

25th February 1936

THE  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

(Official Report)

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Volume II, 1936

*(17th February to 27th February, 1936)*

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**THIRD SESSION**  
OF THE  
**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,**  
**1936**



NEW DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1936

# Legislative Assembly.

## *President :*

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

## *Deputy President :*

**MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.**

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

**SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, KT., C.I.E., M.L.A.**

## *Secretary :*

**MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.**

## *Assistant of the Secretary :*

**RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.**

## *Marshal :*

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

## *Committee on Petitions :*

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**MR. B. DAS, M.L.A.**

**DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E., M.L.A.**

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

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 25th February, 1936.*

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

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE VICEREGAL ESTATE.

775. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** Are Government prepared to place a copy of the original charges brought by Mr. Gulzara Singh against the whole Viceregal Staff and appoint an impartial enquiry committee to investigate the whole affair?

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

**Mr. Sham Lal:** Why not, Sir?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** One of the reasons, amongst others, is that Mr. Gulzara Singh himself asked that the so-called charges should be kept strictly confidential.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government considered every charge except the one mentioned, and have they come to the conclusion that the charges are so trivial or unsubstantiated by any kind of evidence that it will serve no public interest to publish them?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** My Honourable friend has stated the position correctly. I have seen the representation myself, and he has given a very accurate description of it.

### EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE VICEREGAL ESTATE.

776. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it not a fact that Mr. Gulzara Singh was transferred to Bombay Government on a short notice of three days?

(b) Is it not a fact that the head of the department wanted to dismiss him, as he was considered to be a dangerous man but the Government of India did not agree to his dismissal?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) No. Mr. Gulzara Singh was transferred to the Bombay Central Division which is part of the Central

Public Works Department. He was given the usual joining time allowed by the rules.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

**EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE VICEREGAL ESTATE.**

777. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it not a fact that the material used in the house of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy was of the third degree?

(b) What are the Chief Engineer's remarks about the construction?

(c) Is it not a fact that about Rs. 8,000 were spent over and above the budget sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee?

(d) What is the explanation for this expenditure?

(e) What action have Government taken against the Supervisor for these over-payments?

(f) Why was not the name of the contractor who constructed the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy's house put in the black list and why has an appointment letter been conferred upon him?

(g) Are Government prepared to appoint an enquiry committee with regard to the construction of Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy's House and submit its report to this House?

(h) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of amalgamating the division with the Central Public Works Department and set up an enquiry committee to punish the guilty persons?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) and (b). No. The Chief Engineer, during inspection, pointed out some defective work which the contractor was ordered to make good.

(c) and (d). There is an excess which may amount to about Rs. 8,000 over the estimate given to the Standing Finance Committee. I cannot state the exact amount as the accounts are not yet closed. The excess is due to alterations in the design of the house.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

(g) No.

(h) The question of amalgamating the works staff employed in the Viceregal Estates with the Central Public Works Department is already being considered on administrative grounds. Government do not propose to appoint an enquiry committee.

**EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE VICEREGAL ESTATE.**

778. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it not a fact that the work done in the construction of the new Private Secretary's bungalow is of the third degree?

(b) What are the remarks of the Chief Engineer and the Superintending Engineer about the construction?

(c) Who is responsible for all this loss to Government, and have Government taken any action against the guilty officers?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply just given to his question No. 777.

# CHARGES FOR MONTHLY TICKETS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

**779. \*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (metre gauge) charges 14 days' fare for the monthly season ticket while other Railways, like the North Western Railway, East Indian Railway, charge 12 days' fare only?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway charges only seven days' fare for the monthly tickets in Bombay Presidency, and if so, why does it not do so in the Delhi Province and elsewhere?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) On the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, the charge for monthly season tickets, outside the Bombay local suburban section, is 28 single journey fares; on the North Western Railway, the charge is 24 single journey fares and on the East Indian Railway there is a telescopic scale which varies from 15 to 28 single journey fares according to distances.

(b) Except on the Bombay local suburban section where the charges for season tickets are calculated at a special telescopic scale which varies from 12 to 28 single journey fares according to distances, there is no difference in the charges throughout the entire Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway system.

# CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY THE CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

**780. \*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government please state the total value of construction projects carried out by the Construction Circle, Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, from the time of its coming into existence in 1933 up to date?

(b) Are tenders invited for all works?

(c) Are contractors classified by the Central Public Works Department into first, second and third class? If so, what is the basis of this classification?

(d) Are contractors, holding nationalistic views, directly or indirectly discouraged or are overlooked even when they tender lowest?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Rs. 1,17,14,899.

(b) Yes.

- (c) Yes. In classifying contractors their experience, financial standing, and ability to carry out work rapidly and efficiently are considered.
- (d) No.

**CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF IRWIN HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI.**

781. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government please state:

- (a) the lowest amount tendered for the construction of Irwin Hospital, New Delhi;
- (b) the amount tendered and the name of the contractor who carried out the work;
- (c) the names and class of contractors (if any) whose quotations for the same work were between the amounts referred to in parts (a) and (b) above;
- (d) the lowest amount tendered for the construction of the Pusa Agricultural Research Institute (non-residential section);
- (e) the amount tendered and the name of the contractor who is carrying out the work;
- (f) the names and class of contractors whose quotations for the same work were between the amounts referred to in parts (d) and (e) above, if any;
- (g) the lowest amount tendered for the construction of 'D' type clerks' quarters built in the City Extension area during 1935;
- (h) the amount tendered and the name of the contractor who carried out the work;
- (i) the names and class of contractors whose quotations for the same work were between the amounts referred to in part (g) and (h) above, if any?
- (j) whether the attention of the Auditor General or the Accountant General, Central Revenues, has been drawn to these matters;
- (k) whether sometimes, contrary to regulations published, tenders are not opened in the presence of the tendering contractors, but are sent to the house of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, and opened there; if so, whether they are aware that this affords an opportunity for figures being altered, and
- (l) whether they will place all the tenders referred to above, in original, before the Auditor General or the Accountant General, Central Revenues, for scrutiny and place the latter's report thereon before this House?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) to (i). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

(j) No. Tenders and the orders passed upon them are open to inspection by Audit, and are frequently inspected.

(k) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

(l) It is not proposed to take the action suggested by the Honourable Member.

*Statement showing in respect of certain works, the lowest amounts tendered, the amount of the accepted tender and the names and class of contractors, if any, whose quotations for the same works were between the lowest and the accepted tender.*

Name of Project.	Lowest amount tendered.	Amount of accepted tender and the name of the contractor.	Names and class of contractors, if any, whose quotations were between the lowest and the accepted tender.	Remarks.
Rs.				
(1) <i>Irwin Hospital . . .</i>	8,68,501	Rs. 9,65,261 S. S. Ranjit Singh	Rs. 9,58,523 S. Sewa Singh Gill, Class I.	Only selected tenders were evaluated.
(2) <i>Pusa Agricultural Research Institute (residential and non-residential sections).</i>	15,44,976	Rs. 15,56,942 R. B. Seth Lachman Das.		The non-residential section was not separately considered.
(3) <i>'D' Type quarters built during 1955 in City Extension Area.</i>	4,54,400	Rs. 4,72,000 S. S. Ranjit Singh	Rs. 4,64,000 R. B. Seth Lachman Das, Class I.	

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Was the lowest tender accepted in this case?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** My Honourable friend will find it stated in the statement I am laying on the table.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know the reasons why the lowest tender was not-accepted?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The reasons were, I understand, that the lowest tenders were made by contractors whom the Chief Engineer, for good and sufficient reasons, did not think capable of carrying out a large work of this kind.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What was the difference in value between the lowest tender, and the tender which was actually accepted?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** That my Honourable friend will find in the statement I am laying on the table. The lowest amount tendered was Rs. 8,68,501, and the amount of the tender accepted was Rs. 9,65,261.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is the tender which was accepted of any European firm?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** No, there were, I understand, two tenders by European firms. The tender next above the accepted one was by a European firm. The accepted tender, as my Honourable friend will see from the statement I am laying on the table, was from Sardar Sahib Ranjit Singh.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government considered, or will they consider, whether in this case the authority accepting the tender was justified in saddling the tax-payer with an extra amount, I believe of a lakh of rupees?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Yes, I have considered that very carefully. I consider that the reasons given by the Chief Engineer for not accepting the lowest tender were justified.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it not a fact that the contractor who offered the lowest tender in this particular case was given another contract of an equally big magnitude by the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I should require notice of that question. I should think it extremely doubtful.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it not a fact that the contractor whose tender for the Irwin Hospital was rejected was given the contract for the construction of the Pusa Institute?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I shall require notice of that question.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that certain fraudulent dealings have been discovered in connection with the bills for payment which were sent up by the contractor to the Irwin Hospital? Has any enquiry been made into these fraudulent dealings?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** It is a fact that the Auditor General brought to notice certain irregularities in regard to this contract and that an enquiry has been held into the matter.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Is it not a fact that the contractor for the Irwin Hospital is a Sikh, who has the monopoly of almost all contracts in New Delhi?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** It is a fact that he is a Sikh. As regards his monopoly, I doubt if my Honourable friend's statement is correct.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Honourable Member make an enquiry into the matter and find out if the Sikh contractors have not a monopoly of almost all the contracting business in New Delhi?

**Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it not a fact that, out of 23 tenders, only 11 were considered and 12 were dropped?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Yes, Sir, 11 tenders were evaluated.

**Mr. Sham Lal:** Why were 12 tenders not considered?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** For various reasons: some because the rates were too high, some because the contractors were not sufficiently experienced, and some because the contractors had neither sufficient experience nor financial standing to carry out a work of this kind.

**Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it not a fact that these twelve tenders were tendered by first class contractors?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I should require notice of that question. A man may be a first class contractor and such work as he is able to do may be excellent, but at the same time he may not be able to carry out big works.

**Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** What is the definition of a first class contractor?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Sham Lal, next question.

#### SUPERSESSION OF A SENIOR INDIAN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BY A EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.

782. **\*Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that European officers are given undue preference over Indians in the matter of promotion to higher posts in the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Has a European Executive Engineer been recently made to supersede a much senior Indian Executive Engineer?

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

(b) In a recent disciplinary case, an Executive Engineer, who happened to be an Indian, was reverted from the charge of a Circle. As a consequence, an officer, junior to him, who happens to be a European, is now officiating in charge of a Circle.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Why was he superseded?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I said that in a recent disciplinary case the Executive Engineer who happened to be an Indian was reverted from the charge of a Circle.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Was any inquiry made or was it only on an allegation that it was done?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Of course an inquiry was made; and if it is of any interest to the Honourable Member, I may say that the officer in question has applied to the Government of India for reconsideration and that I have referred his case to the Public Service Commission for their advice.

PENSION OR GRATUITY APPLICABLE TO "C" CLASS WORKERS OF THE  
MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS OFFICE.

**783. \*Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any pension or gratuity is applicable to "C" class workers of the Mathematical Instrument Office?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state under what rule this exception is made?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the cases of "C" class permanent workers and grant them the benefit of gratuity and pension? If not, why not?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a) No.

(b) Under the conditions of their service.

(c) Government is not prepared to grant pension or gratuity to Class "C" men save in exceptional circumstances. The conditions of service in the Mathematical Instrument Office are suited to its special requirements and have worked satisfactorily in the past.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** May I ask why this differential treatment has been made in the case of class "C" workers?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** We do not admit that it is differential treatment. Whatever is done is done in the interests of economy.



**DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF THE DIFFERENT CLASSES OF THE MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENT OFFICE.**

**784. \*Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons as to the different treatment between "A" and "B" classes and foreman classes of the Mathematical Instrument Office? Is it a fact that "A" and "B" class men do the same kind of work as the foremen?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why "E" class workers are not made permanent after putting in service for 20 or 25 years?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any definite rules of qualifications by which "C" class workers are promoted to "B" class? If not, why not?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a) The work of "A" and "B" class men is less responsible than that of Foremen.

(b) "E" class men are recruited on a purely temporary basis. They are, however, eligible for promotion to grades that are permanent by selection.

(c) The only definite rule regarding promotions of "C" class men to "B" class is that a man must be under 30 years of age. Promotions depend on qualifications and health; quick and good work as well as general conduct and regular attendance are taken into consideration before a man is promoted.

**TENDERS IN THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.**

**785. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, since Mr. Elderton became the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust:

(i) the total number of contracts, the cost of each one of which exceeded two thousand rupees, the Port Trust authorities have entered into for execution;

(ii) the number of such contracts that has gone to Indians;

(iii) the number that has gone to non-Indians; and

(iv) the sum total of the money that has been paid to the Indians and non-Indians, respectively, for the contracts?

(b) Do the Port Trust authorities, as a rule, always invite tenders by notification for the information of the interested public in the columns of the *Indian Trade Journal*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Advance*, the *Forward* and the *Statesman*?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The information is not readily available and cannot be obtained without an expenditure of time and labour which would be entirely incommensurate with the value of the results likely to be achieved.

(b) Tenders are invited by advertisement in the *Indian Trade Journal*, the *Statesman* and the *Exchange Gazette* for annual supplies of stores including coal. When materials are required from time to time, by the Engineering Department for works, invitations to tender are issued direct to all contractors on the Commissioners' list and the requirements are also advertised in the *Indian Trade Journal*.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Member not in a position to tell us the contracts that have been given to Indian and non-Indian companies?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I could not undertake to do so; but if the Honourable Member will put down a question and it is possible to obtain the information without an undue expenditure of time and labour, I shall try to collect it.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Othettiar:** In view of the suggestion made in this question, will Government advise the Port Trust to give more contracts in future to Indian contractors?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I do not know on what that suggestion is based, because I have not got any information here and I cannot say whether the Port Trust are not already doing it.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Othettiar:** Will the Honourable Member go into the question?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I will go into the question if a question is put down, and I can get the information and see that nothing unfair is being done.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** With regard to part (b), does the Honourable Member know that it is the vernacular papers which have the widest circulation in this country and that advertisements should have been passed on to them for circulation?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I cannot pronounce an opinion on that

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Does not the Honourable Member know that in Bengal there are papers like the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Advance* and the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, which have the widest circulation in the country, and that, if all these advertisements are given there, it would attract a larger number of people than if given only in these *Indian Trade Journal* and other papers?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I did not say with regard to the first part of the question that there were no such papers. I have no reason to think that advertisements which are put into the journals that are mentioned and which are communicated to the contractors do not get to the class of persons who are likely to tender for these contracts.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is it not the policy of the Government to see that the widest publicity is given to these notices?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Publicity in the sense that it reaches the class of persons for whom these advertisements are intended.

**WORK EXECUTED AND MATERIALS SUPPLIED TO THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST  
BY MESSRS. BIRD AND COMPANY.**

**786. \*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of money that has been paid to Messrs. Bird & Co., during the last fifteen years in consideration of the work executed and the materials supplied to the Port Trust?

(b) Is it a fact that at their 2115th meeting of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta, a resolution on the basis of a "Note" submitted by Mr. Elderton approving the continuance of Messrs. Bird & Company as labour contractors was carried, with Mr. G. L. Mehta (Indian Chamber of Commerce), Mr. A. V. Venables (Agent, East Indian Railway), and Mr. B. R. Singh (Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway) dissenting?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Elderton in his "Note" had to admit that if tenders were invited, there would be parties quoting cheaper rates than Messrs. Bird & Company?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Elderton, while recommending the case of Messrs. Bird & Company, made out that other contractors:

(i) will not be able to execute the work efficiently, requiring the employment of additional staff by the Commissioners for the supervision of the work; and

(ii) will not be able to keep a permanent and contented labour force?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of Mr. Elderton's "Note" and the contract with Messrs. Bird & Company for the supply of labour?

(f) Are Government aware that the labour employed by the stevedores at the Port of Calcutta is as efficient and skilful, if not more so, in handling cargo of all varieties at the Port as Messrs. Bird & Co.'s labourers are?

(g) Are Government aware of the fact that at times the discontented and oppressed labourers fight for and exert their right?

(h) Are Government prepared to bring home to the Calcutta Port Trust authorities the lesson of the recent strike of the stevedores' labourers at the Port of Calcutta?

(i) Is it a fact that the Accountant General, Bengal, urged the Port Trust authorities, from the audit stand-point to invite tenders for the labour contracts?

(j) If the answer to part (i) be in the affirmative, why did not the authorities accept the principle laid down by the Accountant General, Bengal? Can an audit objection raised by the Accountant General, Bengal, be set at nought by the Port Trust authorities?

(k) Are Government prepared to consider the necessity of directing the Calcutta Port Trust authorities to cancel their contract with Messrs. Bird & Co. for the supply of labour and to invite tenders for the same? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The information asked for is being obtained and will be laid on the table when received.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it a fact that Messrs. Bird and Co. are patronised by the Port Trust?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am not so aware.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Member in a position to say whether it is not a fact that Messrs Bird and Co. enjoy practically a monopoly of all contracts in the Port Trust of Calcutta?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I believe the original question is designed to elicit information on that point, and I have said I am collecting information and shall lay the information when received on the table of the House.

#### DISCONTINUANCE OF THE FERRY SERVICE BY THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

**787. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that towards the end of the year 1934, the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta discontinued their Ferry Service?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that they have allowed the use of their Ferry Stations by one of the inland steamship companies under non-Indian management and have given them the power to maintain the Service?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what is the amount that the Commissioners will receive from the company for the right passed on to them?

(d) Did the Commissioners invite tenders by notification in the public press before passing on the right of using the Ferry Stations and running the Service? If not, why not, and what made them to think that there were no parties who would have quoted terms more attractive for the Commissioners?

(e) Is this also a fact that the Commissioners have sold some of their Ferry Steamers to the India General Navigation & Railway Co. Ltd., which too happens to be a non-Indian concern?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the affirmative, what was the original cost of the steamers, and for what price have they been sold?

(g) Did the Commissioners before selling the steamers ask, through notification in the public press, for quotations? If not, why not, and what made them to think that the sale was effected to their best advantage?

