no floods have occurred, but which happen to contain the residences of the Congress candidates. If my time permitted, I could multiply instances by the dozen, but it is far too well known to every impartial person in this country that the whole object of the Congress has been, is and I fear always will be to dominate elections by every means in their power, be the same fair or foul. In conclusion, when we remember the parlous condition of Bengal in 1929 and 1930 and when we bear in mind the intolerable tyranny inflicted upon innocent citizens by the organised Congress Party of Eastern Bengal, at that time we have every ground to fear not interference on the part of the Government, but interference and tyranny from the most tyrannical of all parties, the Congress Party.



**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** If any argument were needed in support of the Resolution that is now before this House, that has been furnished by the last speaker. (Hear, hear from the Congress Benches.) It is men like him, belonging to his class, to his tribe and his breed who are in actual charge of administration in the districts and are ever possessed by and imbued with an inveterate, deep-seated, hostility, aversion and animosity against the Congress,—it is men like him that furnish the ground for this Resolution. Whatever my Honourable friend has said, conclusively proves in a demonstrative manner whether you can expect from men of that class any fairplay where Congress sets up candidates in elections. He has made no secret of what he thinks of the Congress, he is only interested in vilifying the Congress and in introducing irrelevant stuff and imaginary fictions, though they have no bearing on the present Resolution at all. Sir, I will not, however, waste my time on him.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi : General) :** Or his ilk.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** It is not worth while doing so. The Honourable the Home Member robbed the Honourable the Law Member's utterance of the grace that it possessed. Viceroys may come and Viceroys may go, but the Home Member of the Government of India can neither learn nor unlearn. He will continue to be the crusted, hide-bound Tory which life long habits have unfortunately turned him into. It is difficult for him to shed off habits formed for a lifetime. We asked for bread and he gave us stones. We wanted him to give us an assurance that Government servants will keep aloof from elections.

**An Honourable Member :** He has given you that.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** He has given us something entirely different and he has given more than that. He warned us "if you people indulge in seditious speeches, if you make speeches of an undesirable type, don't expect any indulgence, the long arm of the law will be there and every one of you will be arrested". Thanks for this information and for this assurance. So far as our complaints go, he says, "you have not furnished any evidence, and if you have furnished any, it does not satisfy me, and even if it has satisfied me, I think there has been no interference". Like the commentators of old, while accepting the language of an aphorism, they misinterpreted and distorted it so as to suit their own vagaries. The Honourable the Home Member cannot obviously repudiate openly the rule in the book which had been framed by the Government of India itself. The rule requires that there should be no interference on the part of Government servants. He has to accept it, but when you ask him to interpret what interference is, he says there is no interference in advice, there is no interference in using influence with a view to coercing candidates to withdraw, and there is no interference in anything that the Government servants choose to do. That is the interpretation of interference. The circular of the Court of Wards lays down definitely that the Court of Wards should oppose the Congress candidates so that not a single Congress candidate may be returned. But he says that it is not interference. If Government servants, I. C. S. men and provincial service men, are concerned, he argues that they are not there as Government servants. When he was reminded of what Hobbart did or Darling did, he said that he saw no harm in a Government servant intervening between three or four candidates with a view to secure the withdrawal of

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

two or three so that the remaining official candidate may have the backing of the other three or four against the Congress candidate. Thanks for that interpretation of interference. It is very straightforward and sportsman like. I am really amazed at the demoralisation that has set in in the Government of India, at the unbounded scepticism and distrust that has taken hold of them. When they framed their enactment they kept in reserve all powers. When it came to carving out constituencies, they framed them in such a manner as to facilitate the return of their own friends—I do not wish to use a stronger expression—and to prevent the entry of independent nationalists. When it came to fixing the number or the situation of polling centres and polling areas they again consulted the convenience of their own creatures, pliable and docile gentlemen who always seek their patronage. When it came to prescribing the method of ballot or voting, they have done things which cannot be described in any restrained manner. They have devised diabolical methods for that, but they are not satisfied with these devices. They must interfere with elections. We have been asked to furnish evidence. I have got it and I will go on furnishing evidence and quoting authority.

**Mr. K. Ahmed :** You cannot do that as the time is up. Look at the clock, it is 4 o'clock.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant :** In spite of Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din Ahmed, my time will enable me to have my say. I may inform the Honourable the Home Member of the latest information that I have. The Congress Committee in Sitapur District wanted to hold a meeting on the 4th of this month. They advertised this meeting, the meeting was to be held at a place called Kanna. The Secretary of the Agriculturist National Party.....

(It being Four of the Clock.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : **Mr. Ayyangar.**

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#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

##### REVISION OF THE INDIAN CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE POLICY.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras Ceded Districts and  
4 P.M. Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The object of my motion is that while the whole world is now trying to adjust its monetary policy the Government of India is sitting with folded hands, while the fire is raging from Cape Camorin to the Himalayas. Government has shown colossal indifference in this particular matter. Monetary policy is the soul of a nation and of its industry. The Government of India have for a long time been playing with the currency and monetary policy of this country. In or about the year 1898, the free minting of gold and silver had been given up. They tried to settle the ratio between gold and rupee at Rs. 15. Later on, it adjusted itself to Rs. 15 for a time but soon after the war, they settled it at Rs. 10 per sovereign. Soon there was a loud protest. There was a commission where there was a dissenting note by Mr. Dalal that the world prices would not stand at that level and that it would be unfortunate if it