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

(b) The Calcutta Steam Navigation Company have been allowed to use the Commissioners' pontoons since the 5th November, 1934. No right to maintain a ferry service can be given by the Commissioners.

(c) The Company pay Rs. 1,200 per mensem to the Commissioners for the use of their pontoons.

(d) No; but enquiries were made of seven companies who, it was thought, might be interested and offers for the use of the Commissioners' pontoons were received from four. The offer received from the Calcutta Steam Navigation Company was the highest. The Commissioners passed on no right to run the service.

(e) Yes.

(f) The original cost of the steamers was Rs. 10,52,217, and they were sold for a sum of Rs. 1,20,000. Of the five steamers which were sold three had been in service for nearly 25 years.

(g) No; but it is understood that all parties likely to purchase were advised and offers were received from seven. The offer received from the India General Navigation and Railway Company was the highest.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Did the Honourable Member care to inquire whether any real or sincere attempt was made by these Port Trust authorities to see if this stock could be sold at higher rates?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am satisfied that they made every possible effort to interest companies and firms who were likely to make any offers.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Does the Honourable Member know that there are certain Indian Steam Navigation Companies also that should have been consulted in the matter of the sale of these things?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I have said nothing from which the Honourable Member could infer that Indian companies were not communicated with in this connection.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Member in a position to tell us which are the companies which had been consulted in the matter of sale? Will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Can I read it out? It is a small statement—seven in each case. In the first Mr. M. D. Ghosh, Calcutta, Rai Chatrapati Singh Bahadur, Mymensingh, Ghatal Steam Navigation Company, Howrah, Calcutta Steam Navigation Company, Calcutta, Eastern Flotilla Company, Calcutta, Indo-Swiss Trading Company, Calcutta, Bengal River Service Company, Calcutta. In the second case, Mr. D. Ghosh, Calcutta, Rai Chatrapati Singh Bahadur, Mymensingh, Messrs. Clifford Grenon, Calcutta, Mr. K. L. Poddar, Calcutta, Mr. J. N. Mukherjee, Calcutta, Messrs. Kilburn and Co., the Agents of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Calcutta, and the Bengal River Service Company.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Was the offer of the India General Navigation and Railway Company the highest?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** So far as part (g) is concerned, yes.

#### UNIFORM INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION ON ALL STATE RAILWAYS OF THE RULES FRAMED BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

788. **\*Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, whether the rules framed by the Railway Board and communicated to the different State Railways have uniform interpretation and application?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the original idea of Government about the rules communicated in Railway Board's letter No. 807-E. G.-II of the 31st August, 1934, as published in the East Indian Railway Gazette of September 1934?

(c) What do the words 'old scale', mentioned in the Railway Board letter referred to above signify? Do they mean the scale from which the employee was retrenched, or the scale which was in force just before the introduction of 1934 orders, a scale for new entrants?

(d) Are Government aware that none of the State Railways introduced any scale during 1928 or 1931 and the East Indian Railway only introduced certain lower scales during 1928, as amended in 1931 known as co-ordinated scales?

(e) If the answer to the latter part of part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government aware that it will bring hardship to the East Indian Railway employees and undue preference will be shown to other State Railway employees?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the question of removing such differential treatment either by issuing a correction slip to the effect that 'old scale' means the scales "from which the employee was retrenched", or total abolition of the co-ordinated scales of 1928, as amended in 1931, from the East Indian Railway?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. Rau's reply to Mr. Fakir Chand's starred question No. 489 asked on the floor of this House on the 23rd February, 1935.

(c), (e) and (f). I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

(d) The information which is readily available is that in 1928 the East Indian Railway introduced certain scales for subordinates.

#### APPLICATION OF THE NEW LEAVE RULES TO THE RETRENCHED EMPLOYEES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

789. **\*Mr. Amarendra Nath Ohattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the justification for bringing the retrenched employees on East Indian Railway under the new leave rules, as communicated in the Railway Board's letter No. 35-L. E.-84, of the 8th July, 1935?

(b) Is it not a fact that when financial crisis arose in the Railway Department, the subordinate employees co-operated most loyally and faithfully with the Government?

(c) Are Government prepared to restore them to their pre-retrenched position?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (c). New Leave Rules are applicable to all employees who have been recruited after the 1st April, 1930. In accordance with the orders issued by the Railway Board in their letter No. 1635-E.G., dated the 30th December, 1932—a copy of which is in the Library of the House—a re-employed person is subject, except in certain matters specially provided for therein, to such conditions of service as would be applicable to him if he had entered

railway service for the first time on the date of re-employment. The question whether re-employed personnel should be allowed the leave rules applicable to them at the time of their retrenchment has been carefully considered and Government do not see any justification for allowing them to continue on the old leave rules.

(b) Yes.

**SAVING ON THE EAST INDIAN AND OTHER STATE RAILWAYS DURING THE RETRENCHMENT CAMPAIGN.**

790. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** What was the actual saving on the East Indian and other State Railways during the retrenchment campaign separately from:

- (i) officers and
- (ii) subordinates ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The information asked for is not readily available. I would, however, refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 61 and 62 of Volume I of the Report by the Railway Board for the year 1931-32 which contain available information. A copy of the Report referred to will be found in the Library of the House.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How many officers and how many subordinates were retrenched on the East Indian Railway ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I believe this information will be found in the two paragraphs of the Volume I have referred to.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What about the numbers ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I think all that information will be found in that volume.

**EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THE POPE COMMITTEE AND ITS OFFSHOOTS.**

791. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will Government please state the expenses incurred for the Pope Committee and its offshoots ?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** As regards the first Pope Committee, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to Mr. Thampan's question No. 889 asked in this House on the 12th September, 1933. As regards the second Pope Committee the expenditure incurred including the cost of printing the report, amounted to about Rs. 25,270. The expenditure incurred by railways on job analysis initiated by Mr. Pope is shown in paragraph 12 of Volume I of the "Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1934-35", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

**VILLAGERS ASKED TO LEAVE THEIR VILLAGES IN JHANSI TEHSIL FOR MILITARY MANŒUVRES.**

792. \***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will Government please state the number of inhabitants and the number of villagers, who were asked to leave their villages in Jhansi Tehsil in the vicinity of Babina in connection with the military manœuvres last December ?

(b) What are the names of these villages and their population?

(c) When did these villagers receive the order to vacate their villages, in day time?

(d) Will Government please state the dates on which the villagers had to leave their villages?

(e) Is it a fact that the villagers had to live unprotected under the open sky, throughout these days, with their old, sick, infirm, children, and pregnant women, and women with their newly born babies? If not, what arrangements were made for their shelter from the cold and rains in the cold season?

(f) Is it a fact that one woman gave birth to a child under a tree in the midst of rains and cold winds?

(g) Will Government please enquire and state if it is a fact that one villager died due to severe cold?

(h) What compensation, if any, was given to these villagers for the hardships they had to undergo and the losses they had to suffer in respect of their fields, harvests, cattle, etc.?

(i) What steps, if any, do Government intend to take to remove these losses and hardships?

(j) Do Government intend to issue instructions that the military manœuvres should not take place, at all, near villages? If so, when? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) to (j). Enquiries are being made as to the incidents to which the Honourable Member refers, and I will lay a statement on the table in due course. At the moment I can only say that an Artillery Practice Camp (not manœuvres) was held at Babina early in December. For Artillery Practice it is the custom to select for the target a piece of waste ground, as far as possible from any habitation, but having regard to the range of modern artillery it is almost impossible to find an area where there is not some danger, however remote, to neighbouring villages. The villagers are accordingly warned in ample time that in their own interests they must leave their houses for a few hours on certain days. They can, of course, always return at night. Every effort is made to minimize the inconvenience caused, and Government have no reason to suppose that any undue hardship or discontent exists as a result of these practices.

**Seth Govind Das:** How much time was given to these villagers to leave their homes?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I have no information about the details of this case, and I would ask the Honourable Member to wait until I lay the statement on the table.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Have Government got any schedule for paying compensation?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I believe there is a regular tariff laid down.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it a fact that two annas per man and six pies per man is paid, and that nothing is paid to persons of 18 and under and nothing for cattle either?



**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I should require notice, Sir; I am not sure.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Did the Honourable Member say that villagers are asked to leave their houses for a few hours on certain days?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Yes.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know, Sir, if such a thing happens in his own country,—I mean the villagers being asked to leave their houses for a few hours?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I believe there is a regular Act in England, called the Manœuvres Act, under which the military authorities when they are carrying out manœuvres have certain powers over the population of the area over which they are operating. I do not know the extent of the powers, but I think they are very considerable.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Do those powers include asking people to leave their houses?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I should require notice of that question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Please take notice, Sir.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know, Sir, if within those two hours in which the villagers were asked to leave their houses, there were any accidents?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I never said two hours.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** How much time was given to these people to leave their homes?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I said they were absent for a few hours?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Were there any accidents within those few hours?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Not that I know of.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** The facts in this case, Sir, are that one woman was actually delivered in the open field, and that another woman was compulsorily removed soon after delivery. These are very hard cases, and I think stringent inquiries have got to be made. I want to know whether Government propose to lay down any instructions on this subject?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Well, Sir, we do not yet know whether the facts which the Honourable Member has mentioned are really correct or not, but I can assure the Honourable Member that every possible precaution is taken to avoid undue hardship in these cases.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How much time is given to these people, and what is meant by ample notice?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** As much notice as possible. I suppose a week's notice or ten days' notice or a month—I am not sure.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will Government make sure that these manœuvres are carried out only in uninhabited jungles, and there are many of them in the Jhansi district?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** As I explained, these were not manœuvres. It was an Artillery Practice Camp. The Artillery were firing at certain targets, and they did select an area which was as far as possible from any human habitation; but, as I explained, the range of modern artillery is such that there is always the possibility of an accident if people are not warned within a very large radius of that target, and therefore the warning is given.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is there not always a possibility of some woman or other being about to be delivered, and what precautions will Government take for their safety? There have been very hard cases. I know these facts myself.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a hypothetical question.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** It is a very important question, Sir, and I hope you will permit me to put it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a hypothetical question.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** May I put one supplementary question, Sir?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer given has been very full, and as regards the compensation given to these people, the Honourable Member said he could not give an answer, and he has asked for notice.

#### CULTURABLE LAND LYING WASTE AND UNCULTIVATED IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

793. **\*Dr. Bhagavan Das:** (a) Will Government please state the extent of culturable land lying waste and uncultivated in the centrally administered areas?

(b) Have Government considered any method of utilizing this?

(c) What is the amount of the budget grant for village improvement reserves for the centrally administered areas?

(d) How has this amount been spent?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of spending some portion of this amount on the proper utilization of culturable land lying waste with a view to relieving unemployment and congestion of population?

(f) Are Government prepared to call for information from the provinces as to how they have spent the amounts allotted to them out of the grant for village improvement, and advise them to utilise the amounts for the purposes mentioned in part (e) above?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Volume I of the Agricultural Statistics of India, which contains the information desired by him.

(b) No. Part of this area is probably used for grazing and thus definitely used for an agricultural purpose. As regards the rest expert opinion is that available funds could be more profitably spent upon improving the cultivated areas.

(c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement laid on the table of the House by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 6th September, 1935, in reply to Mr. Basanta Kumar Das's starred question No. 162.

(e) and the latter part of (f). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer to part (b) of his question.

First part of (f). Yes, they have already done so.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are Government aware of the fact that the statistics published in their Volume I relating to land lying waste and uncultured are largely inaccurate and cannot be relied upon?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** Sir, we do not claim absolute precision for the statistics which are published in this document.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is the percentage of error, Sir?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** It varies.

#### SUICIDES AND DACOITIES COMMITTED DUE TO UN-EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEPRESSION IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

**794. \*Dr. Bhagavan Das:** (a) Will Government please state the number of suicides and dacoities committed in the centrally administered areas due to unemployment and economic depression during the five years ending 31st March, 1935?

(b) Are Government prepared to call for figures of such suicides and dacoities from the provinces also?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to relieve the situation?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Crank:** (a) and (b). Though it would be possible to collect statistics from the centrally administered areas and from the provinces of the total number of dacoities and suicides in recent years, to ascertain what proportion was due to unemployment and economic depression would necessitate a detailed examination of each case and the labour involved would not in any way be commensurate with its results.

(c) The general problem of unemployment is, as the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, being carefully considered by both Local Governments and the Government of India.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are Government aware of the fact that, during the last one month or so, a woman was found to have attempted to kill her three children and succeeded in killing two children and that she was observed in her attempt to kill her third child, because of her inability to maintain herself as a result of unemployment?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** No, Sir; I am not aware of that fact. Where did it happen?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It was published in the *Hindustan Times* of Delhi.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Where did it happen?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It happened in one of the centrally administered areas. I believe to the best of my knowledge it happened in Ajmer.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I am not aware of it.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Who is the final authority to judge whether the labour involved is commensurate with the results or not?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Member of Government in charge of the Department.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is he the final authority to judge this? When the President has admitted the question, it stands to reason that the President thinks that the labour involved will be commensurate with the results.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not possible for the President to foresee all the difficulties there may be in the collection of the particular information. He can only see to the form of the questions.

#### POLITICAL TERRORIST CRIMES.

795. **\*Dr. Bhagavan Das:** (a) Will Government please state the total number of political terrorist crimes committed by private persons from 1907 to 1934, giving figures separately, if possible, for each class of such crime in the centrally administered areas?

(b) What is the total number of crimes for which salaried Government servants have been convicted by courts during the same period, giving figures separately for each class of crime and each class of such servants?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The collection of the information required by the Honourable Member will involve an excessive amount of time and labour which would hardly be justified by the results.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Are so many salaried Government servants involved in violent crimes that the amount of labour involved in collecting statistics would be so great as to floor the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The question refers to the total number of crimes of which salaried Government servants have been convicted. The question is not confined to violent crimes, but to the total number of crimes. There are no statistics maintained, so far as I

I am aware, of crimes committed by salaried Government servants. This will involve the examination of the record of every criminal case decided over a period of 27 years in all the centrally administered areas.

**Dr. Bhagavan Das:** Have Government duly considered the fact that the labour involved in collecting these statistics would be amply repaid by their finding out the root causes of the vast unrest that is obviously and indisputably prevailing throughout the country, and so becoming able to discover and apply the right and suitable and radical remedies?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** That suggestion seems to be very remotely connected with the question asked.

#### ALLEGED CORRUPTION AMONG POLICEMEN.

796. **\*Dr. Bhagavan Das:** In view of the evidence tendered by high police officials before the Simon Commission to the effect that a large percentage of policemen were in the habit of taking bribes and in view of the words of Mr. Gordon, the Police Commissioner of Calcutta, to the same effect, in a recent circular, will Government please state what steps, if any, they propose to take to eradicate this evil in the centrally administered areas, and whether they intend to advise Local Governments to take similar steps in their respective provinces?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I have looked through the reports of evidence taken by the Simon Commission and do not consider it correct to say that the bulk of the evidence of high police officials, before that Commission, was to the effect that a large percentage of policemen were in the habit of taking bribes. I have not seen the circular issued by Mr. Gordon, but from what has appeared in the Press I cannot find that he said what the Honourable Member suggests he did. In any case, I am quite satisfied, from long experience of police administration, that all Local Governments and Local Administrations and their officers are fully alive to the necessity of taking all possible steps to prevent corruption. These efforts have met with some success, but Government cannot entirely eradicate an evil of this kind until they have the active co-operation of the people themselves and until public opinion develops both against the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is the nature of the steps taken so far to get rid of this evil and with what effect?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** That is far too wide a question to answer in reply to a supplementary question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What steps are Government taking to ensure public co-operation to eradicate this evil?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** All steps possible by way of educating the public. It is a slow process.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it not a fact that when a complaint against a police official is sent to the higher authorities, the complainant is put down as malicious and very often he is prosecuted himself?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** No. That is not a fact.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How many police officials have been dismissed for having taken bribes . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not a supplementary question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government considered, or will they consider, the necessity of ensuring public co-operation, by impressing on the police officials, from the highest to the lowest, to conduct themselves as become servants of the public and not bullies?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** That is constantly being done.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** No example is set here!

(At this stage, two or three Honourable Members began to put questions at the same time.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will not allow this. It is extremely wrong on the part of so many Honourable Members starting supplementary questions before they rise in their seats. If that practice continues, the Chair will be obliged not to allow any supplementary question except by those whom it calls upon to do so.

**Dr. Bhagavan Das:** Are Government aware of the fact that only a few weeks ago a Sessions Judge in the Punjab has definitely recorded in his judgment a remark to the effect that under present conditions the bribe-taker is far more to blame than the bribe-giver for the universal prevalence of blackmailing, corruption and bribery in the Punjab?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I was not aware of that.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Am I to understand from the Honourable Member that he is not in touch with the Provincial Governments and that he does not know that the Police Commissioner of Calcutta issued instructions like that?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** No. I am in touch with Provincial Governments, and I do know that the Commissioner of Police has issued such instructions.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is it not a fact that Mr. Gordon issued a circular like that and prosecuted several police officials for taking bribes, and was not Mr. Gordon shunted out of that place and sent on to another district?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** That is entirely incorrect.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.  
No. 797.

INDIAN SETTLERS OVERSEAS.

**797. \*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indian settlers overseas in countries within the empire and outside?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of having a permanent organisation to look to their interests?

(c) In view of the fact that there would soon be a reorganisation of the Secretariat, are Government prepared to open an 'Overseas' department, as was urged upon in the Council of State during the last Simla Session?

(d) If not, what other machinery do Government propose to institute to deal with the question of protection of the interests of the Indians overseas on a permanent basis?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** (a) The Indian population overseas, within the Empire, is approximately 2,358,000. The exact number of Indians, outside the Empire is not known, but is estimated at over 100,000.

(b), (c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 420 on the 17th September, 1935, and to the supplementaries arising out of it.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

**798. \*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any representations from the Indian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and various other Chambers of Commerce in the matter of appointment of Trade Commissioners in foreign countries? If so, what are they? What have been the decisions of Government on these representations?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government have received representations from certain commercial bodies urging the necessity for the appointment of more Indian Trade Commissioners in foreign countries. Government have noted the views of these bodies and have now under consideration the question of making appointments of Indian Trade Commissioners at Mombasa and in Japan.

APPOINTMENT OF A TRADE COMMISSIONER IN JAPAN.

**799. \*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Is it a fact that there is yet no Trade Commissioner in Japan? If not, why not?

(b) When do Government propose to appoint a Trade Commissioner in Japan?

(c) Are there any other countries where Trade Commissioners are proposed to be appointed in the near future?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) and (b). The question of appointing an Indian Trade Commissioner in Japan is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) The appointment of an Indian Trade Commissioner in East Africa is also under consideration.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that the question of appointing a Trade Commissioner in Japan has been under the consideration of Government for more than one year, and, if so, how long will Government continue to consider this question before they appoint the Trade Commissioner?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government are unable to state how long it might take before the appointment is made.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How long has it been under the consideration of the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** For some time.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why so much delay?

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

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

**800. \*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of appointing Indians only as Trade Commissioners in foreign countries?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The desirability of appointing Indians as Trade Commissioners in foreign countries is always considered in making the appointments. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that our Trade Commissioners in Hamburg and Milan are both Indians.

**Seth Govind Das:** Do Government think it desirable that the mercantile community and the mercantile institutions of this country should be consulted before the appointments are made?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That is to say, with regard to individual appointments?

**Seth Govind Das:** Yes.

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

#### DESCENDANTS OF MAHARANI LAXMIBAI SAHEBA OF JHANSI.

**801. \*Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Are Government prepared to make enquiries regarding the descendants of Maharani Laxmibai Saheba of Jhansi?

(b) Are Government aware that the condition of the grand-son of the Maharani is deplorable?



(c) Will Government be pleased to state if it is prepared to ameliorate it and if so, to what extent?

(d) Are Government aware that a deposit of not less than six lakhs of rupees belonging to the son of the Maharani, is with Government?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state how the interest accruing on it is being utilised, and whether there is any objection to giving it to the descendants of the Maharani?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Six lakhs of rupees represents Damodar Rao's estimate of the amount due to him as heir to his adopted father, the late Raja of Jhansi. His claim was rejected in 1881.

(e) Consequent on the rebellion of Rani Laxmibai in 1857, the private possessions of the Jhansi Raj were confiscated. No question of interest on the sum claimed by Damodar Rao, therefore, arises.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** Is the Honourable Member aware that His Excellency Lord Dalhousie had recorded in his Minute that the property belonging to Maharani Laxmibai was private property and could not, therefore, be confiscated?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** I have not seen the Minute referred to, but I merely re-state that the claim was rejected over fifty years ago.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** Would the Honourable Member kindly promise to go into the matter and see whether there is a Minute like that or not?

**Sir Aubrey Metcalfe:** No. I am not prepared to go into a matter which was finally decided over fifty years ago.

#### FIXATION OF THE NUMBER OF GAZETTED HOLIDAYS.

802. **\*Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state who is responsible for fixing the number of gazetted holidays for Government of India offices and the centrally administered areas every year?

(b) What is the principle on which the allotment of Hindu, Muham-madan, and Christian holidays is made?

(c) Is it customary to consult some religious heads of each religion some time before sanctioning the list of gazetted holidays for any particular year? If so, who are the persons or institutions belonging to each one of these religions which are being so consulted?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that there is a widespread discontent among the Jain community, which is spread over a considerable part of the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces and Berar, Madras Presidency, Bengal, the United Provinces, Ajmer-Merwara, and Delhi, as the gazetted list of holidays contains not a single day out of many which are observed by that great community for performing certain religious ceremonies and observing some religious usages?

(e) Do Government propose to include in the list of gazetted holidays at least the birth-day of Maha-Vir-Jin, the founder of that great religion?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a), (b) and (c). As explained in the Home Department Office Memorandum No. D.-4562-Public, dated the 20th October, 1923 (a copy of which is in the Library of the House), the holidays in the Government of India offices, that move between Simla and Delhi, were fixed by the Home Department after consultation with the representatives (one Hindu, one Muhammadan, one Christian and one Sikh) of the Imperial Secretariat Association. The Government of India offices that remain in Delhi all the year round follow the local practice in regard to holidays. No holidays are gazetted by the Government of India.

(d) and (e). Government received representations from certain Jain Associations on the subject and informed the Associations that as holidays in the various provinces in India are declared by Local Governments under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, they should address the Local Governments concerned in the matter.

As already stated, holidays are not gazetted by the Government of India offices, but members of the Jain community serving in offices that move between Delhi and Simla are at liberty to take a holiday on the day of this festival within the six communal holidays allowed to persons employed in these offices.

Information on all these points in respect of the centrally administered areas is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

#### EXCAVATION WORK AT PADAMPUR, THE BIRTHPLACE OF BHAVABHUTI.

**803. \*Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article contributed by Prof. V. V. Mirasi of the Morris College, Nagpur, to the *Indian Historical Quarterly*, June, 1935, on the "Birthplace of Bhavabhuti" and particularly to the following passage on page 298?

"The evidence set forth above will, I hope, convince scholars that Padampur near Amgaon (Bhandara District, C. P.) was the birth place of Bhavabhuti. Government has been aware of the existence of the ruins of massive buildings at Padampur for more than sixty years, but it has undertaken no excavation work there, or for the matter of that, anywhere else in the Central Provinces and Berar. I would draw the attention of the Archaeological Department to this important site."

(b) Are Government prepared to depute some responsible officer to examine the site of Padampur and submit a report to the Archaeological Department about the feasibility of undertaking the work of excavation there in the near future?

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

(b) The question of protecting the site is already under the consideration of the Archaeological Department. It is also hoped that the Superintendent, Central Circle, will be able to pay it a visit shortly. The Honourable Member will appreciate that no decision about the work of excavation there can be taken until this officer's report is received.

**SURVEY OF THE SITE OF OLD TOWNS AND PLACES OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.**

**804. \*Mr. M. S. Aney:** Will Government be pleased to state whether a responsible officer of the Archaeological Department was deputed some time before to visit the Central Provinces and Berar in order to survey the site of old towns and places of historic importance in that province and ascertain the possibility of successful undertaking of excavation work there? If so, do Government propose to publish the report submitted by that officer, and state what steps they have hitherto taken, or propose to take, to give effect to the recommendations, if any, made in the said report?

**Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai:** The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. No formal report was, however, submitted, that could be published. It has not been possible so far, on account of financial stringency, to undertake any excavation work in the Central Provinces and Berar.

**USE OF INDIAN RAW MATERIAL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

**805. \*Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what special efforts were made from 1933 to 1935, and with what result, by the British Textile Mission in pursuance of clause 6 of the agreement concluded between the Mission and the Mill Owners' Association, Bombay, in the autumn of 1935:

- (i) to popularise and promote the use of the Indian raw material in the United Kingdom, and
- (ii) to explore other avenues of co-operation in this field in the interests of the Indian cotton grower?

(b) In view of the fact that the above agreement expired on 31st December, 1935, will Government be pleased to state what measures they propose to adopt to retain in future such advantages as clause 6 may have secured to the producers of Indian raw material in general, and the Indian cotton growers in particular?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the First and Second Annual reports of the Lancashire Indian Cotton Committee, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

(b) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to Article 8 of the Ottawa Trade Agreement between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India and Article 5 of the Supplementary Trade Agreement, copies of which are also in the Library.

#### MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR TYRES AND TUBES IN TRAVANCORE.

806. **\*Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty:** (a) Are Government aware that the Travancore Government are proposing floating a concern to manufacture motor tyres and tubes?

(b) What is the present customs revenue on these goods?

(c) Have Government, in view of the possible loss of customs revenue, any plans for being compensated for the same?

(d) Are Government aware that a tyre factory is to be started at Calcutta?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) No.

(b) The total customs revenue from all types of pneumatic tyres and tubes in 1934-35 was approximately Rs. 35 lakhs.

(c) Not yet.

(d) Yes.

#### PERSONNEL OF THE STAFF OF THE DELHI BROADCASTING STATION.

807. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of those appointed to the Delhi Broadcasting Station, stating their age, qualifications, salary with grades if any, community they belong to, and the nature of their appointment whether permanent or temporary?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of those who have broadcasted from the Delhi Broadcasting Station, either on the payment of fees or honorarily, mentioning their status in public life, their race or community, and the amount of fees paid wherever such payment has been made?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether in the selection of artists, who broadcast from the Delhi Broadcasting Station, any non-official advice is taken, and if so, from what source?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) and (b). Two statements are laid on the table. I do not think it proper to disclose the amounts paid to persons who have broadcast from the Delhi Station. Many of them are professional musicians and it would not be fair to them to publish the terms on which they agreed to broadcast.

(c) No formal arrangements have been made but, I understand, that the Controller takes the advice of a group of prominent non-officials in Delhi who are interested in the development of Indian art and music.

*Statement showing the names of those appointed to the Delhi Broadcasting Station, showing their age, qualifications, salary with grades and community and the nature of their appointments.*

Name.	Designation.	Community.	Time-scale pay.	Actual pay.	Approximate age.	Qualifications and experience.	Nature of appointment.
1. Mr. C. B. Sethna, O.B.E.	Station Director.	Parsi	Rs. 750—25—900	Rs. 775	Y. M. 41 8	Station Director, Bombay, transferred to Delhi temporarily to organise the station. M.Sc. Station Engineer, Calcutta, transferred to Delhi.	Temporary.
1. Mr. S. C. Roy	Station Engineer.	Hindu	250—15—400— 20—500	400	36 0	B.A. Holds Certificate of Proficiency in Electrical Technology and Electrical Communication Engg. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.	"
1. Mr. B. V. Baliga	Assistant Engineer.	"	180—10—300	180	26 6	Practical training—The Ahmedabad Electric Supply Co., Ltd., the Mysore Hydro-Electric Generating Station at Sivsamudram and Receiving Station at Bangalore. Indian Radio & Cable Communications Co., Ltd., Bombay.	"
2. Mr. T. D. Chatterji	"	"	180—10—300	180	24 6	B.Sc. Holds Certificate of Proficiency in Electrical Technology and Electrical Communication Engg., Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Practical training—The Ganges Canal Hydro-Electric System, Mysore Govt., Indian Radio and Cable Communications, Ltd., Bombay, and the Broadcasting Station, Delhi, when it was in the process of erection.	"

Name.	Designation.	Community.	Time-scale pay.	Actual pay.	Approximate age.	Qualifications and experience.	Nature of appointment.
1. Mr. P. R. Khanna	Technical Assistant.	Hindu	Rs. 60—5—130	Rs. 60	Y. M. 29 3	B.Sc. (E. & M. Engg., Benares Hindu University). Practical training—Burn & Co., Howrah, Champion Elec. Engg. Works, Delhi, Philips Electrical Co. (India), Ltd., Calcutta.	Temporary.
2. Mr. M. L. Sastri	"	"	60—5—130	60	25 6	B.A., B.Sc. (E. & M. Engg., Benares Hindu University). Passed Final grade examination in Electrical Engg. of the City and Guilds, London Institute. Practical training—Cauvery Hydro-Electric Scheme, Andhra University Electrification Scheme, Masulipatam Electric Corporation.	"
3. Mr. K. P. Banerji	"	"	60—5—130	60	26 9	B.Sc. (E. & M. Engg., Benares Hindu University). Practical training—Kashmir Hydro-Electric Works, Jammu Power Station. Worked as Asstt. Engr. at Maya Engg. Works, Calcutta, Mily. Engg. Deptt.	"
4. Mr. B. J. Gulati	"	"	60—5—130	100	29 5	M.Sc., A.M.I.E.E. Practical training in the laboratory, Govt. College, Lahore.	"

5. Mr. M. D. Chaturvedi.	"	"	60-5-130	60	25	6	B.Sc. (E. & M. Engg.), Benares Hindu University). Practical training—The Delhi Electric Supply & Traction Co., Ltd. M.Sc. Engg. qualifications in England. Attended the final year's course of lectures and Laboratory work in Electrical Engg. at the City & Guilds College, London. Holds diploma of Engg. College of the Northampton Polytechnic Institute, London, in Electrical Communications, having special courses in Radio Engg. Is an Associate Member of the Institute of Radio Engg., New York. Practical training at the research station of the General Post Office at Dollis Hill, London. B. B. C. Control Section and Studios at London and Birmingham. B. B. C. Transmitting Station, Brookmans Park. Wireless Telegraph Station, Rugby. Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co., Chelmsford. Colombia Gramophone Co.'s Works, London. General Electric Co.'s Research Laboratories, London. 1½ years' training at Broadcasting Station, Calcutta.	Up to 29th Feby. 1936.
6. Mr. M. M. Khan.	"	Muslim	60-5-130	60	32	0	B.Sc. (E. & M. Engg.), Benares Hindu University). Worked as Resident Engineer in the firm "United Engineers".	Temporary.
7. Mr. N. K. Banerjee	"	Hindu	60 5-130	60	25	0		

Name.	Designation.	Community.	Time-scale pay.	Actual pay.	Approximate age.	Qualifications and experience.	Nature of appointment.
1. Mr. R. B. Singh Vaid.	Mechanic	Hindu	Rs. 30—3—84—4— 100.	Rs. 30	Y. M. 24 6	Passed Wireman Examination of Board of Electricity, Delhi. Practical training—Asstt. Wireman in N. W. Ry. Swedish Electric Stores and Electric Stores, Delhi. Matriculate. Worked as mechanic under the Marconi Engineer when the Delhi Broadcasting Station was under construction.	Temporary.
2. Mr. Hirkari Lal	"	"	30—3—84—4— 100.	30	24 4	Intermediate Examination and Munshi Fazil (Honours in Persian) of the Punjab University. Holds a permanent post as translator in the G. S. Branch, A. H. Q., on Rs. 308 in the scale of Rs. 200—12—440 per mensem. Author of the drama "Zamir-ki-saza" and translated the following :— Arms and the Man (Staged). Doctor Jekyll & Mr. Hyde. The First and the Last. Rosom's Universal Robots (Staged). The Apple Tree. The Origin of the World (published by the Punjab Government). Box & Cox (Staged). Maharani of Arakan (Staged). 14 years experience of acting and producing.	"
1. Mr. Z. A. Bokhari	Director of Programme.	Muslim	220—14—400— 500	310	31 6		



1. Mr. Agha Mohd. Ashraf.	Sub-Director of Programme.	"	150—10—300	150	23	6	M. A. in Persian . Author and translator of the following books in Urdu :— A study of Economics for the beginners in Urdu. Urdu translation of the famous Persian Mystic Mathnawi of Attar. Book for essay writing in Urdu recommended as a text book by the Board of Secondary Education, Delhi for the High School Examinations. Selection of Urdu Literature for the High School Examination, Delhi Province. Was employed as Lecturer in the St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
1. Mr. A. K. Sen	Programme Assistant.	Hindu	60—5—130	100	22	6	B.A. (Hons.) . . .
2. Mr. Sejjad Sarwar Niazi.	"	Muslim	60—5—130	100	33	0	B.A. (Hons.). A well known musician. Worked as Recording Assistant and Director of Music with the Gramophone Co., Ltd., Delhi for two years and conducted their Orchestra. Has made more than a dozen records, solo as well as duets in "His Master's Voice" and "Twin". Gave broadcast programmes to Broadcasting Stations, Lahore and Peshawar.

Name.	Designation.	Community.	Time-scale pay.	Actual pay.	Approximate age.	Qualifications and experience.	Nature of appointment.
3. Mr. Rup Lal Mallah	Programme Assistant.	Hindu	Rs. 60—5—130	Rs. 100	Y. M. 29 5	B.A. in English only. Holds Diploma of Higher Proficiency in Urdu.	Temporary.
4. Mr. Ifikhar Ullah	"	Muslim	60—5—130	100	22 6	Matriculate Worked for about 2 years at Calcutta Broadcasting Station as honorary Director of Drama.	"
1. Mr. A. H. Majaz	Sub-Editor	"	100—10—150	100	23 0	B.A. Worked as an Editor of the Aligarh Magazine.	"
1. Mr. Nazim Ali	Accountant	"	130—6—190	130	30 0	B.A. Holds a permanent post in the office of the A.G., C. R.	"
1. M. R. Balujed	Clerk, I Grade	Hindu	90—4—115	95	45 0	Studied up to Matric.	"
1. Mr. Nazir Ahmad.	Clerk, II Grade	Muslim	40—3—85	40	20 0	Matric.	"
2. Mr. Amar Singh	"	Sikh	40—3—85	40	30 0	"	"
3. Mr. B. N. Sen	"	Hindu	40—3—85	40	23 0	Intermediate	"
1. Mr. Miraj Uddin	Stenographer	Muslim	45—5—145	Rs. 30 compen- satory allow- ance.	25 0	Post-matric.	"
1. Mr. Satya Prasad	Motor Driver	Hindu	40—2—60	40	40 0	....	"

*Statement showing the names of persons who have broadcast from the Delhi broadcasting station between November 28th, 1935, and February 2nd, 1936 either on payment or honorary. Their race or community, and their status in public life*

No.	Name.	Race or Community.	Status.
1	Abdul Aziz .	Muslim .	Veena Player.
2	Abdur Razaak .	" .	Actor, Delhi Station.
3	Abdur Razzaq ] .	" .	Qawwal, 18th December, 1935. 12th January, 1936.
4	Akhtar Jehan .	" .	Actor, Delhi Station.
5	Akhtari of Agra .	" .	Professional Singer, 6th December, 1935. 28th December, 1935. 3rd January, 1936. 10th, 18th 19th January, 1936.
6	Anderson, Sir George	European .	Educational Commissioner with the Government of India.
7	Annand, E. R. Mr. .	" .	Lecturer, St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
8	Anwar of Agra .	Muslim .	Professional Singer, 31st December, 1935. 5th January, 1936.
9	Asad Ali Khan .	" .	" " 27th December, 1935. 18th January, 1936. 5th February, 1936.
10	Asaf Ali, Mr. .	" .	Bar.-at-Law, M.L.A.
11	Akhtar of Delhi .	" .	Professional Singer, 19th January, 1936.
12	Asaf Ali, Mrs. .	" .	Wife of Mr. Asaf Ali, M.L.A.
13	Anwar of Agra .	" .	Amateur Singer and Actor.
14	Ashiq Hussain .	" .	I. B. S. Orchestra.
15	Abdur Rahman .	" .	Actor, Delhi Broadcasting Station.
16	Mohd. Ayyab .	" .	I. B. S. Orchestra.
17	Azhar Ali, Dr. .	" .	Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Delhi.
18	Bashir Ahmad .	" .	Merchant, 12th January, 1936.
19	Basit, M.A., Mr. .	" .	Professor, Islamia College, Lahore.
20	Bal Kumar Gandharva.	Hindu .	Professional Singer.
21	Band of the 9th Punjab Regiment.		4th January, 1936. 20th January, 1936. 30th January, 1936.
22	Banna and Party .	Muslim .	Qawwals.
23	Bund-e-haasan .	" .	Professional Singer, 25th December, 1935.
24	Bandu Khan .	" .	Professional Sarangi Player, 12th December, 1935.
25	Burton Jones, Mr. .	Anglo-Indian.	Professional Violinist.
26	Brij Mohan .	Hindu .	Singer, 17th January, 1936.
27	Burt, Lady .	European .	Wife of the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
28	Cleeve, Major .	" .	Major, R. A. from Lucknow.
29	Clow, Mr. A. G. .	" .	Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour.
30	Cochan, Mr. I. .	" .	Lecturer, St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
31	Collins, Mr. F. C. .	" .	Organist, 19th January, 1936.
32	Crosthwaite, Mrs. H. S.	" .	Wife of H. S. Crosthwaite, Esq., Member, Public Service Commission, Government of India.
33	Cryan, Miss Amy .	" .	Librarian, Lady Hardinge Medical College.
34	De Mello, Mr.. .	" .	Proprietor, Northern India Transport Co. Ltd., Gwalior.
35	Doorlay, Professor .	" .	Professional Musician.