should be fixed or stabilised at Rs. 10. In a very short time Government realised its mistake because they could not stabilise it at Rs. 10. Suddenly it went up from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. Later on in the year 1927 they settled the ratio at 1/6 per rupee. Even then there was a loud protest and there was many a dissenting minute. They threw all of them to the winds. That is because they wanted to improve the trade of England, the export trade of England to India and to cripple the export trade of India to England. Sir, the monetary policy is important for this reason. The exchange ratio is intimately connected with the wealth or the growing importance of a trade of a particular country. If our currency appreciates in value, to that extent, our articles become dear as compared with foreign articles. If our currency depreciates in value to that extent our articles become cheaper to other countries. If any person wants to purchase an article from England in India, he has to pay now 1/6 for an article which is worth one rupee in this country. Likewise if today a person wants to purchase an article in England worth 1/6 in India, he can easily purchase it by paying one rupee. Now, this is the object of depreciating the currency—if the currency is depreciated the local articles become cheap to other countries and other articles become dear to their own country. England went off the gold standard in 1927 and in spite of the dissenting minute of such an eminent authority as Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas and other persons in India that the ratio should not be fixed at 1/6, it was fixed at that rate. I would refer to the dissenting minute of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas in the Hilton Young Commission's report. He referred to various items, the level of prices before and after, wage increase and various other matters to which the Hilton Young Commission addressed itself. He denied every one of those things and proved positively that 1/4 ought to be the ratio to one rupee. That was given up. A particular disadvantage was caused to this country. Ever since, the balance of trade in favour of India has been going down steadily.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) :** That is not true.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** I will show you from your own figures. In 1924 our export trade was to the tune of 400 crores. Then our import trade was to the tune of 250. Thus, there was a balance of trade of 150 crores in favour of India. Gold or silver or sterling or paper had to flow into this country for that purpose. In 1929 it came to 75 crores, in 1932-33, it came to 33 crores and 1933-34 to our disgrace it came to 3 crores. The export trade was 136 crores and the import trade was 133 crores and the balance of trade was 3 crores. I challenge my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, to show that my facts are incorrect. I have taken the figures from the Review of Trade which has been published, to which he can also refer.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** Come to the next two years' figures.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** In the next two years it came up to 33 crores and 90 crores. No doubt there was a sharp rise but it again fell down. I have tried to gather some of these statistics for the months ending with March but I have not been able to get them. Whereas England and other countries have improved their balance of trade, we have not improved.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** For the five months of this year, it was at the rate of 60 crores a year.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** That is not affected yet. Now, Sir, the point is that in 1927 a very bad mistake was committed by fixing the ratio at 1½. Ever since that, whatever trade we had began to shrink gradually. Later on in 1931, England itself went off the gold standard. Simultaneously our rupee was linked to sterling. We thought that to that extent there might be an advantage in that the rupee is also depreciated in value along with sterling but unfortunately for us the Ottawa Agreement came about and what was given with one hand was taken away with the other. A preference was sought and preference was imposed and the ratio operated to the detriment of this country. The English export to this country increased and our export to England decreased. Let that alone. France adamantly stuck to the gold standard and we thought that inasmuch as the franc had its own value and our silver in terms of the franc depreciated in value, at least there our exports would increase to the other countries but unfortunately the Ottawa Agreement had its own repercussions. Every country in the world put its own barrier against our articles by tariffs and various other devices, though not as a protest or as a retaliatory measure. Each country did not hesitate to put its barriers upon our goods and every country in the world which had its own trade with us put similar barriers. Honourable Members are aware that we have to export our goods. England does not take more than 25 to 30 per cent. of our exports. No doubt, it was originally 25 per cent., but after the Ottawa Agreement it agreed to take up to 30 per cent., but with respect to the balance of our trade with other countries of the world, our balance has been going down steadily. Now the time has come when we have to see where we stand in the world. France, which has hitherto been sticking to the gold standard along with some other countries of the world, and which took most of our export trade, has now devalued the franc. It is for this reason that the tripartite agreement was entered into behind our back, even without consulting such an eminent expert as our Honourable the Finance Member, all this was done behind our back, without consulting the Government of India, by England, and now we have merely to look on. France thought that for the purpose of increasing her export trade, that it would stabilise its franc, and it has devalued the franc to a large extent. The other day when an adjournment was moved in this House, the Honourable the Finance Member said that France alone took that step, that the other countries had not done so and they were only contemplating, and he was not certain whether the other countries would follow suit. Yesterday we found that Italy has followed suit ; it has devalued its lira by 40 per cent., and today we find in the press that Czecho-slovakia has also passed a Bill, and it has been accepted by the Cabinet, devaluing its own currency. In this way various other countries are following suit one after another. France, Italy, Czecho-slovakia and all countries to which India has been exporting, much more than it has been importing from those countries, are all devaluing their currencies. Those are countries which have been responsible for taking 70 per cent., of our export trade. They will devalue their currencies and we will merely look on. Our export trade to England has no doubt risen by 5 per cent., but England is not in a position to take all our export articles. We had to look to the other countries as well till now to take our export articles. I find my

friend Sir Homi Mody is laughing along with my friends of the European Group. I would only request him to see what the Bombay magnates have to say as to how the Indian prices would be affected by this. This is what this paper says : " As far as India is concerned, while it may lead to competition in the exports of cotton piecegoods and artificial silk between Italy and Japan, it will also affect the exports of Indian raw cotton, American cotton being cheaper. Although devaluation of the lira would mean a better readjustment of international trade, opinion in financial circles in Bombay indicates that trade with Italy will not be immediately a straightforward matter because of restrictions in that country ". This is the opinion of merchants in Bombay. Then I would refer to the statement in the tripartite agreement and the consequences that were apprehended when France went off the gold standard. They say that it might affect the internal prices in the Dominions.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : Very well, Sir. I, therefore, move that while all the countries of the world are going off the gold standard, devaluing their currencies, we alone ought not to have stuck on to this. Sir, I move.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

" That the House do now adjourn."

**Mr. B. Das** (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, nobody will dispute that an alarming situation has arisen in India, the same condition as prevailed in 1931, when the Rupee was linked to sterling. I wish, Sir, I wish there was a procedure in this House that whenever a situation arose in this House over the financial problem of this country, over the currency and exchange or the trade position of the country, the Government bring forward a motion to discuss the matter before this House. Unfortunately, the Honourable the Finance Member spoke in a way the other day as if nothing had happened, and that Government had decided to do nothing in the matter. He may have been satisfied at that, but the whole country and the industrial community all over the country is dissatisfied and feel alarmed that India's trade position will deteriorate, and the much flaunted press communiques that the Finance Department are accustomed to issue for the last five months, have shown that India's trade balance is favourable and the prices are rising, but all that will now vanish. I would have very much liked, without this adjournment motion coming up for discussion on the floor of the House, if the Honourable the Finance Member had asked the House to discuss the trade position of India. Sir, the Honourable the Mover of this motion, Mr. Ayyangar, has asked whether the proper antidote to the present alarming situation in India is the devaluation of the currency or the delinking of the Rupee. How far any mandate of this House will enable the Finance Member today to take such a step, or whether he will feel himself in a position to take an independent attitude in this matter without the consent of the British Government I have my doubts, but he cannot do much, still he can take us into his confidence and do something favourable to this country.

The financial position of this country has no doubt been made clear in an interview which Mr. D. P. Khaitain, President of the Federation of

[Mr. B. Das.]