No.	Name.	Race or community.	Status.
36	Durga Bai . . .	Hindu .	Professional Singer, 4th December, 1935. 13th December, 1935. 16th December, 1935. 6th January, 1936. 14th January, 1936. 21st January, 1936. 3rd January, 1936.
37	Duval, Lawrence .	European .	Viceroy's Orchestra, 4th January, 1936. 14th January, 1936.
38	Edmunds, Mr. P. J.	" .	Director of Wireless Government of India, 28th January, 1936. 2nd February, 1936.
39	Ejaz Ali . . .	Muslim .	Professional Singer.
40	Ellwood, Mr. A. B.	European	Royal Air Force.
41	Faqiruddin . . .	Muslim .	Professional Singer, 1st January, 1936. 9th January, 1936. 1st February, 1936.
42	Faiyaz Khan . . .	" .	Court Musician, Baroda State.
43	Feroquddin . . .	" .	Singer.
44	Fusiliers, The Royal	European	Band attached to the Royal Fusiliers Regiment, Delhi, 7th January 1936. 15th January, 1936.
45	Do. Dance Band Grant, Mr. L. C. P.	" .	Personal Assistant, C. E. P. T. Posts and Telegraphs Department, Government of India.
46	Grigg, Lady . . .	" .	Wife of the Finance Member, Government of India.
47	Gulam Farid . . .	Muslim .	Singer, 21st December 1935. 8th January 1936. 6th January 1936.
48	Gul Mohammad . .	" .	Actor.
49	Hafiz Ali . . .	" .	Professional Singer.
50	Hafiz Mahboob Hussain.	" .	" "Hafiz".
51	Hasan Nizami . . .	" .	Editor, The Munadi, Delhi.
52	Hashmi, Dr. . . .	" .	Medical Practitioner.
53	Hill, Miss Norah .	European .	Organising Secretary the Indian Red Cross Society, Delhi.
54	Hira Bai . . .	Hindu .	Professional Singer.
55	Hyder Hussain . .	Muslim .	I. S. B. S. Orchestra.
56	Ibne Hussain . . .	" .	Professional Singer
57	Iqbal Putli . . .	" .	" " 4th January 1936. 15th January 1936. 9th December 1935.
58	Ishrat Rahmani . .	" .	" " " "
59	Jagesia, Miss Vishni	Hindu .	Amateur Musician.
60	Karrar Hussain . .	Muslim .	I. B. S. Orchestra.
61	Kasim Afghan . . .	" .	Court Musician, Kabul.
62	Khurshed . . .	" .	Professional Singer.
63	Klumper, Arthur . .	European .	" " " "
64	Kirkness, Mr. L. H.	European .	Secretary, Railway Board, Government of India.
65	Kirke Smith, Mr. A.	" .	Solicitor to the Government of India.
66	Kumar Bal Gandhar- va.	Hindu .	Professional Singer.
67	Lache Khan . . .	Muslim .	Employed on the Delhi, I. B. Orchestra.
68	Lachi Ram . . .	Hindu .	Professional Singer, 16th January 1936. 30th January 1936. 3rd February 1936.
69	Lad Babu . . .	" .	Government Servant.

No.	Name.	Race or Community.	Status.
70	Lachmi Dhar, Pandit Mahamahopadhyaya.	Hindu	Professor, St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
71	Lancers, King George's Own.	European.	Band attached to the 19th King George's Own Lancers, 17th January 1936.
72	Laxmi Bai, Mrs.	Hindu	Court Musician, Mysore, 6th January 1936.
73	Louis and His International Aces.	European	Delhi Club Band. 18th January 1936.
74	Majidan Bai	Muslim	Professional Singer, 7th December 1935. 1st January 1936. 1st February 1936.
75	Marina Hotel, Orchestra.	European	Orchestra attached to the Marina Hotel.
76	Manna	Muslim	Professional Singer.
77	Masum Ali	"	"
78	Maxborne, Mr.	European	Professor, University of Cambridge.
79	Maxwell, Captain	"	Comptroller of the Commander-in-Chief's Household.
80	Mir Mohammad Hussain.	Muslim	Secretary, Anglo-Arabic College, Committee.
81	Muhammad Sayeed	"	I. E. S. Retired.
82	Mukherji, Mr. S. N.	Indian	Principal, St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
83	Munni Bai	Hindu	Professional Singer.
84	Mushtari	Muslim	" " 11th December 1935. 7th January 1936.
85	Musavi, M. H.	"	Lecturer, Anglo-Arabic College, Delhi.
86	Naidu, Miss.	Hindu	Principal, Indraprastha Girls' School, Delhi.
87	Naushaba	Muslim	Professional Singer.
88	Nasiruddin	"	Court Musician—Indore.
89	Nazir Ahmad	"	
90	Nawab Jan	"	30th November 1935. 5th December 1935. 2nd January 1936. 11th January 1936.
91	Noguchi, Professor	Budhist	Japanese Poet.
92	Panna Bai	Hindu	Professional Musician.
93	Patwardhan, Professor.	"	Principal, School of Music, Poona.
94	Petrie, Sir David	European	Chairman, Public Service Commission, Government of India.
95	Punjab Regiment Band.	Indians	Military, 5th January 1936. 20th January 1936. 30th January 1936.
96	Quadratulla	Muslim	Musical Coach for the actors at the Delhi Station.
97	Qurban Ali	"	Actor at the Delhi Station.
98	Rafi, Begum	"	Wife of Mian Mohd. Rafi, Secretary, Legislative Assembly.
99	Rajjo Bai	Hindu	Professional Singer.
100	Ramzan Khan	Muslim	Do. 5th and 17th January 1936. 2nd February 1936.
101	Rashida Begum	"	Do.
102	Rashid Khan	"	Employed on the I. B. S. Orchestra at the Delhi Station.

No.	Names.	Race or Community.	Status.
103	Rawat, B. S. . .	Hindu .	Amateur Musician 2-11-35. 3-11-35. 14-11-35. 19-11-35. 22-11-35. 30-11-35. 2-12-35.
104	Richardson, Mr. B.	European .	Professor, St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
105	Robinson, Rev.	" .	Chaplain, Church of St. James, Delhi.
106	Roop Chand . .	Hindu .	Amateur Musician.
107	Ronaq Ali . .	Muslim .	Employed as an actor at the Delhi Station.
108	Ravinska, Madam *	European .	Professional Teacher.
109	Salamat . . .	Muslim .	" Singer.
110	Sardar Hussain .	" .	I. B. S. Orchestra, Delhi.
111	Shiv Charan . .	Hindu .	Employed as an actor at the Delhi Station.
112	Spear, Dr. T. G. P.	European .	Professor St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
113	Sudh Singh, Bhai .	Sikh .	Religious Singer.
114	Sudha Mathur, Miss	Hindu .	Amateur.
115	Swinstead, N. H. .	European .	O. S. D. Posts and Telegraphs, Directorate.
116	Syed Mohammad .	Muslim .	Lecturer, Anglo-Arabic College, Delhi.
117	Tait, Mr. G. T. .	European .	Central Publicity Officer, Railway Board.
118	Tait, Mrs. . . .	" .	Wife of Mr. G. T. Tait, Central Publicity Officer, Railway Board.
119	Taj Mohammad .	Muslim .	Employed as an actor at the Delhi Station.
120	Tymms, Mr. F. .	European .	Director, Civil Aviation Government of India.
121	Viceroy's Orchestra	" .	His Excellency's Orchestra.
122	Vaidyanathaswami, Dr.	Hindu .	Professor, Madras University.
123	Wazir Khan . .	Muslim .	Professional Singer 17-12-35. 7-1-36. 29-1-36.
124	Weingast, Josef .	European .	Professional Orchestra.
125	Wilson, Miss . .	" .	Amateur.
126	Woodhouse, Lt. Colo- nel, H. L.	" .	Director, Civil Engineering, Railway Board.
127	Young, Dr. Ruth .	" .	Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical College.
128	Zahiruddin . .	Muslim .	Employed at the Delhi Station as an actor, 20-1-36. 8-1-36.
129	Zar, Pandit T. N. .	Hindu .	Lecturer, Indraprastha Girls' College, Delhi.
130	Zinda Haasan . .	Muslim .	Professional Singer.
131	Zohra Zan . . .	" .	Do. 2-1-36 11-1-36 17-1-36 & 2-2-36.

\*Cancelled owing to the death of His Late Majesty King George V.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if it is a fact that five relations of one family are employed in this station?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** That is not a fact.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if it is a fact that the present Director is leaving this post as a protest against employing members of one family in this broadcasting station?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** That statement is absolutely incorrect.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if a new member has been invited belonging to the same family from Lahore Government College.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** There are a number of questions on the list on this particular point which I shall be answering later on.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** With reference to part (b) of the question, will Government also be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing similar information with regard to the broadcasting stations at Bombay and Calcutta.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I do not think that arises, but if my Honourable friend will put down a question, I shall be glad to consider it.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** It will counterbalance the whole thing, and I think it will show the real state of affairs in this department.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I have nothing to hide and I have no objection to placing on the table similar statements with regard to Calcutta and Bombay, if the Honourable Member will put down a question.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Who makes the selections of the artists and who settles the amount of their fees?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Primarily the Station Director. If he needs any advice, he takes the advice of the Controller of Broadcasting.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know what is the standard in fixing fees for the artists?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I require notice of that question.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if the fees paid to the artists are not shared by the members of the staff of the Broadcasting station?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** That question involves an absolutely unfounded insinuation.

#### USE OF ARABIC AND PERSIAN WORDS IN THE DELHI BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

808. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the various press criticisms that have appeared from time to time regarding the profuse use of Arabic and Persian words in the Delhi Broadcasting announcements and the difficulty of the general public in following them?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether in making appointments to the Delhi Broadcasting Station they took note of the fact that the Station will serve a very large area, including the Provinces of the Punjab, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa and Rajputana, and that the Hindustani language to be used at the station should be intelligible to this vast area?

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

(b) The Delhi Station will serve a very much smaller area than the Honourable Member supposes, for the direct ray of a 20 k. w. station, which alone can be relied upon to give a constant day and night service, at all seasons, extends only for 70-80 miles from the Station. Reception at longer ranges—extending to 600 miles and, with highly selective receiving sets even more—is possible only under favourable conditions (e.g., in the cold weather during the night). The language question was borne in mind when the appointments were made to the Delhi Station, and the simplest form of Hindustani, intelligible to the majority of listeners within the service area, is and will be employed.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the series of letters that have been published on this subject in the *Hindustan Times*?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I have no doubt whatever that the Controller of Broadcasting has seen them and taken them into consideration.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Are Government aware that some of these letters proceeded from gentlemen who were rejected and who were not taken into service?

#### ELIMINATION OF NAUTCH GIRLS FROM THE STAFF OF THE DELHI BROADCASTING STATION.

**809. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the public feeling in India against *nautch* girls and professional singers being patronised by a State service and do they propose to take steps to eliminate such so-called artists from being engaged by the Delhi Broadcasting Station?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Government are not aware of any general feeling on the subject. There is not at any rate at present, sufficient amateur talent available to fill a broadcast programme.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Are Government aware that an Honourable Member of this House has consented to broadcast his singing on Sunday next?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I believe that several Honourable Members of this House have broadcasted on various items, including the Honourable Member on the Honourable Member's right.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Does the Honourable Member know that the Sat Sri Guru Sabha in the Punjab and the Arya Samaj in the whole of India have been trying for the last six years to eliminate the *nautch* girls from the social circle. Is not the employment of *nautch* girls in the broadcasting station intended to undo the reform which has been brought about at such heavy cost and labour?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** My Honourable friend is entering into an argument.



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION OF BROADCASTING PROGRAMMES  
AND ARTISTS.**

**810. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to set up a non-official advisory committee for advising the Broadcasting authorities on the nature of programmes to be broadcast and the type of artists who should be engaged for the purpose?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** The question of the appointment of advisory committees is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

**CONTRACT FOR THE INDIAN COASTAL AND OTHER MAIL SERVICES.**

**811. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there exists a contract between the Secretary of State in Council and the British India Steam Navigation Company for the Indian coastal and other mail services?

(b) When was the contract first entered into?

(c) How many times has the contract been renewed from time to time?

(d) When was the contract last renewed?

(e) When does the current one expire?

(f) Do the Government of India or the Secretary of State, call for tenders for the contract of mail services around and for the coastal services of India before finally entering into an agreement?

(g) What is the present system under which the best and cheapest firm is chosen for giving the contracts?

(h) Were any Indian shipping companies called upon to quote their rates of services at any time? If so, were they unsatisfactory, and if so, on what grounds?

(i) For what length of period do Government contemplate renewing the contract with the British Indian Steam Navigation Company, which was to expire on the 31st January, 1936?

(j) Is it a fact that the Secretary of State in Council has been making arrangements for an extension of 14 months from 1st February, 1936?

(k) Do Government propose to arrange to represent the case of the Indian Shipping interests for consideration to give them a chance of quoting their service rates, for some lines if not all, in case they can render such services to the State? If not, will Government state their reasons therefor?

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

(b) The existing contract was entered into with effect from the 1st February, 1924.

(c) Twice.

(d) With effect from the 1st February, 1936.

(e) The renewed contract is due to expire on the 31st March, 1937.

(f) Yes.

(g) The tender system.

(h) All companies including Indian companies were invited to tender. No tenders were received from Indian companies in connection with the contract granted from the 1st February, 1924.

(i) and (j). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to part (a) of the reply given in this House to Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra's starred question No. 80 on the 5th February, 1936.

(k) If and when tenders are called for in future, it will be open to Indian companies to tender and their claims will be fully considered.

#### DISCRIMINATION IN FREIGHTS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

**812. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the distance between Howrah and Bombay, as well as between Cawnpore and Bombay respectively, by rail;
- (b) the railway freight charged on cotton from Howrah to Bombay, as also from Bombay to Cawnpore respectively;
- (c) whether the freight on cotton charged from Howrah to Bombay is less than that which is charged from Bombay to Cawnpore;
- (d) the distance from Lyallpur to Cawnpore by rail;
- (e) the distance between Lyallpur and Benares by rail;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the railway freight charged on cotton from Lyallpur to Cawnpore is nearly double that charged to Bombay;
- (g) whether the freight charged on cotton from Lyallpur to Benares is nearly two-thirds of that at which it is conveyed to Cawnpore;
- (h) if so, the principle behind the discrimination in freights irrespective of distances;
- (i) whether it is a fact that freights charged on bones, tobacco and many other articles on the East Indian Railway are generally higher than on many foreign railways?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** (a) 1,221 and 839.

(b) Re. 1-8-0 and Rs. 2-8-8.

(c) Yes.

(d) 659 miles.

(e) 837 miles.

(f) No. The rate to Cawnpore is Rs. 2-0-6 and to Bombay Rs. 3-3-5.

(g) No. The rate to Benares Cantonment is Rs. 2-9-5 and to Cawnpore Rs. 2-0-6.

(h) While distance is an important factor in determining the rate charged, there are other considerations which also have a material bearing on the actual quotations.

(i) No. On the contrary, the scale of rates on the East Indian Railway for many commodities is, if anything, generally lower than on many other railways.

**Seth Govind Das:** What are the other considerations which compel the Government to discriminate these rates?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** For one thing, there is the sea route competition.

**Seth Govind Das:** Are Government aware that, on account of this discrimination in freights, there is difficulty in inter-provincial trade?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** If the Honourable Member will mention any specific cases over which the difficulty arises, I might consider it, but it is difficult to answer a general question like that.

#### DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE SECTIONS OF THE INDIAN TARIFF ACT.

**813. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will Government be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether they are aware that the Collectors of Customs in different provinces and ports interpret sections of the Tariff Act in different ways, thereby giving rise to the imposition of different duties on the same category of goods;
- (b) whether, to avoid this anomaly, they are devising ways and means; if so, what they are?

**Mr. A. H. Lloyd:** Articles which are not specifically mentioned in the tariff may appear to fall under more than one of the tariff heads and in consequence may be assessed differently at different ports. Such cases, however, are not of frequent occurrence and when they are brought to notice a ruling is given by the Central Board of Revenue.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE STOREKEEPERS IN THE ALAMBAGH CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS, LUCKNOW.

**814. \*Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Is it a fact that the Store Keepers in the Loco. Shops, Charbagh, Lucknow, enjoy clerical grades with attendant privileges, while those in the Carriage and Wagon Shops Alambagh, Lucknow, are fixed on daily rates of pay? If so, why? Is it a fact that both the shops work under one and the same authority in the same locality and under the same conditions and with the same amount of responsibility?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration which are within the power of the Agent to decide.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Does not the Honourable Member think that it is rather a hardship, the circumstances being what they are?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** No, Sir, I do not think so. I have no reason to think that there is a hardship because, if there were any hardship, it would have been brought to the notice of the Agent and received due attention.

**Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** The conditions being the same, does not the Honourable Member think that he might make inquiries into this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I have already said I do not propose to inquire.

**CONGESTION OF THE BREAK-UP YARD IN THE ALAMBAGH CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS, LUCKNOW.**

**815. \*Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that the break up yard in Carriage and Wagon Shops, Alambagh, Lucknow, is too much congested and that space as allotted to each workman under the Factory Act is not provided, with the result that accidents very frequently occur?

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

(i) Staff as existed in the break up yard on 1st April, 1935, and 1st November, 1935, respectively;

(ii) wagons stabled each week during the seven months. i.e., from 1st April, 1935, to 31st October, 1935, and broken in the break up yard;

(iii) space provided with shelter in the break up yard;

(iv) total space in the break up yard, excluding the Stores Reclaim yard;

(v) accidents, with descriptions, that occurred in the break up yard, from 1st April, 1935 to 31st October, 1935, whether (1) simple, (2) serious, (3) fatal, (4) slight, i.e., when employees were returned to duty within 48 hours, (5) total amount paid due to hurt on duty, (6) amount still to be paid, (7) total amount of compensation paid due to serious injuries according to the Act, and (8) the amount still to be paid?

(c) Are Government prepared to advise the Chief Inspector of Factories, United Provinces, Cawnpore, to visit the place and assure himself that the Factory Act is being complied with in the Carriage and Wagon Shops, Alambagh, Lucknow?

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

(b) I am placing a statement on the table.

(c) The Chief Inspector of Factories inspected the workshops in November, 1935, and, I understand, was satisfied with the position generally. He also commented favourably on the measures that had been adopted to prevent accidents.

*Statement.*

- (i) 1st April, 1935 . . . . . 148  
 1st November, 1935 . . . . . 246  
 (ii) No wagons were stabled. The number broken up was as follows :

Week ending (1935).	No.	Week ending (1935).	No.	Week ending (1935).	No.
6th April . . . . .	5	15th June . . . . .	Nil.	24th August . . . . .	22
13th April . . . . .	Nil.	22nd June . . . . .	5	31st August . . . . .	61
20th April . . . . .	4	29th June . . . . .	8	7th September . . . . .	9
27th April . . . . .	8	6th July . . . . .	Nil.	14th September . . . . .	16
4th May . . . . .	Nil.	13th July . . . . .	11	21st September . . . . .	6
11th May . . . . .	7	20th July . . . . .	21	28th September . . . . .	18
18th May . . . . .	6	27th July . . . . .	30	5th October . . . . .	Nil.
25th May . . . . .	16	3rd August . . . . .	Nil.	12th October . . . . .	6
1st June . . . . .	Nil.	10th August . . . . .	43	19th October . . . . .	15
8th June . . . . .	6	17th August . . . . .	Nil.	31st October . . . . .	6

(iii) 194 feet by 68½ feet.

(iv) The total ground area, including the sheltered space, is approximately 25,000 sq. feet.

(v) Simple . . . . .	8
Serious . . . . .	1
Fatal . . . . .	Nil.
Slight . . . . .	43
The total amount paid due to hurt on duty . . . . .	Rs. 267
The total amount still to be paid . . . . .	Nil.
The total amount of compensation paid . . . . .	Rs. 387
The total amount of compensation still to be paid . . . . .	Rs. 592

SUPPLY OF MILK TO THE DETENUS AT DEOLI.

816. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to make an enquiry and state what the arrangement is for the supply of milk for the detenues at Deoli?

(b) Is it a fact that no fresh milk is available at Deoli, but stale milk is supplied, which is injurious to the health of the detenues?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to give one reply to questions Nos. 816, 817 and 818.

Inquiries have been made and a reply will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

DETENUS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS AT DEOLI.

†817. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) How many detenues, now detained, at Deoli are suffering from tuberculosis?

(b) Is it a fact that the T. B. patients at Deoli have not been segregated from other detenues?

(c) What arrangements have Government made for the treatment of detenues suffering from T. B. at Deoli?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 816.

## FACILITIES FOR TREATMENT OF DETENU ALOKENATH CHAKRAVARTI.

†818. \***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) When was Mr. Alokcnath Chakravarti sent to Deoli Detention Camp?

(b) Is it a fact that at the time of his arrest, he was suffering from stiff neck, which resulted in the displacement of his neck muscle and shoulder muscles?

(c) What treatment is he getting for this disease, and what is his present state of health?

(d) Is he still in the Ajmere Hospital? If not, when was he removed and was it after his recovery?

(e) Is it a fact that Mr. Alokcnath Chakravarti was under the treatment of Dr. Ajit K. Bose, the X-ray expert of Calcutta, and that the treatment was continued by correspondence even after his arrest? Has the treatment been stopped now?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the question of providing him facilities for electric treatment with Dr. Ghose or any other expert?

## EXTENSIONS GRANTED TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX OF BOMBAY AND BIHAR AND ORISSA.

819. \***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Is it not the declared policy of Government that extensions should not be granted to officers who have put in more than 30 years' service by virtue of superannuation?

(b) Is it not a fact that the present Commissioners of Income-tax of Bombay and Bihar and Orissa, who have put in more than 30 years' service and have also attained the age of superannuation, are on extension?

(c) Are Government aware that this variance between profession and practice has caused grave injustice to many a deserving officer in the Income-tax Department and serious disparagement to many more?

(d) Are Government prepared to terminate this state of affairs by withdrawing the extensions forthwith and by observing a consistent policy in future?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). I certainly am not prepared to give any sort of promise not to grant extensions of service in cases where it seems to me to be necessary in the public interest. Nor can I admit that in acting in the public interest we are doing injustice to any individual. So far as I know, no public servant has a prescriptive right of promotion to a particular post.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** With reference to the answer to clause (a) of the question, may I know whether Government have come to any conclusion that extensions may be granted to officers, even after they have attained thirty years' service?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 816.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** The rule refers to fifty-five years of age and not thirty years' service.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government consider the suggestion, in view of the considerations put down in this question with regard to the need for encouraging promotions and for mitigating to some extent the grave unemployment in the country, that they may make a rule that after thirty years a man should be compulsorily retired, save and except in the imperative interests of the public service in any individual case, where his services ought to be retained?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** That virtually amounts to the substitution of fifty-five years for the existing rule: and I want to make it quite clear that, where I do think it is in the interests of the public service, I will give extensions whatever the consequences of that may be to the people below.

#### PROHIBITORY ORDERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONGRESS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

820. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Are Government aware that certain Provincial Governments had issued prohibitory orders in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Congress?

(b) Did Government issue any instructions regarding the policy to be followed by the various Local Governments towards Jubilee celebrations? If so, will Government lay on the table a copy of those instructions?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) No prohibitory orders were issued by Provincial Governments, unless the Honourable Member construes as "prohibitory orders" instructions which were issued by certain Provincial Governments to the effect that it was improper for local bodies to identify themselves with the aims of a single political party, and that it was undesirable and in some cases illegal for local bodies to expend the taxpayer's money on celebrations in honour of a political party.

(b) Local Governments were given a free hand to take such action as they considered necessary to deal with breaches of the law, if any occurred during the Congress Jubilee celebrations.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Are Government aware that a gentleman, on the morning of the Congress Golden Jubilee Day, was arrested at Amroha (district Moradabad) and shut up for a whole day in a slaughter house, not even in a police station because he was starting a *Prabhat Pheri* procession?

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

**Mr. Satyamurti:** With regard to clause (b) of the question, may I know if, to the knowledge of the Government of India, any breaches of the law occurred anywhere in the country, in connection with the Congress Golden Jubilee celebrations?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** There was a serious breach of the law in Calcutta.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh:** Is the Honourable Member aware that, in the Poona district and in the Ahmednagar district of the Bombay Presidency, several men and boys were arrested, the Congress flags were taken down and the placards were put down in connection with the Congress Jubilee celebrations?

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

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Member aware that, in several parts of Bengal, processions were banned and that the police interfered with the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Indian National Congress?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** No, Sir, though I am aware of allegations being made.

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Is the Honourable Member aware that, in the district of Manbhum in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, great atrocities were committed by the police in connection with the Congress Jubilee celebrations?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I am aware that allegations to that effect were made, but investigation proved that they were without any foundation whatever.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Member aware that, in the district of Comilla in Bengal, in Chittagong and in other places, the police actively interfered with the Congress Golden Jubilee celebrations?

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

#### PERSONS REFUSED PASSPORTS FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

821. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all persons who were refused passports for going to foreign countries during the last two years?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of them had applied for passports for reasons of health?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

#### CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING GRANT OF PASSPORTS.

822. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have issued any confidential instructions to Local Governments regarding grant of passports? If so, under what law?



**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies given by me on the 20th September, last to his question No. 557 and the supplementary questions. The instructions are not statutory, but executive.

**REASONS FOR REFUSAL OF PASSPORTS.**

823. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that while refusing passports, they do not disclose any reasons for the refusal?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Yes.

**FINAL AUTHORITY IN THE MATTER OF PASSPORTS.**

824. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state which is the final authority in the matter of passports and what remedy, if any, an aggrieved person has in case of even grossly unjustifiable order?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Local Governments and other Passport Issuing authorities in India are competent to grant or refuse a passport and the decision in the matter is generally left to their discretion. An aggrieved person can make a representation to the Government of India.

**REASONS FOR NOT ALLOWING MR. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE TO VISIT ENGLAND.**

825. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which B. Subhash Chandra Bose is not allowed to visit England?

(b) Do similar restrictions exist in regard to his visit to any other European country? If so, which?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if the aforesaid restrictions have been imposed at their instance, or at the instance of the British Government?

(d) How long will these restrictions remain in force?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a)—(d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies given by me on the 6th and 18th February, to Mr. Satyamurti's and Seth Govind Das' questions Nos. 101 and 542, respectively, and to the supplementaries to the former question. The new passport referred to in the reply to question No. 542 has, I understand, been endorsed for all countries in Europe, except Great Britain.

**REFUSAL OF PASSPORT TO MR. SAIGAL, FORMERLY PROPRIETOR OF THE CHAND PRESS, ALLAHABAD.**

826. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it a fact that Mr. Saigal, formerly the proprietor of the Chand Press, Allahabad, has been refused passports several times? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for doing so?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Mr. Saigal has applied for passport facilities on three occasions so far as I am aware. Such facilities were refused by the Local Government in view of his past activities and since it was considered undesirable, in view of his record, to permit him to go abroad.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it not the purpose of a passport to afford protection to a national travelling abroad, or can the right of granting or rejecting a passport be used to punish a man whom Government do not like?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The object of a passport is to invite the representatives of His Majesty's Government abroad to give protection to their nationals, and no person can claim a passport as of right. A passport is a privilege.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Why is the right to grant of a passport used for penal purposes in India?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** It is not used for penal purposes; a passport is occasionally refused to a person whose presence abroad is considered a danger to the realm.

**An Honourable Member:** So he is a danger to the realm!

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is not a person refused a passport simply because Government do not like his political activities, and does not that mean that it is used for penal purposes?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I suggest that that question contains an argument and an innuendo.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What are the considerations on which Government come to the conclusion that particular persons are a danger to the realm in foreign countries?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** On a consideration of their past record and activities.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** What realm? The realm of India or the realm of the place in which the man is travelling? Danger to what realm?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** His Majesty's empire.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** And not to Italy, for instance? Do Government consider that the presence of a person, who has been refused a passport to Italy, would be a danger to Italy, or does his presence there constitute a danger to the British Empire?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Danger to the British Empire.

#### • MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

REFLECTIONS BY THE HONOURABLE THE FINANCE MEMBER ON THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS ADMITTED BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT.

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the House from 12 Noon. Sardar Sant Singh. He wants to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the Honourable the Finance Member taking advantage of the question time yesterday in the House in his answers, in casting reflections on the Members of the

House with regard to certain questions admitted by the Honourable the President thereby intending to deprive Members of their right to put questions in conformity with the Standing Orders and Rules of the House subject only to disallowance by the President.

I wish to know from the Honourable Member, **Sardar Sant Singh**, as to whether the Honourable the Finance Member refused to answer any question or whether he only cast any reflection on certain Members of the House. Does the Honourable Member complain that the Honourable the Finance Member refused to answer questions put in the House?

**Sardar Sant Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): Not that he refused to answer the question, but that he utilised the time which was meant to give information to Honourable Members on the questions asked, in reading out some sermon to his own Department and calling some names . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I should like to know the exact words in the answers which he is complaining against.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: May I draw your attention to question No. 771 on the paper before the House today. In answering parts (b) and (c) of question No. 771, the Honourable the Finance Member said:

"No cases have been brought to my notice, except those mentioned in this question, and, in my view, the Deputy Secretary in those cases did not use language of the nature suggested. In fact the suggestion contained in part (c) of the question is a misrepresentation of what occurred."

On an enquiry being made by my Honourable friend, **Mr. Sham Lal**, as to what was it that actually happened and what was the misrepresentation . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the Honourable Member's complaint in the answer to parts (b) and (c)?

**Sardar Sant Singh**: I am coming to that point, Sir. To the question of **Mr. Sham Lal** as to what actually happened and what is the misrepresentation, the reply of the Honourable the Finance Member was:

"The Honourable Member had better go and find that out from where he got his last information."

Then, in answer to parts (e) and (f) of the same question, this is the reply of the Honourable the Finance Member:

"The suggestion made in these two parts is a most gross misrepresentation of what actually occurred. But in any case I may point out that the disclosure to outsiders of the contents of official files is a gross breach of the Conduct Rules."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the complaint of the Honourable Member against this answer?

**Sardar Sant Singh**: I am taking you, Sir, step by step. The objectionable matter comes down below in answer to parts (h), (i) and (j):

"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some Honourable Members giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

from subordinate Government servants. In so far as I am personally concerned, I propose to record a censure on the documents of all officers serving in my Department who ventilate their grievances in this way. In suitable cases, I shall take even stronger action. In my view one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India is the habit of invoking political assistance in the interests of individual Government servants."

This is the portion I object.

My objection is based on these facts. According to rule 8 (1) of the Indian Legislative Rules, it is laid down:

"A question may be asked for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern within the special cognisance of the Member to whom it is addressed."

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** (Finance Member): Special cognisance.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The Honourable Member's case is bad enough; let him not make it worse.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: Again, Sir, in rule 7 of the Indian Legislative Rules, it is laid down:

"The President may, within the period of notice, disallow any question or any part of a question on the ground that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council, and if he does so, the question or part of the question shall not be placed on the list of questions."

Then, Sir, there is a proviso to Rule 8 which restricts the rights of Honourable Members of this House in asking questions. My point is, that the power of disallowing questions vests in the Honourable the President and the President alone. As soon as a question has been admitted by the Honourable the President, it becomes the duty of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches to give a reply if they care to do so. I know, Sir, that nobody can compel the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches to reply to any question, but the remedy lies in the hands of Honourable Members of this House to censure the Government if they refuse to reply or if their reply is not considered satisfactory by the House, by moving the adjournment of the House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Do you concede that it is open to any Member of the Government not to reply to any question?

**Sardar Sant Singh**: Quite.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is so, can they give any reason for not answering a question.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: For refusing to answer a question, no. As the rules prohibit asking for opinion, similarly, on their side, the Government are barred from entering into any question in replying which is not strictly relevant to the question asking for information. Here two things have

been done. One is that the Honourable the Finance Member has preached a sermon to his own Department which was not his function, and that information was not asked for by any Honourable Member of this House. The second was that he preached a sermon to the Honourable Members of this House and charged them with a habit of asking questions which are not based upon facts. These two charges in reply to individual questions are in my opinion very improper, and, unless amends are made to this House, I think I am entitled to move this motion in the interest of protecting the rights and,—if I may use the word,—the privileges of the Members of this House.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): Sir, may I just add a word about it? I think we may look at it from another point of view also. The answer of the Honourable Member was not merely a reflection on the Members of this House, but also on the Chair.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** That is for the Chair to look after, not you.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** It is our right; he is our President, not yours alone.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** It is definitely a reflection on the Members of this House and on the Chair. It is a reflection on the Chair inasmuch as the Honourable Member suggested that the President was guilty of allowing a question which was improper and which ought not to have been allowed.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has he said that? That is what I want to know.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** He says in so many words that Honourable Members are in the habit of raising improper questions and the Chair is allowing those questions. I think this is a matter which is of very serious importance to this House, and we must enter a strong protest against it.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Sir, of course, I need not say that if there was in anything which I said yesterday any reflection upon the Chair, that I unhesitatingly withdraw but I deny . . . .

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Why "if"?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Because I deny that there was any reflection on the Chair at all. Let me read from a ruling of a previous President when a precisely similar question was raised in regard to questions of this malicious character. I quote from page 357 of the Selection from Decisions where the President said:

"A more proper way of drawing attention of this House to the working of any Department is to move a resolution in that Department demand or to move a Resolution. I observe from the supplementary questions that have been asked that there is a certain amount of feeling in the House regarding the Honourable Member's questions. I may say I considered the matter very carefully before admitting any of these questions as to whether they were matters of public concern. I gave the Honourable Member the benefit of the doubt. I would, however, add that I hope every Member of this House, when he proceeds to ask questions about individuals, will exercise more than usual caution in not casting a reflection upon individuals unless he is very sure of his ground."