Indian Chambers, has given to the press, and he has demanded that the Rupee should be delinked from the Sterling. Another *ex-President* of the Federation of the Indian Chambers, a valued and eminent *ex-member* of this House, Mr. Jamal Muhammad, has sent us telegrams pointing out that India would suffer from double handicap, appreciation of Indian Currency, and depreciation of foreign currency and that by the depreciation of the currency in other countries, India's trade will go down, and Government must therefore take steps and review its own position. What the industrial community is surprised at is not that the franc has been devalued, but the consequences that follow on the tripartite agreement, that smaller countries have to come at the tail end of these three big countries to devalue their currencies. India's trade position with Holland, with Belgium, Italy and Germany, to whom we are mostly exporting our articles, has hitherto been satisfactory, and that trade position will not be maintained in future. The Finance Member knows that when the Steel Protection Act was passed and British steel secured certain advantage, Belgium wanted to restrict her trade with India, and Belgium had since restricted her trade with India. Belgium has devalued her currency. What will be the position of the steel trade in India when Belgium devalues her currency? The Finance Member has received very alarming telegrams from the sugar industry. The reply he gave to the Short Notice question of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ramsay Scott, did not satisfy anybody. Of course, the Finance Member will plead that he has the definite power under the Tariff Act or the Sea Customs Act to raise the import duty on sugar. That is only one particular industry, but there are other industries, smaller industries, which are struggling in India, and trying to maintain their own position against foreign competition.

Sir, it is well-known that India's trade with Germany has fallen. Germany established its foreign exchange system with England whereby Indian traders could not get its foreign exchange facilities that only British traders got in respect of trade with Germany and today, although in the case of certain items of export, particularly cotton and jute, India's trade with Germany has been improving, according to an alarming note that I saw in the Press today, her trade with Germany will have to go down. And as far as Italy is concerned, Italy has devalued her currency. Now Italy is no friend of India. We find in this very hill station of Simla that Italian fruits are sold as against Indian fruits,—and Simla is situated in the best fruit-growing tract of India. Italy will not only increase her exports to India but India will lose her export market considerably. She has already lost her rice market with Italy and she will also lose her export market in Italy in cotton, in oil, in paper and also in jute. Sir, these are very alarming situations. The Finance Member, limited as he is under the handicap of being dictated by England at every stage, cannot make any promise, neither can he delink the rupee nor can he de-value the rupee. Again he has got his old plea that the gamblers on the Bombay or Calcutta Stock-Exchanges will so gamble that unnecessarily the credit of India will suffer. Sir, that a few gamblers should so frighten the Honourable the Finance Member that he will not take the country into confidence as to what the Government's considered view at present is,—whereby they can maintain not only the present trade position of India in relation particularly to these

European countries but that we can hope for better trade relations,—passes my understanding ! Sir, I look with alarm at the agreement of England with America. Now on account of the depreciated dollar, America will flood the Indian market. It is well-known that America has lost her Indian market. Very little Indian goods can go to America ; yet America, with her mass production system and her better advantages in cotton-growing, and thanks to my Honourable friend, Sir Homi Mody, always manages to get an advantage in selling American cotton in the Indian market. Now, American cotton will come into India, and Indian cotton will be at a disadvantage. Sir, these are alarming situations. I cannot here condemn the methods of the Government of India so effectively as to stimulate them to more active action so that they must tell the British Government, in spite of the British Government ignoring the Government of India while they entered into this tripartite agreement with France and America, of the present alarming position of India, and of what the trading community and the industrial community think and also what the agriculturists think. Sir, I do not wish to talk much on the agriculturist as I know my friend, Professor Ranga, will rise afterwards but this much I know that agriculturist has suffered serious economic handicap particularly after 1931. I agree with the Finance Member that there is recovery in prices and that the agriculturist, who has been looking forward to a silver lining, is getting a little more for his produce than he has been accustomed to for the five years since 1931, and today the agriculturist will have to look to dark days once again when he will have to go on with the sale of his produce at an uneconomic price so as to meet the landlord and the Mahajan, and whereby nothing is left for his family and other dependents. So, Sir, this is not a thing which the Finance Member of the Government of India should treat lightly. He must not only maintain the present trade recovery position in India but he must see that India does get an advantageous position in the international trade market of the world. He might say that, as the rupee is linked to sterling, if Britain gets certain advantages, India too might get certain advantages, but the Finance Member knows it—he may not agree with me—that India has suffered from the Ottawa Agreement in her relations with European countries and other foreign countries : and when, Sir, those big foreign countries come into collusion with England and depreciate their currencies, they get a further chance of exploiting India and to dump their goods on the Indian market. I fear the Honourable Member will not be able next year to say then that India's credit is very high up and that he has got so much surplus and that he has got a balanced budget. These are alarming situations and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member when he rises to speak on behalf of the Government of India will speak in the best interests of India and not at the dictate of Whitehall.

**Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi** (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, there was a time when it would have been necessary to advance arguments for or against the depreciation of currencies and its benefit to any country. Now the present trend of events in the world itself has proved that there can be no question that the depreciation of currency cannot but be useful in the present circumstances of every country in the world. I would ask the Government Members and this side of the House to keep quiet and to take a referendum of the world. Take any independent nation, any nation which is being

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.]

governed by its own people, and find out what opinion they have got about the depreciation or over-valuation of the currency of a country and I say that if you were to take that vote, you would not find any civilized country in the world which can say that devaluation will not be beneficial either for the agriculture or industry of any country. Now for any side to claim or to argue that depreciation can be prejudicial to the interests of a country is not possible, because, if you go to America, if you go to France, which suffered so sorely and worked so hard to keep the parity of her currency, if you go to Japan, if you go to Germany, if you go to any country in the world, you will find that, on account of the very necessities of their own country, on account of the competition of the world markets, on account of their own difficulties, they had to depreciate their currency for the sake of their agriculture and industry.

Now, Sir, so far as the condition of India is concerned, may I say that it is only by the advent of British rule that we do suffer from this idea of over-valuation or depreciation of currency. So long ago as the nineties of the previous century, there was no such question. The rupee had its own value, viz., the silver content of the rupee, and it was only because of the commitments of the Government of India towards the British Government, and for supporting the import trade, that for the first time in 1890 there was a lot of discussion and the Government wanted to have a fixed value for the rupee. At that time the value of the rupee happened to be about 14d. and the price of silver was going down and in spite of the protests of all Indians and of persons who were living in India, the British Government decided to close the mints in 1892 and from that time onwards they have been trying to appreciate the value of the rupee off and on. From 14d. in 1892 they succeeded in bringing it up by the year 1900 to 16d. though, according to the silver contents of the rupee, the price would have been much less. Still, the Government of India continued that policy and the Indians were satisfied with their lot and they were thinking of a time when it would be possible to have a coin of the proper value in India and to have a convertible gold coin. Sir, it was for some time that the Government continued that policy and kept the rupee at 16d. But by the advent of the Great War we find that the Government, which had been continuously making money by coining silver rupees and selling them at 16d. was at a disadvantage because there was a rise in the price of silver which led the rupee to depart from that value. The Government at once, in the interests of the importers and in the interests of other countries, raised the value of the rupee to as much as 24d. They appointed a Commission which recommended the price of the rupee to be 24d. and we were forced to incur a loss of crores of rupees in order to maintain that artificial ratio which was only in the interests of the Government of India and in the interests of the importers and which was extremely ruinous to the industry and agriculture of India. In a way they continued to make efforts to maintain the same ratio till in 1926 but in that year they had to reduce it to 18d. because they could not keep up that ratio. Sir, arguments from both sides could be advanced in those days for and against the 18d. and 16d. ratio. These arguments were a mere camouflage in order to hoodwink the ordinary man, so that he may give up the task as hopeless on account of the intricacies that were advanced by both sides.



But we find that in 1931 even England, in spite of the greatest efforts that it was making, had to devalue its currency and to go off the gold standard. It was at that time that the United Kingdom itself decided to depart from the gold standard and to devalue its pound.

Now, the question is that when the country from which the Honourable the Finance Member comes and by which we are being ruled and by the dictates of which we are to be governed, had itself devaluated its currency for protecting itself against the invasions of the other countries, why should not India be allowed to have her own currency policy and to defend herself against the commerce of other countries of the world? Now, let us see what is the present position. We have got a rupee, the silver contents of which would not be worth more than 8 to 9d. But what is the value that is being kept up by the Government? It is 18d., that is to say, it is more than 100 per cent. Now, almost every country in the world, including England, has gone off the gold standard. America has reduced the price of the dollar by 40 per cent. England was the first country to do it and there was a time afterwards when the currencies were stabilised by some countries once again on these depreciated values and then we were lulled again. We were told that the world has stabilised and therefore we should no longer try depreciation and must keep content. But we find that even that idea is over and even that argument is finished and even those countries which were consistently insisting on maintaining the parity of their currencies are forced today by the circumstances of the world to depreciate their value. France has done it, Italy has done it and other countries are following in their footsteps and when we ask the Government of India to reconsider their policy in the light of the circumstances of the world that came into existence not today but when England went off the gold standard and which are coming again with greater rapidity, and to fix the rupee at the proper value and to depreciate it, we are told to wait. What we want is not really depreciation but a little less appreciation because there is no question of depreciation for rupee. But we are told that the Government of India will stick to their policy, a policy which is not justifiable in the present circumstances of the world and which cannot be justified by the actions of the great nations of the world, a policy which is ruinous to our industry and to our agriculture. These are the days when we have got the problem of unemployment staring us in the face. These are the days when agriculture is depressing and industry is almost in a critical stage on account of competition with countries which have got depreciated currencies. Japan is coming on our industries, on our mill industry, on our sugar industry and on our textile industry and we are passing protective laws one after the other. Sir, our industries cannot, in the circumstances, stand on their legs and even in that condition we find the Government of India again saying that we must keep quiet and they will stick to their currency policy. It is for this reason that this motion has been brought before the House.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to support this adjournment motion. I can assure the House that as far as this particular question is concerned, I will try my best to look at it purely from an economic point of view and if there were to be a diversion at all, it will be only to say a few words on behalf of the peasants for whom I claim to speak. Sir, we were

[Prof. N. G. Banga.]

assured by an interruption, when my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, was speaking, by the Honourable the Finance Member that our exports are increasing and our balance of trade is slightly becoming more and more favourable. I hope I have understood him aright. But I am sure even he cannot dispute the fact that our balance of trade has been growing less and less favourable for a number of years, and especially ever since England has gone off the gold standard. Again and again questions were raised in this House whether the Government of India were seeking to improve our position in regard to our balance of trade and we were given the answer, the very same hackneyed answer, that they were trying their best. Yet it is a well-known fact that neither the Honourable the Commerce Member nor the Honourable the Finance Member has tried to implement the second part of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah's amendment that was passed by this House to the Resolution brought forward by Government on the Ottawa Pact.

Then, Sir, there is the wholesale price index. If any proof is needed at all to show that India is in a worse position than any other country, all that is to be done is to look at the wholesale price index of various countries. It will be found that even America and England are in a very much better and more favourable position than India is. From 1928 till 1930 India was in a very much better position and our wholesale price index was very much higher but now our wholesale index price is very much lower than that of England or America.

But we may be told that England is pursuing the right policy of currency. And that in England no attempt is being made by politicians like us to try to persuade the Government to devalue their currency and so on. But the facts are otherwise. Ever since England went off the gold standard, her wholesale index price has been going up and her cost of living index also has been improving.

Even in regard to the cost of living index, so far as India is concerned, we find India fares worse. What does the cost of living index show? If there is any increase in it, it indicates an increase in the general level of the prosperity of the country. A fall in the index price indicates that there is a general fall in the prosperity of the country. We find that as far as our own working classes are concerned, so far as our own masses are concerned, they have been growing more and more poor, their economic conditions have been growing more and more adverse than is the case in other countries especially in America, and England.

If we take again France and India and if we were to compare the currency of our country with that of France, we will find that France is in an unfavourable position in regard to the purchase of our goods by 20 points. That only shows that our goods have been made more and more costly for other countries especially those non-Empire countries and therefore their imports from India have been growing less and less and no wonder that our balance of trade has been growing less and less favourable.

Then, take the question of our agricultural indebtedness. It is a well known fact that the burden of the agricultural indebtedness has

been increasing. It has increased by nearly 100 per cent. and our ability to pay off these debts has gone down immeasurably. Of course Government has not done anything to relieve this burden of agricultural indebtedness. They have made it perfectly clear in the debate that took place only the other day that they really are not prepared to take any action to help our peasants. It is here that this unrestricted fall in prices has come to hit our agricultural classes. It will be found from the Review of Trade that while in 1928-29 the value of our principal agricultural commodities was 10,221 crores, it came down to 474 crores by 1933-34. It might be argued that it does not indicate very much. But it does indicate this much that by the fall in the price of agricultural commodities there has been a corresponding fall and more than a corresponding fall in the value of agricultural assets and what is more, in the credit worthiness of the peasants with the result that there has been a regular run on their resources made by the money-lenders and also by the Government.

It has been admitted before the Public Accounts Committee and in the Public Accounts Committee report, it has been stated, that as far as the railways are concerned, as far as our biggest national assets are concerned, there is no early chance of the railways becoming solvent unless and until there is a general appreciable rise in prices. There is a deficit of seven crores to be made good and the Public Accounts Committee has recommended that a special officer or a special committee should be appointed to investigate into the various methods of effecting economy in the railway expenditure in order to effect only an economy of three crores. There is still a balance of four crores to be made good and this can be done only if there were to be a rise in the general level of prices.