[Sir James Grigg.]

In other words, the President has placed upon the Members of this House themselves the onus of satisfying themselves as to the truth of their allegations. And, therefore, if I complain, that certain allegations made in this House are misrepresentations, I am not casting any reflections upon the President but upon the Member who made the misrepresentations. That is the only point which appears to be raised by my Honourable friend that I am making reflections upon you.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is one point; the other is that reflections were made on the House.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Yes, Sir, let me go on. In answer to parts (b) and (c) my reply was:

"No cases have been brought to my notice except those mentioned in this question, and, in my view, the Deputy Secretary in those cases did not use language of the nature suggested. In fact the suggestion contained in part (c) of the question is a misrepresentation of what occurred."

Part (c) of the question purports to be a quotation or at any rate a summary of what is contained in an official file. How did the Honourable Member get access to that official file? Will he answer me that?

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Why should he?

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How do you get access to our letters?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** How did the Honourable Member get access to that file? It could only have been disclosed to him by the civil servant on whose behalf . . .

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Sir, I rise on a point of order. I thought you were asking the Honourable the Finance Member to answer the points raised by my Honourable friend, the Mover of this adjournment motion. He is only using this opportunity to repeat the offence again, and asking the Honourable Member as to how he got it. I submit that this is not the occasion for him to go into that, but he is only to answer the questions raised in this motion; and he must, therefore, be asked to confine himself to the scope of the discussion now.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it, the Honourable Member will confine himself to answering the question I put to him as regards the statement that this answer contained a reflection on some Honourable Members who put questions.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** If what I said yesterday is a reflection upon Honourable Members, I stick to it; and let me read out a previous case on which there was no fuss like this at all. (*Cries of "Shame, shame."*)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. It is not a Parliamentary expression, and I must ask Honourable Members not to indulge in it. It is only fair that Honourable Members should listen to what the Honourable the Finance Member has got to say in explanation of what he meant to say yesterday.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: Sir, I may submit that he is not explaining; he is repeating the offence.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He is trying to give his explanation and it is only right that Honourable Members should listen to his explanation.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg**: Here is a quotation from an answer to a series of questions put by an Honourable Member of this House. The answer was given by one of my colleagues. About a dozen questions containing numerous allegations were put down of which I think about eight were disallowed and four were answered.

"With your permission I propose to answer questions Nos. 328, 329, 330 and 332 together (*vide* Legislative Assembly Debates, page 3376 of 7th April, 1934.) These contain a number of assertions of misconduct on the part of a particular officer, some of the assertions relating to alleged instances several years ago. Government have no information on any of the points raised, but as two of the assertions were particularly specific and gave dates and details, these have been investigated. The result of the inquiries into the allegations in parts (d) and (e) of question No. 329 shows that they are without foundation."

Then, there is further material to show how they are without foundation.

"In the circumstances, Government do not propose to pursue the other allegations, unless the Honourable Member is prepared to produce the evidence on the basis of which he has made himself responsible for the assertions."

Not a word was said about insulting the House or that Honourable Member, either by himself or by any one else. And it seems to me that a mere statement that some Honourable Members have put forward allegations which are untrue is no reflection upon the House but only upon those Members who do it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): A suggestion was made by Sardar Sant Singh who wants to move this motion that one of the answers of the Honourable the Finance Member, to a question put to him yesterday, was a reflection on the ruling of the Chair in this matter that is to say, admitting the question itself. So far as that is concerned, the Honourable the Finance Member has said that he did not mean to pass any such reflection on the Chair, and I accept that explanation. As regards the other allegation that in one of his answers he meant to cast a reflection on some Honourable Member of the House in saying that he was giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints from subordinate Government servants, I do think that, since his answer has been construed by some of the Honourable Members as a reflection on them, perhaps the Honourable the Finance Member will consider whether some explanation is not due to the Members who take that view.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** For my guidance, I would like to know which Honourable Member you would wish me to make an explanation to.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I simply wanted to know whether the Honourable Member really meant to cast any reflection on any Member of this House.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Here is a question which could only have been asked either if the Honourable Member had access to an official file or if an individual Government servant who had access to that official file had given him the information. The questions refer specifically to certain contents of official files. Surely, Sir, I am entitled to say that that information must have been obtained by improper means—either improper on the Honourable Member's part or improper on the part of those who gave him the information.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** The objection is to the words "habit of some Honourable Members to ask such questions".

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I can give other instances, if necessary.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is the attitude of the Honourable Member on the point, I think the matter will have to be discussed. (Hear, hear and Applause.) It will be taken up at 4 o'clock.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** May I ask whether the question is to be discussed on the purely narrow basis of the allegation made against some Honourable Member?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes, certainly, with reference to this sentence:

"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some Honourable Members . . ."

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai** (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): And the very last sentence of the statement.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has disclaimed any reflection.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** This is the sentence:

"In suitable cases, I should take even stronger action. In my view one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India is the habit of invoking political assistance in the interests of individual Government servants."

That is about the worst reflection that can ever be made on any House.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I would also like to invite your attention to this sentence:

"In so far as I personally am concerned, I propose to record a censure on the documents of all officers serving in my Department who ventilate their grievances in this way."



**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is within his rights.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant:** The President will perhaps be pleased to see my point of view. What I am submitting is this. This is a breach of privilege of this House. It is open to a Member to put any question under the rules. Under the rules, it is open to me to put a question in this House with a view to inviting the attention of Government to the grievance of any individual Government servant.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have considered that.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant:** My submission is this. By this threat you prevent the people concerned from exercising the right which they possess under the law and me from putting questions which under the law and the rules, as they exist today, and which have been framed for this purpose, entitle me to do. I submit it is a question of breach of privilege and we must be allowed to discuss it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think it is perfectly clear to me that if any officer disclosed information, which he is not entitled to disclose,

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant:** It is not that. The sentence is:

"In so far as I personally am concerned, I propose to record a censure on the documents of all officers serving in my Department who ventilate their grievances in this way."

Not on the documents of those who disclosed the contents of documents, but of those who seek the assistance of Members of the House for the ventilation of their grievances.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have given my ruling. The motion will be discussed on the two points already mentioned.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

**Secretary of the Assembly:** Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State:

"I am directed to inform you that the Bill to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of persons employed in industry, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on Friday, the 14th February, 1936, was passed by the Council of State at its meeting held on the 24th February, 1936, with the following amendments, namely:

1. In the proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 8, for the words in brackets the following words were substituted, namely:

'that is to say, without giving the notice which is required under the terms of their contracts of employment.'

2. In the proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 9, for the figures '13' the word 'eight' was substituted.

3. In the proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 8, the words 'contract or' were omitted.

The Council of State requests the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in the amendments."

Sir, I lay on the table the Bill, as amended by the Council of State.

## THE RAILWAY BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

### DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD—*contd.*

#### *Stores Purchase Policy—contd.*

**Pandit Nilakantha Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I was speaking on the Standardization Department. So far as it relates to purchase of stores, I am not against either central purchase of stores or standardization as such, but, unfortunately, placed as we are, all these good institutions sometimes go against us.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another motion which is to begin at 12-30. The Chair does not think it is any use the Honourable Member proceeding further, but he can go on till 12-30.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das**: I am beginning at 12-30.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Is it 12-40 or 12-30? If it is 12-30, the Honourable Member won't proceed further.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has 12-30 as the time for the Congress Nationalists to move their motion.

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#### *Grievances of Third Class Passengers.*

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I move this motion in order to discuss the grievances of third class passengers. This question has practically become a hardy annual. This matter is being discussed year in and year out for so many years—the very old grievance of the third class passengers. I find one difficulty in presenting the case of third class passengers: a difficulty which, as a lawyer, I have always felt in arguing a case which is so good that there is hardly anything for discussion, a case in which the other side almost confesses judgment: that is a case which it is very difficult to argue. There is one other difficulty in discussing this matter, and that is the difficulty that this is a thrice told tale. There is hardly anything on this question which I can add profitably and without being guilty of repetition. I find that even in 1903, Sir Thomas Robertson, Special Railway Commissioner, who was asked to go into the question very carefully, discussed the long-standing grievances of third class passengers and he recommended that special measures must be adopted to redress those grievances. Then, I find that in 1916, the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India, in submitting the reports of the Pilgrim Committees, made these remarks:

"The Government of India can hardly be aware of the amount of ill-feeling and ill-will towards themselves that these two conditions [*viz.*, (1) overcrowding of ordinary trains and pilgrim specials, and (2) the use of goods wagons to carry pilgrims] engender."

Then, there was the Railway Committee of 1920-21. There, again, it was said :

"The view has been urged upon us that the third class passengers suffer relatively more than other users of the railways from the lack of adequate facilities, and that, though they contribute by far the greater part of the coaching earnings and nearly one-third of the entire railway revenue, their requirements have received less attention than those of the organised traders and more vocal classes of passengers. There is a strong feeling on the part of the Indian public that the improvement of the conditions under which the mass of the passengers travel has a priority claim."

This strong feeling has existed for so many years, and so far as this Legislature is concerned that feeling is being given expression to year after year for so many years; but I do not know how far we are within reach of the solution of this problem.

I am anxious to say one thing about these third class passengers and that is this: that it is these third class passengers who are really the masters and patrons of the railway administration. *Minus* these third class passengers the railway administration is reduced to nil. There is nothing left. So far as the passenger traffic is concerned, it is the third class passengers who contribute the largest revenue. If we are to consider the matter, there are two tests: first is the test of numbers, and then the test of the amount of earnings. So far as earnings go, I find that the earnings in 1934-35, from third class passengers, is about nine times the income from the first, second and intermediate class passengers, all put together—I do not give the figures because it will take time. Similarly, I find that as regards the number of passengers, the number of third class passengers is thirty times the number of all the other classes put together. If we adopt another test, that is, as regards the expenses incurred for third class seats and for first and second class seats, the figures were given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, last year and the figures were not controverted: he showed that for each third class seat the amount expended was Rs. 260, while it earned Rs. 240: and for each first class and one and a half second class seat we have to spend Rs. 4,000, and we earn only Rs. 550. That being so it cannot be said that there is any exaggeration when I say that the third class passengers are the patrons and masters, the clients and the real customers of the railway administration. You cannot possibly carry on the railway administration with the first and second class passengers only or, for that matter, with the intermediate class passengers also.

The main grievance of which I complain in this matter is the excessively high rate of fares. The rate is excessive. That is not seriously disputed by the railway administration. In fact we have been told that they want to introduce a reduction and in fact did introduce a reduction in third class fares in some isolated parts of some one or two systems. But the objection raised by the Honourable the Commerce Member last year and repeated yesterday by him is that the experiment of a reduction in the fares of third class passengers has resulted in some loss of revenue, but to that my reply is that the experiment has not been tried for a sufficiently long period. Instead of taking up the time of this House by giving my own views on his matter, may I, Sir, place before the House, the considered opinion of Sir Thomas Robertson, the Special Commissioner? This opinion is contained in his Report published in the year 1908. This is what he says at page 71:

"Any reductions of fares and rates must necessarily result in a falling off of revenue in the first instance; but, if the experience of other countries, similar to

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

India, may be taken as any guide in this respect, the impetus which the reduced rates will give to travel and commerce will be so great as to throw fresh vigour into the whole business of the country, and to amply repay in a very short time the temporary loss."

Incidentally, I may say that the next paragraph is also very important:

"It may perhaps be properly mentioned here that the rates for coal were generally reduced in August last, the amount of reduction varying with the distance, and it has been suggested that the result has not been very satisfactory. I do not think any argument can be based on this experience, as it would be obviously unreasonable to say that a reduction in rates had led to a lower volume of traffic being moved (*as has actually occurred*), and it is well known that the present dullness in the coal trade is due to causes entirely foreign to any reduction of railway rates.

The effect of a change in rates can rarely be judged in the short space of four or five months, but, given a reasonable time for the trial, I feel satisfied that the reductions in fares and rates which my remarks point to will be shown by experience to have been fully justified."

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Whose Report is that?

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta**: That is the Report of Sir Thomas Robertson, Special Commissioner for Indian Railways. This report was presented to both Houses of Parliament in 1903.

We have been hearing the argument that the result of the experiment of reducing rates and fares has been a net loss to the Railways, and my answer to that is the opinion expressed in this Report by Sir Thomas Robertson. Merely because there has been a loss of revenue, it does not follow necessarily that it was solely and entirely due to a reduction in fares and rates. There are other causes also which have to be reckoned with. There is that obvious cause, namely the depression, there may be other local and temporary causes; but merely because there was some loss in revenue, it cannot be said that that loss has been due entirely to a reduction in fares and rates.

Then, Sir, is revenue the only objective? Because you can earn a larger amount by a higher rate of fare, is that a sufficient justification for raising your fares? If in a certain part of the country where there is no motor traffic or any other kind of power traffic, if railway is the only means of transport in that tract, are you justified in raising the fares merely that the people of the locality will make use of your railways because of the absence of other forms of power transport? I say, Sir, it will not be a sufficient justification for charging high rates by the Railways.

Another point I want to make is this, Sir. I find that the rates and fares for first class passengers are being systematically and gradually reduced since 1923. I cannot speak of any other period, but I have got figures for 1923—1933, and so far as this period is concerned, it appears that the rate of fares of first class passengers has been gradually reduced . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan** (Member for Commerce and Railways): Where?

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** In all the Indian railway systems, during this period, the first class fare has been gradually reduced. The figures are these. So far as the first class passengers are concerned, the rate per mile in the year 1923-24 was 23·4 pies,

In the following year, it was 22 pies,

In the next year, it was 19·10 pies,

In the following year, it was 17 pies,

The year after that 17 pies,

Then it was further reduced to 16·2 pies, 16·4 pies, 17·2 pies, and so on.

With the result from 23·4, it was reduced to 17·2; in other words, there was a reduction of 25 per cent. in the fares of the first class passenger.

Similarly, with regard to second class passengers, we find there was a gradual reduction in fares from 10·50 to 8·82 and on calculation it appears there was a reduction of five per cent. But what about the third class passengers? It was 3·46, and in 1933 it was reduced to only 3·21, and it is not even one per cent. If you will compare, Sir, the fares of the first class passengers with those of the third class passengers, you will find that the fares of first class passengers have been very considerably and appreciably reduced. In 1932-33-34, the first class rate was 23·4, and next year it was reduced to 22, but, during that period, the third class fares, instead of being reduced like the first class fares, were actually enhanced from 3·46 to 3·47. That is the same case in the following years also, so that these figures substantiate my contention.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up. He will have to conclude his speech.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** May I just say a word about the Assam Bengal Railway?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will have to conclude. After all, that was the arrangement, and the Chair has only to carry it out.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Very well, Sir I will conclude. As regards the Assam Bengal Railway particularly, it appears that the rate of third class fare—I can give the figures, they are here before me, but I have not got the time—the rate of third class fare in that railway is about double that on the Eastern Bengal Railway, about double that on the Bengal and North Western Railway, and about double that on the East Indian Railway. I invite the special attention of the Honourable the Railway Member to this. I am sorry I have got no time. Sir. I move.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Railway Board’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar** (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I am glad to have been able to take part in this motion. I shall not detain the House much longer by repeating all the arguments and the grievances ventilated on the floor of this House times without number. Suffice it for me to make out a few points in the matter of the grievances of third class passengers. Sir, in answer to one of my questions the other day, the Honourable the Commerce Member told us that the third class bogie carriages, which have not got latrines, are run only on the smaller lines of railways in the South Indian Railway system. I am indebted to my Honourable friend, Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, for the information that in the South Indian Railway there are only 40 per cent. of the third class carriages which have got latrine accommodation. I do not know if all the remaining 60 per cent. of the carriages can run only on side lines. With regard to this matter, I might narrate my own personal experience. Recently I had been travelling in the South Arcot district in connection with District Board elections. I had one or two occasions to travel third class on the line running from Villupuram to Thiruvannamalai. Every passenger train on that section will take either a whole day or a whole night to cover that section. I had my own experience. When I sought for a latrine for urinal purposes, I could not find one latrine in the whole bogie carriage which is intended to carry 64 passengers. In order to find out if there were other carriages in which there were latrines, I changed at intermediate stations from one carriage to another, but I could not find one in all the carriages that I entered. That is the position, Sir. The time that I travelled there was rainy season and there was a chill wind. Let me also state that the train that I travelled in was full of passengers. I got a seat only through the kind obligation of a fellow passenger. That being the case, do the Government think that these third class carriages, which have not got even a single latrine, could be used even on smaller lines? But the Company-managed Railway cannot be expected to cater to the convenience of third class passengers, and more especially, at the far end of their contract period, having only six years more left of the contract period—we cannot expect them to cater to the convenience of third class passengers. I urge that such Company-managed Railways should be taken over by the State and the conveniences of third class passengers must be secured thereby.

Last year, when the grievances of the third class passengers were ventilated here, the then Commerce Member promised that the third class carriages would be re-conditioned and new carriages would be put on the lines. But in answer to a question on the floor of this House this year, our present Commerce Member said that it is still under consideration, and I do not know how long it will be under consideration. Last year the Central Railway Advisory Council met and a report of the Council was supplied to us. Therein it was stated that a sample reconditioned carriage was placed at the New Delhi station. My Honourable friends, Messrs. Giri and Sami Vencatachellam Chetty, inspected it and they have suggested some improvements, and still the matter is under consideration. There are two rumours I hear in connection with this matter. It is stated that on account of the present state of the railway finances they have given up the idea of putting the newly constructed ones on the lines. There is another rumour, that these re-conditioned carriages will again be placed at the New Delhi station for inspection

by the members of the Central Railway Advisory Council this year. I do not know whether it is by way of procrastination. Sir, as the grievances of third class passengers are being ventilated in this House year after year, so also I trust that the new conditioned carriages will be placed at the railway station lines just for inspection by the Railway Advisory Council Members year after year. Perhaps this is being delayed on account of the finances. May I ask the Honourable the Commerce Member if they have not found finances for constructing a special ceremonial platform? Cannot that be utilised at least for placing some of the third class carriages on the track? My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, used to say that the first and second class passengers are given all the conveniences at the expense of the third class passengers. Similarly, I want to mention in this House with regard to the allotment of passes. I was wondering why these railway officials should be given a number of passes for private travelling on railways; but my greater wonder is, that recently the number of first class passes has been increased enormously for railway officials, whereas intermediate and third class passes have been reduced.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The first class passes have been considerably reduced.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** I will place my information before the House, I hope the Honourable Member will correct me if I am wrong,—I am informed that formerly all classes of railway officials were given ten passes every year. Now, I am told that the number of first class passes has been increased from ten to fourteen, and ultimately, they are to be given limitless passes for their own convenience.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** It is the other way about. They used to have passes whenever they applied for them. They are now being restricted considerably.

**Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** I have placed the information before the House and I expect the Honourable Member to correct me.

1 P.M. With regard to intermediate and third class passes, I am told, the subordinate officials are given a lesser number of passes now, that is, from ten to six, and I understand it is also under contemplation to reduce it to four. That is the information I received and I expect the Honourable Member to place the correct facts before this House. Sir, I do not want to keep the House on this matter any longer. I wish that the Honourable the Railway Member, who was so solicitous of the interests of the third class passengers during the general discussion of the budget, will attend to these grievances and rectify matters and not delay it longer by keeping it more and more under consideration.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I strongly support this cut motion. It appears to me that this is a most important one in the interests, not only of the poor people but also in the interests, of the agriculturists all over India. The poor people of course belong to many professions but the agricultural classes are always third class passengers and any conveniences or concessions that might be given, even at some sacrifice, ought to be given to them. I had not occasion to criticise the policy of the Railway Budget before this. I do see that this cut

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motion is restricted to the third class passengers' grievances but I do feel that I must, in passing, say a few words with regard to the policy adopted by the new Railway Member. As he is an Indian, we expected and are glad to learn that he goes *in cognito* and sees things for himself but may I ask him whether his policy with regard to fares and freights is a policy which he should have adopted. The Honourable Member in the beginning is following a policy followed by his predecessors, which is not a right policy at all. He will permit me to say that this policy is worse than that of his predecessors and I will justify what I say. The first question now is with regard to the way in which the budget has been framed. Has he not been a party to the inflation of the figures which was usual with his predecessors? They have kept us on hopes all along and so is the Honourable the Railway Member now doing. He has increased the expected receipts and then he says that times are coming when everything will be all right. This is how we have been lulled all along. We expect the Honourable the Commerce Member to turn a new leaf and to give the third class passengers' grievances his best consideration. Now, I will come to the point.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am glad the Honourable Member recognises that he has been off the point so far.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** No. I will explain my point without taking any more time. I ask what was the policy of his predecessor with regard to these third class fares? Was it or was it not that he reduced them? Can the Honourable Member give any facts and figures to say why on the North Western Railway he joined hands with the Agent in increasing the fares which had been reduced by his predecessor? There has been no justification, whatsoever, for it. This question came up before the Advisory Committee in Karachi. When any questions are put, for instance about construction of a bridge as was done the other day, we are told that the matter could come up before the Local Advisory Committee for consideration or that it is the business of the Agent and that the papers were being forwarded to the Agent. It is that Advisory Committee which is being flouted and here is a telegram with regard to the third class passengers. I have received a telegram from a responsible man, the Secretary of the Buyers and Shippers Association, Karachi. He says:

"The Committee of the Buyers and Shippers Chamber emphatically protest against the 4 pie increase per mile in third class fares on the North Western Railway for distances between 51 and 300 miles. Highly regrettable. Enhancement made (*this is important*) despite unanimous recommendation of Karachi Railway Advisory Committee against the same."

Was it not brought to the notice of this House by Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah that this committee is composed of representatives of agriculture, of zemindars trading class and general public? We have seen the reply given by the Agent to at least one of the Members, Khan Bahadur Khubro. The reply is "we have made up our mind to raise the freight on wheat". The Honourable the Railway Member, who was the predecessor of the present Railway Member, did not give full consideration to this question. He realised the amount of agitation, but yet came to the conclusion, without any reasons, I should say, to reduce the railway freight for Punjab. This policy is being followed. The second point



affects the agriculturists and the lower people who are affected by the third class fares. The Honourable Member completely forgets the existence of the motor bus competition and becomes a party to the increase of the fare and freight. The point has been brought fully to the notice of the Agent and yet he does not help the poor people. The freight is being increased only in Sind and that is with the idea of diverting the wheat trade from Sind to other places.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Honourable Member explain the idea of diverting wheat from Sind to other places?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I come to that. I say that wheat that used to come from the Punjab and other places used to come to Karachi. Now, when it came to Karachi, it was being sold there and also being sent away to other places through the port. This practice used to go on for a long time. Therefore, the Port Trust was getting good profit from this and the wheat trade thrived in Sind. Now, the railway by diverting Punjab goods from there and granting cheaper rates to Punjab from Lyallpur and other places so that the goods may go to Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, thereby increase its own freight revenue. In the first place it was not fair to do that. The vested interests of Karachi of dealing through the port should not have been interfered with, but may I not also ask the question whether on that account other railways are earning more than the North Western Railway or no? For instance, the Jodhpur Railway is earning more, the other railways that are Company-managed are earning more, and thus the North Western Railway is suffering. Now I will give you a further instance of the decrease in the income that the North Western Railway will have. As regards wheat, it has been decided that within four hundred miles in Sind section of the North Western Railway the freight on wheat be raised, and that also by one anna a maund. What will be the consequence? The consequence is that this wheat commodity will not go to Karachi, but it will go from Jodhpur to Bombay.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Not a bit.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** For this reason that if they send it from Larkana or Rohri to Karachi and then to Bombay, it will cost them more than to send it *via* Jodhpur.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): What has this to do with third class passengers?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I want to show that in Sind especially these agriculturists who travel by third class will now suffer and pay more for railway freight as well.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is travelling away from the amendment. He must confine himself to third class passengers.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I will put my point very clearly. I am asking the Honourable Member to change his policy, and if he does not change his policy, then he will be affected in the matter of the income of the North Western Railway. Now, Sir, let me say this. The third class fares are being increased, but in this House every Honourable Member has said that if you decrease third class fares for shorter distances, the question of competition of motor services will be solved.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The fares have not been increased for short distances, as I explained yesterday. I suppose the Honourable Member was not present yesterday when I made that statement.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I was. I am showing that in fact the fares have been increased. As I said, they have been increased on the North Western Railway within distances of three hundred miles, the point is that in that case people will, as a consequence travel about within these three hundred miles by motor: and how is the Honourable Member going to solve the question of the road motor competition? Therefore, I am submitting that the raising of the third class passenger fares is unjustifiable; and I hope the Honourable Member will not take it ill when I tell him that his policy should be a better policy than that so far pursued by his predecessors; on the contrary I am giving him advice which I hope he will consider well, in the light also of the complaints made by several representatives from Karachi and also by Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah, and I hope that this question of fare and freight, so far as Sind is concerned, will be reconsidered. Now, Sir, coming to the other grievances, I think the foremost complaint is with regard to the third class carriages.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Sir, with regard to these carriages, it is urged that these carriages are still below requirements, and that the new pattern may take a long time to be built and in the meantime, they may say, "we have got no finances". Therefore, I submit that the Honourable Member will give his particular consideration to this cut and I hope that next time when we consider this matter again, we shall find that he has given the matter due consideration and found a way out.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now adjourn till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

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**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I rise to support this motion, and, in doing so, I should like to state that unlike many Honourable Members in this House I have been a habitual traveller in third class since 1930, that is, when I decided to join the band of disciples of Mahatma Gandhi. Therefore, I feel that I am rather in a competent position to talk about the woes, troubles and sufferings of third class passengers. Sir, we were told only yesterday, by the Honourable Member in charge of this Department, that the reduction in third class fares experimented on the North Western Railway has not really resulted in any increase of revenue. But in answer to that I

can only say that for so many years the railways, not only the North Western Railway but also other railways, have succeeded in neglecting the convenience of third class passengers and have succeeded at the same time in forcing third class passengers to be satisfied with the carriages that they were placing at their disposal, that there could be no revolutionary increase in the earnings just because of a small reduction in third class fares.

Every year we meet with the same answer, that owing to want of funds, the convenience of third class passengers could not be increased. This phrase "want of funds" has been staring us in the face all these years. Why should we be given the excuse of want of funds when really it is the third class passengers that have been responsible in providing the Government seven-eighths of the revenues derived from passenger traffic. The third class passengers ought really to be congratulated upon having shown such a tremendous amount of loyalty to the railways, in spite of the defection of the railways, in spite of the failure of the railways to look after their conveniences. What all railways really attempt to do to help the third class passengers is to allot this small additional expenditure of 20 lakhs and a little more while they are prepared to lose so much by not agreeing with the Honourable Members on this side of the House to institute a drastic cut in the salaries of those people who draw more than Rs. 500 per month. We should really be grateful to these third class passengers for having continued to provide for the railways with very much more income than they were getting in 1913-14. In 1933-34 alone the railways were able to derive as much as 28 crores 51 lakhs, whereas they were getting only 20 crores 56 lakhs in 1913-14. Look at the plight of the third class passengers themselves? Most of them are peasants and their income has gone down to a very much lower degree than it was in 1913-14 as is evidenced by the reports published by the Government of India themselves. In spite of that, they continue to provide this Government with very much greater income than what they are really getting for themselves. Yet, Sir, the railways and the Government of India complain that the third class passengers are really not so very loyal to the railways and that they are running away to the bus and other traffic. I am not one of those who really wish to discourage the growth of the bus traffic at all. I am not afraid of this rail-road competition. If really railways are run properly and more efficiently and with a view to serve the needs of third class passengers, I am sure that they have nothing to fear from the bus competition, as far as third class passengers are concerned. As has been admitted by several Honourable Members on the other side, the competition is not so much for journeys beyond a distance of 50 miles, as it is for journeys for distances less than fifty miles. It only shows that the railways really have not paid sufficient attention to the convenience of third class passengers. When it was suggested by my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, that suburban railways should be electrified, he was given the answer that it would cost of 12 to 14 crores, and that this money could not be raised by Government. Sir, in South India, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, in order to meet the bus competition, had to introduce more trains in their suburban service during the day and also an accelerated train service. These things could be better done if they had electrified the line. In these days, when money is plentiful, I do not see any difficulty in Government borrowing money to any extent. Fourteen or Fifteen crores can be easily raised in the market. I submit that if the

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trains are electrified, it will meet most of the convenience of third class passengers. Nothing but the inertia on the part of the Government stands in the way of effecting this reform; nothing but their own inability to take decisions and execute them in a courageous fashion!

Sir, in this year's Railway Administration Report there is a chapter on passenger amenities and I am glad to say in this connection that the chapter is a little more exhaustive than it used to be. But this chapter only shows that Government have been at pains to show a few things here and there that they have tried to do here and there in order to satisfy us. Really this does not go far enough at all. This is really enough to condemn this Government for its failure to cater to the convenience of third class passengers. It is well-known, Sir, that water supply is most badly needed in a hot country like India. In my part of the country through which the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway runs, it is stated that only in one station water supply amenities were provided during the last year. That is really very unsatisfactory.

I find in this connection that the State-managed Railways are a little better than Company-managed Railways. The North Western Railway and the East Indian Railway, which are managed by Government, propose to spend one lakh 49 thousand and 18 lakhs 50,000, respectively, whereas the Company-managed lines propose to spend only 80 thousand and 67 thousand for the whole of next year in order to provide such amenities as latrines, water supply, lower class waiting rooms, covered platforms, refreshment rooms for third class passengers, booking facilities, raised platforms, additional carriages to reduce overcrowding, improving existing carriages and miscellanea. On all these things what do they propose to spend? They will spend only Rs. 67,000 in the case of the Eastern Bengal Railway and Rs. 80,000 in the case of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. If that is the way in which Government propose to minister to the needs of these third class passengers, I do not wonder that the bus traffic is growing every day, more and more dangerous, more and more troublesome and more and more prosperous. If they really wish to counteract this bus traffic at all, then, as has been suggested by several Honourable Members already, they ought to improve their own service. In trying to improve their own service for the third class passengers they ought to improve the latrines. So many people have already spoken upon this necessity, and yet such a small sum of money is proposed to be spent during the next year on this particular thing alone.

Then, again, there is the question of overcrowding. We get the same old reply that overcrowding does not really exist on most occasions; it is only occasionally that it does take place and necessary steps are being taken to prevent it, and so on. But this year they seem to be a little more liberal-hearted and they seem to be anxious to spend a few thousand rupees more in lessening this overcrowding in third class carriages. Sir, it is not enough at all. We wanted better carriages, we wanted better lighting in the carriages, we wanted better lighting in the latrines and more accommodation in the latrines themselves. We wanted better seats, and we were given a very reassuring answer last year by the predecessor of the present Honourable Member that a new carriage was designed and it would soon help to improve the conditions of third class travelling. And what is the answer we were able to get from the present Honourable Member for Railways? He simply said that it was still being

looked into: it had still to be inspected by the members of the Central Railway Advisory Committee and he could not assure us that it would be possible for him to push into service as many carriages as possible of this type. And we are only left wondering whether, with the mentality with which they are today charged, a mentality of despondency with regard to these railways, they would be willing to push on with this particular reform and improve the third class carriages at all.

Then, Sir, I come to the treatment that is usually meted out by the railway employees towards the third class passengers. They are often treated almost as a nuisance by the railway employees, not only by the lower paid employees but also by the higher paid ones. And more often than not, the higher paid employees do not pay any attention at all to the complaints that are brought to their notice by the third class passengers. From the sweepers right up to the station masters these railway employees have been treating the third class passengers in a most unconscionable fashion. I am glad that the Honourable the Railway Member has expressed himself wholly in favour of improving the conditions of third class passengers and he has even expressed his own personal anxiety that their conditions should be improved. Sir, an expression of personal interest in the fate of the third class passengers really does not go far enough and cannot reassure us when we remember that he himself has given answers again and again, even during this Session, that latrines on the East Indian Railway, Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway have been found to be quite satisfactory or at least not unsatisfactory and that the water tanks are filled properly and at all times, etc. And other similar replies have been given. I can only state that the South Indian Railway mentions here that notices have been put in the latrines that passengers can ask the station masters whenever they find that the water tanks are in need of water. But, Sir, I have only recently toured very extensively in Southern India and have not found even one latrine in any third class carriage where such notices have been exhibited at all. I made one suggestion while I was on the Public Accounts Committee to the Chief Commissioner who was then in charge of railways, that complaint books should be placed in the Railway Guard's vans and in the Railway Guides a notice should be put as to the help that every passenger can expect a railway official to render to him in his relations with the Railway Department and with the other passengers also.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** But no action seems to have been taken till now and we only find that more and more money has been spent only recently upon improvement of the conditions of first class passengers while very little has been spent on the improvement of the conditions of third class travelling. Even now with regard to the estimates made for the increased income from these passengers, I find that they expect to get only five lakhs more by increasing the rates for first and second class passengers whereas, they expect to get as much as 50 lakhs from the third class passengers. The third class passengers have been paying more and more even during these days of depression and yet they have not been looked after at all, whereas the first and second class passengers are not even able to provide them with more income, even if their

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rates are raised, and yet they are being looked after properly. And still, our suggestion, that the first class should be abolished completely is not likely to be accepted by Government. The first class should be abolished and there should be only two classes in addition to the intermediate class, and the third class fares should be lowered instead of being raised, as is proposed by the Honourable Member for Railways.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): Sir, in supporting this cut, I only wish to make a very few observations. The third class passenger's grievance is a hardy annual and because of that some people fail to appreciate its proper importance also. I should like to impress upon the Honourable Members of this House that the fact that the complaint with regard to the third class passengers' grievances is being repeated, year after year on the floor of the House, is itself a most eloquent and convincing proof of the urgency and the importance which the public at large attach to this question. The third class passenger is the most pathetic figure that one can come across on the railway platform. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, said yesterday, he thinks himself a prisoner as soon as he enters the railway station and until he gets out of it he does not breathe the breath of a free man. I am clearly of opinion that so long as the needs and requirements of the third class passengers are neglected, this Railway Department shall carry the curse of the third class passenger on its head and it shall never prosper. After all, the third class passenger is their greatest patron. He is the passenger who contributes more than one-fourth to its total revenues. That is the position of the third class passengers.

Before I discuss the actual question of grievances or refer to some of them, I should like to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Member for Railways and also of the Financial Commissioner a discrepancy which has struck me as somewhat unusual. At pages 12 and 13 of the Report on the Indian Railways for 1934-35, Volume II, I find the figures of earnings from passenger traffic as follows:

"Rs. 76,83,000 from first class, Rs. 1,41,48,000 from second class, and Rs. 1,11,92,000 from Intermediate Class. That is, from all the upper classes the income shown comes to Rs. 3,30,23,000; while the earnings from the third class passengers are shown as Rs. 27,04,74,000. The total comes to Rs. 30,34,97,000."

As against that, the figures given in the budget papers supplied to us are as follows:

Passenger traffic earnings,	Rs.
Upper class	3,11,71,879
Third class	... 24,43,78,000

The total thus comes to Rs. 27,55,49,879 as against Rs. 30,34,97,000 which seems to be the figure given in the Report.