But there cannot be a general rise in the level of prices as long as our Finance Member sits there laughing like Nero when Rome was burning and so long as he says that he will not monkey with the ratio. I know why he is here in this country instead of being one of the civil servants in his own country. England has found out the necessity for monkeying with her own exchange and finding it difficult to get on with Sir James Grigg as a civil servant who would not allow England to monkey with the exchange, he has been exported to India. (Laughter.)

There is one Economist, Mr. J. M. Keynes, whose Tract on the Indian Monetary system has been an authoritative treatise in this country and has been acclaimed to be an authoritative one even by European economists and whose position amongst the ranks of economists even in Europe has been a distinguished one and I am sure his testimony as to the results of England going off the gold standard and trying to develop her own monetary standard cannot be disputed even by my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg. If he does so, I am sure the House knows how much value to be attached to his opinion, expressed against Mr. Keynes. He says :

“ As regards Great Britain herself, the rest of the world and even we ourselves perhaps, may have a little overlooked the change since last September, which represents if not an absolute, at least a relative improvement. The number of persons employed to day is not less than the number employed a year ago, which is true of no other industrial country. The present actual rate of expenditure on the unemployed falls well

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

below the Budget provision. This has been achieved in spite of the fact that there has been, even during the past year, a further rise in real wages; for whilst money wages have fallen by 2 per cent., the cost of living in spite of depreciation of the sterling exchange has fallen by 4 per cent. For the explanation lies in the fact that over a wide field of her characteristic activities, Great Britain today is once again the cheapest producer in the world. I believe that our textile industries can now produce more cheaply than their chief competitors over a wide range of qualities. I believe that we can run ships today at a lower cost than anyone else. I believe that we have an opportunity of making a bid for the best part of the world's export trade in motor cars and motor lorries. All this will tell increasingly with time. The forces set on foot last September have by no means had time as yet to work their full effect. But even today Great Britain is decidedly the most prosperous country in the world."

The full effect has been seen in the rise in her cost of living index, in the rise in the wholesale index prices and also in the betterment of her balance of trade.

Now, I come to another authority, Paul Einzig :

"Let us now consider the probable effects of a devaluation of the franc. It is safe to assume that it would be followed by an allround devaluation of the currencies of the gold bloc and its satellites. Among others, Germany would also devalue. This is a point of importance because while there is very little competition between British and French export trades, competition is very keen between Great Britain and Germany. Thus if a drastic devaluation of the Reichsmark should place British export trade in a difficult position it would be inevitable to allow sterling to adjust itself to a level which is more in accordance with the interests of the export trade. In any case an all round devaluation is likely to be followed by withdrawals of refugee funds which would be repatriated."

Sir, in America, President Roosevelt is trying his best to stimulate trade, internal and external, in order to help his people. The cost of living index has gone up. It only shows that the prosperity has been going up. And the wholesale price index has gone up, and only last year, I was informed only a few minutes ago by a valued friend, that this Government has found it very difficult to prevent our rupee going beyond 1s. 6d.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** Which way, up or down ?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Up. Sir, it was because of the policy of currency contraction that Government have been following here. It is quite possible that in the last one or two years there has not been very much contraction, but there is what is known as natural expansion of currency that ought to take place every year and it has not been taking place. What is more, in 1930-31 his predecessor, Sir George Schuster, was very much hard put to it to explain to this House that owing to the fall in the wholesale index he was obliged to contract the currency in this country. There has been in fact actual contraction of currency in the last five or six years and the money that has been absorbed, the total amount of currency in circulation, has been going down. It may be argued that it is because the general level of prosperity has gone down. But who is responsible again for this fall in general prosperity ? The Government and their currency policy. They may turn round and say, "If we were to monkey with this currency policy there is going to be a lot of trouble". Sir, unfortunately this country is too much flooded with monkeys (Laughter) ; but the irony of fate is that while all other countries are trying to make use of their own monkeys in their exchange and ratio policy and help the masses, our Government somehow or other so manage

their monkeys as not to monkey with our own exchange and help our people. (Laughter.) Sir, the time has come when the united voice of the motion should be respected.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** : I am closing. So I sincerely hope that Government will try to implement the united and joint demand of the masses of all classes in this country and try to help them and fall in line with the rest of the world and help to increase the general level of the prosperity of our masses.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** : Sir, it would be presumptuous on my part, in the short space of a quarter of an hour, to attempt to deal with an extremely abstruse subject on which thousands of volumes have been written and millions of speeches have been made. We had a selection of learned experts this afternoon on this subject, and the only thing I will say about their speeches is that never at a single point did they impinge on reality. However, as I said just now, it is quite impossible to enter into a scientific rebuttal of all the arguments which have been written on this point and I think for simplicity's sake I will confine myself to one denial of fact or of reputed fact and one argument. Now the denial of fact is this. The ground on which the motion of adjournment was moved was on account of the appreciated, the unduly appreciated rupee. One Honourable Member said that he did not want to depreciate the rupee but wanted a little less appreciated rupee,—a distinction without much difference, I fancy. But the truth is that the rupee is not unduly appreciated, and I will quote Professor Ranga himself. For example, he said that it is becoming extraordinarily difficult to keep the rupee down to 1s. 6d. That does not look much like an unduly appreciated rupee. The second piece of evidence is one which I have quoted before in this House based on some figures given in one of the League of Nations' publications. On the ordinary purchasing power parity theory,—if I may be forgiven for mentioning an abstruse subject like that in this debate,—on ordinary principles of purchasing power parity, the proper level of the rupee about a year ago, I am bound to say, was something like 1s. 8d. That again does not look much as if we were keeping an unduly appreciated rupee. So much for the basis of fact on which the speeches of all the Honourable Members opposite have been founded. Now I want to raise one argument and that is what seems to me to be the most vital and fundamental argument in relation to the circumstances of the present time. Of course again Honourable Members opposite entirely left out of account directly,—there was an oblique reference in the speech of the Honourable the Mover,—that the rupee was depreciated by something like 40 per cent. in 1931. In his description of events which followed 1931, the same Honourable Member complained bitterly that it was followed by a large number of quotas, increased tariffs and various other restrictions on the part of various countries who considered themselves aggrieved by the depreciation which India in common with the rest of the sterling block had undertaken.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** : By the Ottawa Agreement.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** : The Ottawa Agreement had nothing to do with it. But anyhow I wish, if I may, to convict the

[Sir James Grigg.]

Honourable Member out of his own mouth. That is exactly what would happen in the case of competitive currency depreciation. What has been wrong with the world for the last five or six years is that there has been first depreciation. If you like you may call that the method of attack. That has been followed by various defences raised by the people who considered themselves victimised, quotas, tariffs, prohibitions, and even a counter-attack in the way of countervailing depreciation. Now I say, Sir, that at a time when it looks,—and I hope very sincerely that the appearance will be justified,—now when it looks as if a truce is going to be called to all this grotesque folly of competitive restriction, because after all currency depreciation is only the first step in this war of restriction and it is intended quite frankly by the Honourable Member who spoke first as an additional means of restricting imports, now when we are at last at a point where it looks as if a truce is going to be called to all this folly, I think it is absolutely monstrous that India should be asked to be the first to restart the war.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** Unless we also fight there will not be truce.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** And for my part, and speaking on behalf of the Government of India, the Government of India will have no part or lot in restarting that war. Now I do not wish to complain to the Opposition about the success of their little stratagem or ruse. Nobody wants to complain about their having their little joke. But it is rather important that the world outside should recognise that it is a joke. And therefore I wish to say one thing more, speaking on behalf of the Government of India and with a full sense of responsibility, and that is to repeat the categorical statement which I made a week ago and that is that the Government of India do not intend in any way to embark on or take part in a competitive depreciation of currencies ; and they intend by every means in their power to maintain the present sterling parity of the rupee. That is intended to be the serious statement and I hope it will go out to the markets of Bombay, Calcutta and the rest of the world as the real intention of India, rather than some of the speeches that we have listened to this afternoon.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions :**

5 P.M. Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I agree with the Honourable the Finance Member in his estimate of

the gravity of this problem. I accept that it is difficult to deal with a complicated question of this nature, and which is more or less technical too, within the space of the few minutes that can be available to a speaker in the course of a motion for adjournment of the business of the House. But I feel all the same that while monkeying with the ratio should be avoided, donkeying with it is equally undesirable. I say while monkeying with the ratio is certainly not a very desirable process, donkeying with it does not indicate much of wisdom either. A perverse, stupid, and obstinate adhesion to the old ratio, although the state of affairs has changed all over the world is nothing if not donkeying. We should not go out of the way . . .

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg :** I am quite content to be called names if the Honourable Member will only realise that the obstinacy is fixed and immovable.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** : I think even the Government on the other side should realise that they will not be allowed to continue monkeying with the affairs of this country till doomsday. (Opposition Cheers.) They should not regard themselves as immovable for all time. We hope to oust them much sooner than they imagine.

Coming to the motion, there are certain elementary facts which must be within the knowledge of Honourable Members of this House. One is this : that even before the era of depreciation set in, even before the year 1929 or 1931, Indian opinion in this country was unanimously in favour of a 16*d.* ratio. It wanted a 16*d.* sterling ratio even before this era of devaluation and depreciation set in in the world. Those who have read The Hilton Young Committee's report or the reports of other commissions and committees which have dealt with this matter must be familiar with the Indian opinion which has never departed from the fundamental principle that a 16*d.* ratio is in the interests of this country. Now, there are certain other factors which cannot be ignored—the developments that have since supervened ; the prices of primary products have gone down considerably. India is above all an agricultural country ; the price index has fallen down and our gold exports have been greater than at any other time during the last sixty years. In fact during the last four or five years, we have parted with more than 200 crores of gold. . . .

**An Honourable Member** : 280 crores. . . .

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** : I am always conservative in my statements. Several countries have prohibited the export of gold from within their borders. We also know that India is a debtor country so far as England is concerned. We have every day and every year to pay considerable amounts in the form of interest, shipping charges and many other things—my friend says Rs. 40 crores—my own estimate is about 75 crores a year. But it is no use going into these matters on this occasion. What we find is this, that England itself has not really fixed a stable ratio. They have got an exchange stabilisation fund and they manipulate the ratio from time to time. I do not say manipulate it in a crude manner, but they use this fund to see that the parity of the sterling is always maintained in such manner as to suit the requirements of England.

(The Honourable the Finance Member nodded dissent.)

As I said, I have no time now to enter into or to argue out matters of detail, but I can satisfy even the Honourable the Finance Member outside this Chamber that my remark is not incorrect, that with the aid of the stabilisation fund, the Bank of England and those associated with it are in fact manipulating the exchange ratio between England and other countries. The sterling, howsoever it may look as having stability, does not possess that stability today and we also know that though we are tied down to the sterling and linked to it and tied to its chariot wheels, even in the colonies they have devalued their currency, compared to sterling, by about 25 per cent. Now, what has happened must be taken into account. Both Australia and New Zealand have done it. We know that the United States had a very difficult time of it and it was only after devaluating the currency and starting a new deal that it has been able to tide over its difficulty. France had been struggling along with other countries in the gold bloc for the maintenance of a gold standard and the gold parity ;

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

but ultimately it was forced to devalue the franc and now the lira too stands depreciated. If Honourable Members can stretch their memories seven or eight years back, they may remember that at one time Mussolini had declared that "the lira is a thing for which Italy has shed its blood and we will maintain it on the gold parity to the last day". But even Italy had to give in in this respect, because economic facts cannot possibly be twisted or played with except in the case of countries that are under the subordination of other countries. We also know that our exports both to Italy and to Belgium exceed the imports into our country from Belgium and Italy : and with this change in the exchange ratio, our industries will suffer and our agriculture also will suffer, because the value of the franc as well as of the lira has gone down by about 30 to 40 per cent., with the result that we will hereafter be able to import the goods from those countries at a cheaper price in terms of the rupee, because the value of the lira as well as of the franc has also depreciated in terms of the sterling to which we are tied, while the value of our goods to those countries will rise : with the inevitable result that our trade and our industry are bound to suffer. I am not going deeper into the question. But is it not true and can anybody dispute it, that when there is a fire all round, we cannot say we will let ourselves be burnt and will not take account of the fire that is raging round us ? What I desire is this : that the rupee should be delinked from the sterling. We must be free to determine our own currency and our exchange parity and we must be free to take account of the circumstances of the world as they exist or as they may develop hereafter and to regulate our currency in the interests of our country. Even France and Italy had to take into account the opinions of other countries before they devalued their own particular currencies. It is obvious enough and I think the Honourable the Finance Member will not dispute it, that the devaluation of the lira and of the franc means the over-valuation of the rupee in terms of lira and the franc. These are indisputable facts. Whether there has been a general appreciation of the rupee or not we are not concerned with that, but that there has been undoubtedly an appreciation of the rupee in terms of lira and the franc, nobody can dispute, for devaluation from 30 to 40 per cent. of the lira and franc means the over-valuation of the rupee to that extent, and even for equitable adjustments of business relations between creditors and debtors, between primary producers and industrialists a readjustment of the currency system and the exchange ratio is necessary.

I would remind my Honourable friends, the Members of the European Group, of what Mr. Gavin Jones said some months back in one of his striking speeches in Cawnpore. He stressed that the methods adopted to deal with the economic difficulties in this country are really futile and fruitless ; what was really necessary was to reduce the rupee to 16*d.* and Mr. Gavin Jones is not certainly biased by any political prejudices. His opinion must be taken account of as that of a business man. Mr. Jamal Muhammad's telegram has already been referred to. The opinion of the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce is also well-known. I think that is also the opinion of other business men. I trust that the European Group too agree with the view that I have proposed. I think it is time that our currency question were considered in the light of the requirements of this country and of the people of this country alone, as we cannot allow the rupee to be pegged to the sterling, and it is high



time that we had an independent currency and exchange system of our own. While I join with the Honourable the Finance Member in the view that there is grotesque stupidity and folly in the present system of quotas, high tariff walls and so on, but unless the rest of the world takes the same view of it, we alone should not be sacrificed as scape-goats for the benefit of our masters or of the rest of the European world. I think it is time that our currency policy were regulated in the interests of our country. I have only one appeal to make to my Honourable friends. This is not at all a party question. This is not, in fact, even a political question. It is an economic question, which goes to the fundamentals of our economic and social problems as they exist today, and I hope every Member of this House, European and Indian, and failing the former, every Indian at least, whether nominated or elected, excepting those who have to obey the mandate of their alien will unanimously join the Mover and support this motion.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : I entirely agree with the last speaker that this is not a question which we can decide by votes after discussing it for two hours only. We can only lay our grievances and our difficulties before the Government and let us quietly think over the matter and find out a solution of the problem. This question of exchange has become a chronic rheumatism. Whenever any hot or cold wind blows, it begins to trouble us, and whenever anything happens in the rest of the world we at once begin to feel its effect. Before the War we were in a very fortunate position. We had a balance of trade of about 80 crores, which was sufficient to meet our liabilities in England amounting to 70 crores, and we had 10 crores left to purchase treasure. But unfortunately, after the War, when every country depreciated its currency, our Government made a fundamental mistake in fixing the ratio at 2s., 50 per cent. higher than pre-war rate, which really they could not maintain because we notice that between 1920 and 1927, the ratio went down to as much as 1-1d. On one occasion, and during this period we sustained a loss amounting Rs. 78.02 crores in maintaining the ratio at 2s. The next important step was taken in 1927 when we fixed the ratio at 1-6d. There was some justification to fix it at 1-6d. in 1927 because the price index at that time was rather high. It was 148 and we could not reduce it to a lower level. The next discussion took place in the Assembly during the passing of the Reserve Bank Bill when we considered clauses 40 and 41 thereof. On that occasion we pointed out that whatever the position might have been in 1926, that had certainly changed in 1933 and during the years 1926-30 we lost 33.94 crores in order to maintain the exchange at 1-6d.

Now, I shall mention the two difficulties which we have to face, and I hope that the Government will sympathise with them and will be able to find some solution for them. Our suggestion of devaluation may not be good enough, and if so, we hope that the Government will find out some other method by which our two difficulties will be solved. One of our difficulties is that before the War we had a balance of trade of about 80 crores in our favour. This balance of trade has been gradually reduced. It was 61 crores in 1930-31, 34 crores in 1931-32, it was reduced only to 3 crores in 1933-34 ; it was 34 crores in 1934-35, and last year it was 22 crores. This balance of trade cannot possibly pay up our commitments of 70 crores, but fortunately for the Government and unfortunately for the people of India we had a

[Dr. Zisuddin Ahmad.]

panic in the form of export of gold. People came forward with nervousness and began to sell their gold. They have already sold gold to the extent of 282 crores from the time England went off the gold standard, and on account of this export of gold we have been able to pay up our liabilities. The first problem which I lay before the Government is this. How long can we continue to pay our commitments in England by the reserves of the previous years, that is, by parting with gold? There must be some time limit. We cannot go on paying indefinitely like that. So we must find 70 crores at least every year to pay our commitments or we will become bankrupt. Again, paying our commitments by parting with our reserve is not a healthy way of paying off our liabilities, and I request that some other method may be devised by means of which we can pay off this thing, that is, by means of our export of merchandise, or in other words having a favourable balance of trade. It has been suggested that to increase the export trade it is desirable to devalue the currency. Sir Henry Strakosch on one occasion said, and he gave the examples of New Zealand, Sweden and one other country, I think it was either Bavaria or some other country in the Balkans, which depreciated their currency with the result that their export was increased. This is one method which we suggest, it may not be a correct method, and if so, we hope that Government would find out some other method by means of which our export may be increased so that we may have 70 crores balance to pay off our commitments and so that we may not be compelled to pay out of the reserve of previous years. The second problem is maladjustment of price index of import and export articles. Here I have got before me the review of the Government of India and I have got the price index of import and export articles. I find that the latest figures for May, 1935 which are available in this book—the export which really means agricultural products, has gone down from 100 to 81, while import, which is really manufactured articles, has gone up from 100 to 110. The problem before the country, and without it it is impossible to improve the agricultural conditions of this country is that we should raise the price level of the agricultural products and if possible lower the price level of manufactured articles. We should increase this 81 to 100 and we should reduce the 110 to 100. One way is to devalue our rupee because the moment we do that, the prices of agricultural products will go up and the prices of all the articles which we import from outside will go down. Therefore, if the devaluation does not achieve this object, I ask the Government to suggest some other method by means of which we can achieve our object, because the fundamental problem just now is to raise the price level of the agricultural products. Unless this is done, it is impossible to benefit the agriculturists who form three-fourths of the population of this country. If we raise the price level, we can pay our commitments without falling back upon our reserve.

As regards fixing the ratio, there is one thing which my friends have not appreciated. So long as this panic about export of gold continues, normal conditions will not be resumed and it is impossible to have any stability. One suggestion was made that we should not link rupee with sterling and allow the rupee to find its own level. That is a very dangerous suggestion. If that is allowed to be done, we don't know where we will be. The future will be entirely in the dark and there will be speculation and uncertainty in business and no merchant will know

where he stands. So my suggestion is that at present we should wait and we should press the Government to put an embargo on gold export so that the gold reserves may remain in this country and it may be used on some critical future occasion, it should not be allowed to be depleted to meet ordinary economic problem. I would therefore request the Government to find out a solution for two problems, how to pay our commitments without falling back upon reserve and how to raise the price level of agricultural products. These are the problems I would put before Government, but as I said it is not a problem of adjournment motion, however serious it may be.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : I take part in any discussion at the present moment on this question of currency and exchange with the greatest hesitation. The House perhaps knows that I and my friends belong to the group of those who believe in 1s. 4d. exchange, and we have urged this point of view upon the Government in season and out of season and, I believe, if my memory does not fail me, even during the period of the present Finance Member's tenure in India ; but, Sir, the world does not stand still. A great deal of water has flowed under the bridge and at a great speed during the very short time that has elapsed since we last discussed this question in this Honourable House. In India, we are not independent of conditions that prevail all over the world, and I can well remember that, about this time last year, those who understood this question were very considerably exercised and were most apprehensive as to whether the Government of India would be able to hold exchange at 1s. 6d., and whether their hands would not be forced into allowing it to go to 1s. 7d. or 1s. 8d. All that was entirely due to the policy that America followed in regard to the value of silver. America, this time last year or a little before that, say about 15 months ago, declared her policy with regard to silver. If America had succeeded, I really cannot find words to express what the condition of India would have been. Exchange might have risen to 1s. 10d., or 2s. if America had succeeded in its policy of carrying the value of silver to, I believe, 1.8 which they threatened to do. Well, to cut a long story short, America failed but, up to now, so far as I am aware, there has been no repudiation of that policy. A combination of circumstances forced on America a modification in the practice of her policy. But they have not yet repudiated that policy. Under the circumstances, Sir, not being an expert on this question of currency, I would be the last person, at the present moment, to express any opinion, and certainly I am not as strong in my opinion as the Honourable the Finance Member ; but I have not yet seen that there is a Chancellor of the Exchequer in any part of the world, if there are such people in other parts of the world than England, who would express any other opinion than that expressed by the Finance Member, as to what he intends to do tomorrow. Therefore leaving aside what the Finance Member has said, I would appeal to this side of the House not to express any definite opinion just now. I believe it would be dangerous in the interests of this country. I may be prepared to express an opinion along with my friends in Bombay sometime hence. But today there is an uncertainty of condition in all parts of the world. Things are moving in Europe from day to day, moving faster or slower than we know, and we do not know what exactly France is going to do. We are told and we know that they have devaluated but to what extent, they are not committed. The same is the case with Holland, Belgium, Switzerland. The whole question in Europe is in the melting pot. No

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

country that has not already devalued is prepared to say to what extent it is going to devalue. You must remember that England and India have already devalued. The other gold standard countries have come forward to devalue just now, but at the present stage there is nobody in India who knows to what extent they are going to do so. As the Finance Member very correctly said, if ever there was a chance of the world coming to terms on this great question of currency, it would appear there is one now. In 1933, a very bold attempt was made in London, when the financiers of the world met to settle this question of currency. In three short days the conference nearly broke down. Then England and America were urging France and Italy to devalue and come to an understanding. Last year, in 1935, it was France and Italy who were begging other countries to come to an arrangement about currency, but England and America refused, because it did not pay them to do so. Conflicting interests in these questions must play a predominant part, and now, we can only hope and pray that the world will come to some arrangement within a few months on this question of currency. Undoubtedly India will then have to make up her mind as to what her policy should be. But to pass a Resolution today, in this Honourable House, that on the 8th of October 1936 we should de-value is, I consider, running an incalculable risk. Therefore, Sir, now that we have had our discussion, now that Honourable Members have had an opportunity of expressing their opinions, now that the Honourable the Finance Member has again had an opportunity of expressing his own opinion, I would appeal to my Honourable friends not to press this adjournment motion any further. In our own interests, let us not go to a vote or commit ourselves just now, lest all of us may regret the decision we came to. I know we can always say that we were the Opposition and any expression of opinion given by us does not carry with it any great responsibility. We can always plead that. But I would plead with my Honourable friends not to express any definite opinion of the House today. We have had an opportunity of expressing our opinions individually. Let us be content with that. I would again appeal to my Honourable friends that we have had our opportunity, we have had our say, leave it at this. Having regard to the uncertain condition of the world, and to the absolutely uncertain position even in India with regard to currency—and I believe that honestly—having regard to all these reasons, perhaps my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, will see his way, now that he has had his innings, not to go any further, lest we do damage to ourselves. I appeal to my Honourable friends. I can do no more.

**Several Honourable Members :** The question may now be put.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the question be now put up.”

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the House do now adjourn.”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—52.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.  
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.  
 Aney, Mr. M. S.  
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.  
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.  
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Bhagavan Das. Dr.  
 Chaliha, Mr. Kuladhar.  
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarenda Nath.  
 Das, Mr. B.  
 Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.  
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.  
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.  
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.  
 Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.  
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.  
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur  
 Shaikh.  
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.  
 Giri, Mr. V. V.  
 Govind Das, Seth.  
 Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.  
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.  
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.  
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.  
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.  
 Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.

Khan Sahib, Dr.  
 Khare, Dr. N. B.  
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.  
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.  
 Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.  
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.  
 Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.  
 Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.  
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.  
 Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.  
 Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.  
 Parma Nand, Bhai.  
 Raghbir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.  
 Banga, Prof. N. G.  
 Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.  
 Sant Singh, Sardar.  
 Sham Lal, Mr.  
 Shaukat Ali, Maulana.  
 Sheodass Daga, Seth.  
 Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.  
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.  
 Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.  
 Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.  
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.  
 Umar Aly Shah, Mr.  
 Varma, Mr. B. B.

NOES—52.

Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur Sir.  
 Acott, Mr. A. S. V.  
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.  
 Ahmed, Mr. K.  
 Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.  
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.  
 Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.  
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.  
 Bhagechand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.  
 Bhat, Mr. M. D.  
 Buss, Mr. L. C.  
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.  
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.  
 Dalal, Dr. B. D.  
 Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.  
 Dey, Mr. R. N.  
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.  
 Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.  
 Grant, Mr. C. F.  
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.  
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.  
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.  
 James, Mr. F. E.  
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar  
 Sir.  
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.  
 Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur  
 Shaikh.  
 Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur  
 Chaudhri.

Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.  
 Milligan, Mr. J. A.  
 Mody, Sir H. P.  
 Morgan, Mr. G.  
 Mudie, Mr. R. F.  
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya  
 Charan.  
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Naydu, Diwan Bahadur B. V. Sir Hari  
 Rao.  
 Nind, Mr. W. W.  
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.  
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
 Rau, Mr. P. R.  
 Rau, Mr. P. S.  
 Robertson, Mr. G. E. J.  
 Roy, Mr. S. N.  
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.  
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.  
 Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.  
 Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.  
 Spence, Mr. G. H.  
 Thorne, Mr. J. A.  
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.  
 Witherington, Mr. C. H.  
 Yakub, Sir Muhammad.  
 Zafrullah Khan, The Honourable Sir  
 Muhammad.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Order, order :  
 The "Ayes" are 52 and the "Noes" are also 52. There being an

[Mr. President.]

equality of votes, it means that the House on this difficult and important question has not been able to come to a decision. Following the well-established principle applicable to such cases, I give my vote in favour of "Noes".

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 9th October, 1936.