**Mr. P. B. Rau** (Financial Commissioner, Railways): May I explain that? The figures given in the Administration Report refer to all railways in India, class I, class II, and class III, while the figures given in the Explanatory Memorandum refer only to the State-owned railways—commercial lines.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** I accept the explanation and I am thankful to the Financial Commissioner for the correction he has made. I was rather surprised as to how there could be a discrepancy of two and odd crores of rupees. Now, in this question of the third class passenger grievances, for the redress of which we are repeatedly bringing a cut motion before the House, I want the House to realise the relative importance of the third class passenger as a patron of the railways as compared with the importance of other passengers—I mean the Upper class passengers. It is known—and this matter has been repeatedly placed before the House also—that the amount spent for the comforts of the upper class passengers, for preparing first class bogies, and so forth, is not repaid by the income earned from them. That is to say, all these comforts are provided for from whatever the railways are able to get from third class passengers. It is a case where the "haves" are enjoying at the cost of what in the common parlance is known as the "have-nots". The Railway Administration in India, so far as their policy of providing for the comforts and convenience of passengers is concerned, directly encourage the policy of providing for those who have at the cost of those who have not. This in itself is the strongest ground why the Railway Administration should direct their attention primarily to the immediate requirements—human requirements so to say—of third class passengers. One great defect in the system which may strike everybody who has to travel in the third class—and most of the gentlemen sitting on this side must have that experience generally in my opinion—is that the third class passenger does not know whom to consult on the railway platform if he is in difficulty. My Honourable friend will say "Why, there is the railway guard, there is the driver. . . ."

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Wait till I say 'why'.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** You will permit me to guess what you are likely to say. If I am wrong in my guess, I shall be very glad. Nobody will be more delighted than myself if I am wrong in what I attribute to you. If a passenger is in difficulty, he does not know where to go and whom to consult. The first primary difficulty as regards the guard is that very often the guard is a man who does not understand the language of the passenger. India is the one country in the world where the servants are not required to learn the languages of their masters, but the masters are required to learn the languages of the servants. In small stations, the station masters are very busy in looking after the trains, so that there is no man whom the third class passenger can consult.

**An Honourable Member:** There is the coolie!

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** The coolie is also there to bully him. He is too poor to engage the services of a coolie. If the man succeeds in getting some information, he is referred to a board on which the timings of trains are written. If he wants to know the time of a particular train by which he wants to go and the platform from which the train will start, he is referred to the board, the writings on which in ninety-nine cases out of hundred are in English.

**Mr. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That is a wooden lie!

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** This man, who is illiterate himself, is unable to understand what is written in English, and he has to find out some other fellow to read it out to him.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** In the meantime the train has left.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** My Honourable friend realises the difficulties much better than it is possible for me to depict them. In view of that, I shall not dilate upon the point further. There are other considerations also, which I should like to urge. The railways came into existence in this country in 1858—that is the first year to which I can find any reference in our reports: This means, they have been here for about 75 years. During all these years the Railway Administration did not know that the third class passenger was a human being who has the same needs and requirements as a first class or upper class passenger. Even now I am told that there are certain lines where arrangements for latrines or arrangements for answering the calls of nature are not provided for.

**Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan** (Nominated Non-Official): The third class passenger does not like the flush system.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** And, therefore, no system is to be provided. I do not know if my Honourable friend is right in saying that. The point is that even these ordinary requirements which ought to be provided for a human being are denied to them for all these years. I find there is a cut motion standing in the name of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha on the necessity of providing lavatories in the third class carriages of a certain line. That is a point to which I should like to draw attention too. I was on the Railway Finance Committee for a number of years—allow me to express my heart-felt thanks to those friends with whom I had the privilege to work on that Committee. They were very conciliatory to any suggestion that was made; but one of my complaints was this, that some arrangement must be made to fit electric fans in third class compartments: that has been my complaint for a long time . . . .

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): We all agree with you.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** . . . . because I think, even if that arrangement is not made in the case of the first and second class compartments, the passengers in those classes will not suffer so much because there is not that overcrowding that you have in third class compartments when pilgrims are taken in thousands and thousands packed up practically like cattle; they are perspiring like anything and they are carried like so many cattle: it is a terrible ordeal to go through for them, and even for those to see it. That arrangement should be made; but it is always on the ground of want of funds that this reform has been shelved. I believe all other reforms with regard to carriages should be ignored in preference to this most urgently needed reform. After all it is from those persons that you are taking the money and if you do not provide them with this minimum of convenience, you make their life almost miserable. It was all right in those palmy days when the railways had a monopoly of carrying men; but now the railways must re-



member that they have got a competitor, and a competitor the effects of whose competition are being felt by them even now. The complaint is made that it is unfair competition. You must remember that a railway journey is more costly and also not so comfortable, on account of the various disabilities under which a passenger has to remain there, besides the well known want of courtesy which every man has a right to expect from the railway servant. With so many difficulties, how do you expect to run these railways at a profit when there is competition? The Government of India, like certain persons, have learnt to rule India when there was nobody to compete. Like certain merchants also they know how to trade if there is no competition; but as soon as there is a competitor, we find them at their wits' end: the so-called efficiency, the so-called statesmanship, the so-called resourcefulness of the Government of India is only apparent when there is nobody to challenge it, nobody to question it. But immediately an ordinary motor driver stands in the street and gets a lorry and there is a little combination of a few uneducated men to run these lorries, the Railway Department finds itself unable to compete with them and it rushes to this Legislature with Bills—I do not know of what kind they will be—to restrict their activities. It is with the help of legislation they desire to reinforce themselves so that they can carry on their work. That is not the way. You must make your lines more attractive. After all it is the third class man who goes by the lorries: the big persons have their own cars and they travel in them and they never go to these lorries. So this is the time when the railways should look into this thing also, most carefully.

I will not take up more time of the House. I will make only one suggestion with regard to pilgrim traffic. There are many stations where lakhs of pilgrims get down within a limited time for certain festivals and on certain days of pilgrimage—for instance stations like Hardwar or Kasi or Prayag during the *Kumbh Mela*. Other Members know of other stations also. Considering the traffic at these stations, the arrangements made in them are extremely scanty and these insufficient arrangements have been there for a number of years. Every railway officer, the Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Agent and Agent visit these stations, but no arrangement is made to expand the platforms or make the necessary arrangements to give all the comforts needed to the passengers who get down there in such large numbers. On the other hand we find that at many towns, simply because they happen to be the capital towns of provinces, where for the sake of adding to the dignity or beauty of those capital towns, very big stations have been erected, such as Poona and Nagpur: the expenditure there is not justified by the traffic today—I think the traffic must be partially the same as it was before. I will, therefore, insist that all these problems must be tackled primarily from the point of view of the third class passengers. The building of big stations at these capital towns was taken up because big European officers come and get down at these stations more frequently and, therefore, the rebuilding and expansion of those stations occurred to the Railway Department as a matter of first class importance. This mentality of the Railway Department of looking to the comforts of men who already have got comforts must altogether disappear; and unless this angle of vision is changed there is little hope of necessary improvements coming in a reasonably short time. I am glad to find that here is at least an Honourable Member who has by the little interruption he has made during the course of my speech, indicated that he appreciates all that I said much

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more than I am in a position to place before him. In that reliance I appeal to him to accept this cut and give a promise of carrying out all the reforms at the earliest possible time.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): I move that the question be now put.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan**: Sir, a large number of suggestions have been put forward—I might say have been repeated—with regard to the amenities which should be provided for third class passengers on the Indian railways. I think some of these suggestions might be placed on this basis: that irrespective of the amount of money that the railways can earn from that class of passenger and irrespective of the class of society that he might come from, it is the duty of railways to provide a certain minimum of amenities that may be required from a purely human point of view for any class of passenger that they carry. So far as suggestions which proceed from that point of view are concerned, there could be no two views with regard to them. It is the duty of every public carrier, whether railways or others, but much more of the railways especially if they are a State concern, to see that that kind of amenities are provided upon their system for all classes of passengers. To that extent I fully accept responsibility on behalf of Government.

With regard to the other suggestions, again, they sub-divide themselves into two classes: one, that relate to lack of courtesy or lack of helpfulness on the part of the railway staff towards the third class passenger, more especially to the passenger who cannot so easily obtain information as the smaller class of passengers that travel in the higher classes. There again, Sir, there can be no excuse on the part of the railways not to do their utmost to impress upon their staff the necessity of extending all possible courtesy and attention to all classes of passengers, and more particularly to those who stand in greater need of these things than the other classes of passengers. The second sub-division of the suggestions put forward relates to extra expenditure for the purpose of providing facilities that are now lacking for the third class passenger or to improve some of the existing facilities to a better standard. There again, in principle, I do not think that there can be any possible difference. The only difference that might arise would be with regard to the degree or the pace that might be adopted with regard to those matters. No doubt the views of some Honourable Members are that the pace ought to be very much faster, in some cases their complaint is that no beginning has been made, and in other cases where a beginning has been made, they think the pace ought to be very much faster. No doubt, I shall be accused of saying that I have trotted out the usual excuse that for lack of funds all that was desired could not be done within the space of time that Honourable Members would wish to see it done in, but whoever were in charge of the railways, with whatever degree of sympathy he approached the various suggestions that have been put forward, he would be pressed by that consideration, because, after all, a rupee is a rupee and it can only go as far as a rupee can go. With these general observations, Sir, I shall proceed to submit some considerations to Honourable Members so that they may be able to realise that the railways have made efforts in this direction to a greater degree.

than there has been a disposition to admit on the part of Honourable Members.

**An Honourable Member:** Very little effort has been made.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Now, Sir, let me only make one observation with regard to a matter that falls within the very first category that I mentioned, namely, the purely human standard in these matters. There has been a complaint that on occasions third class passengers have been carried in goods wagons, and not in carriages properly constructed for the purpose of carrying passengers. It is most unfortunate that that should have been so. The explanation on behalf of the railways is that, at least during recent years, that has been an extremely rare occurrence. I personally do not consider, Sir, that even on rare occasions it would be justifiable to use goods wagons for the carriage of passengers, it does not matter what class of passengers, even though such passengers might include people who have not provided themselves with tickets. (Laughter.) If people have to be carried, they must be carried in properly constructed carriages, but I would not be fair to the railways if I did not put forward their explanation with regard to the difficulty they have experienced in this matter. This kind of thing does not happen on any of the broad-gauge systems where additional stock can be rushed up to a place where such additional stock might be required. This has happened, on certain rare occasions, on isolated sections of the meter gauge system where there was no possibility of obtaining additional stock. Now, the situation is this. If the occasion is of a fair or pilgrimage, the railways do make arrangements with reference to the amount of traffic that they had to cope with on similar previous occasions and if on an isolated section of the meter gauge line, which is not connected with other lines from where it could obtain stock in an emergency of that kind, in one year the requirements turn out to be suddenly larger than had been expected, then they are faced with this dilemma, that either they must carry them as best they can under the circumstances or they must leave large numbers of passengers or intending pilgrims stranded to be carried on the next day when probably the purpose of the journey would have been defeated. I think it will be agreed that there is something in that, but I repeat again that railways must take care to see that, where such a contingency is likely to arise, suitable arrangements are made. Railways have been told that where such a contingency arises and they are compelled to provide alternative means of carrying third class passengers in the shape of goods wagons they must inform the Railway Board, so that the Railway Board can look into the matter and see whether or not the contingency was such as to justify at the risk of being blamed, the use of goods wagons for this purpose. While I am on this question of pilgrimages, I might perhaps deal with a point which, though it was made at the last moment, is cognate to the subject. I think that point was made by the last speaker, Mr. Aney. He said that railways do not take sufficient care of this kind of traffic. Now, Sir, I have noticed complaints in the press during last year with regard to some pilgrim centres, as to delays and overcrowding. Having noticed those complaints, I was waiting for an occasion to go and see for myself whether there was some justification for this kind of complaint, and if so, what were the steps that could be usefully adopted in connection with these pilgrimages and fairs. Without giving a longer warning than was absolutely necessary, I visited Allahabad recently and looked into the arrangements in connection with the *Ardh Kumbh Mela* on the morning of the 19th of

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January last. Well, it may have been a coincidence in favour of the railways that the arrangements, as everybody agreed after the *Mela*, were to the entire satisfaction of all those who had occasion to use the special station at the Sangham or to go on to the *Mela* grounds at the Sangham, not only in regard to the actual carriage of passengers, but also with regard to first-aid, sanitary arrangements, public health and other matters which were being looked after by the railways. Only, it was an irony that the volume of traffic that the railways had expected did not materialise.

**Mr. M. S. Aney:** Was it given out that the Honourable the Railway Member was to visit the station?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** No, Sir; that information was not given out earlier than it was absolutely necessary to do so, and they could not have built a special station or broader platforms within a few days of learning that the Member was visiting the station. That should give some assurance to Honourable Members that complaints of this kind, whenever they arise, are looked into, not merely by the railways themselves, but also by people at headquarters.

Now, Sir, I am afraid I shall not be able to deal with all the suggestions that have been made at a great length, because, after all, as I said yesterday, one must conform to the arrangement with regard to the limitation of time that has been arrived at, but I shall touch upon some matters to which reference has been made by Honourable Members. One complaint was that though the third class passenger was the largest customer of the railways, there had been, at least in recent years, a continuous increase in third class fares and a continuous decrease in higher class fares. I am afraid, Sir, those Honourable Members who put forward this suggestion were not right, because evidently they had not read the information on the point correctly. I have had a note prepared from which I take the following information. With regard to the average fares on all systems combined, and I shall refer to two or three of our bigger systems later on individually also, this is the position I find as compared with 1927-28. In 1927-28, the average first class fare was 17 pies per mile on the broad gauge systems. In 1934-35, it was 18 pies per mile. Second class fares are, of course, practically half of the first class fares and I need not refer specifically to them. The average third class fare was 4.27 pies per mile on the broad gauge lines in 1927-28, and, in 1934-35, it was 4.24 pies per mile. With regard to the three principal systems, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the North-Western Railway, and the East Indian Railway the position was this. On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, in 1927-28, the first class fare was 16.9 pies per mile and in 1934-35, it was 18.9 pies per mile. The average third class fare was 3.57 pies per mile in 1927-28, and 3.25 pies per mile in 1934-35. Again, the corresponding figures for the North Western Railway are first class 14 pies and 16.4 pies in those two years, and third class, 3.19 pies and 2.81 pies. With regard to the East Indian Railway, the figures are first class 14.8 pies and 16.2 pies and third class 3.73 pies and 3.63 pies. In each case there was a rise with regard to higher class fares and a fall with regard to third class fares.

**An Honourable Member:** But what about the Company-managed railways?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Now, let me come to the question of accommodation. Honourable Members are aware that in 1929 the Indian railway standard design of third class carriages was adopted and that design has, on all hands, been admitted to have been more comfortable and more convenient than the previous designs in use. The total number of carriages built corresponding to that design since 1929 has been, full third class carriages, 358, third class and intermediate class combined, 76, third class and luggage and brake vans combined, 277, total 711. It may be said that that is not a large enough number. True, but the consideration is this. Carriages can only be renewed according to expansions of traffic. If there is no expansion of traffic there will be only a certain normal number of renewals in each year. If there is an expansion of traffic, a large number will continue to be built, according to the new design. As Honourable Members are aware, unfortunately, in recent years, traffic has not expanded and, therefore, renewals have been on a smaller scale than they would otherwise have been. But even under these conditions Honourable Members would be interested to know that with regard to their rolling stock programme for 1937-38 the Great Indian Peninsula Railway alone have a proposal to improve 165 pre-Indian railway standard design lower class carriages having third class accommodation, which are less than fifteen years old, at a cost of Rs. 1,36,000 spread over three years.

**An Honourable Member:** Precious little!

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** That is only one of the systems. The difficulty is, you cannot scrap large numbers of carriages at any given time simply because now you have got an improved design.

**Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty** (Madras: Indian Commerce): Has anything been done last year?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Nothing at all.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go on interrupting.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** As I have said, though all of us would wish to see these improvements come very much faster, in the nature of things, they can only come gradually as renewal programmes permit. Then, with regard to the new third class carriage, one Honourable Member said:

"We have been told it has been designed, but we have not seen any tangible proof of it. We are told that the Central Advisory Council have still to inspect it and we do not know whether it is going to be built or not."

The position with regard to that is that one carriage has been built for the purpose of Honourable Members inspecting it so that the design can be finally passed. I had occasion to examine it some weeks ago when it was brought up to Delhi. It is again being brought up to Delhi in the course of this week and members of the Central Advisory Council will have an opportunity of seeing but briefly, the improvements in this type of

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carriage are that it is divided into six compartments, each having accommodation for 16 passengers with sleeping accommodation for eight passengers. There is considerable improvement in the matter of lighting, considerable improvement with regard to lavatory accommodation and the number of lavatories provided. I explained to Honourable Members, the other day in my speech, that each of these carriages is expected to cost Rs. 5,500 in addition to the cost of an ordinary third class carriage. It must be looked at by the members of the Central Advisory Council so that the railways may have their final suggestions with regard to the improvements to be made. I must, however, warn the House against thinking that as soon as the design has been approved of there is going to be a wholesale replacement on all railways of old carriages by carriages of this new type. The introduction of this new design is dependent upon the renewal programme of the railways and on funds being available. That is a question from which we cannot get away however great our anxiety to provide these new carriages.

(At this stage, Prof. N. G. Ranga interjected a remark.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on interrupting like this. If he cannot help interrupting, then the Chair will have to help him.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am only putting a question.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member will go on interrupting, the Chair will have to take steps to see that he does not.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** It was remarked by one Honourable Member that the lack of sympathy for the third class passenger was demonstrated by the fact that the Railway Board were not building this new type of carriage fast enough, and yet they had built a shelter over the ceremonial platform at New Delhi-station at a cost of over Rs. 47,000. Honourable Members will be interested to know that the cost of one of these new type of carriages is likely to be between Rs. 33,000 and 34,000, and it is not correct to say that if this shelter had not been built a large number of third class carriages of the new design could have been placed upon the lines. As a matter of fact, this shelter represents the cost of one and a half third class carriage. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, says, it shows the spirit in which we work. The spirit is that whereas several new third class carriages are being constructed, this one shelter has been provided here, not merely for the convenience of His Excellency the Viceroy, as was suggested, but, as I explained on that occasion, for the use of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for high dignitaries, Indian Princes and foreign potentates who may have occasion to visit Delhi, and, after all, New Delhi is the Imperial Capital of India, and you cannot have a ceremonial platform for the reception of these high dignitaries and leave it without a shelter from the vagaries of the weather.

There was some complaint with regard to a large number of the South Indian Railway carriages not being provided with proper seats. With

regard to that, in answering a question only lately, I did express to Honourable Members that I considered that that position was unsatisfactory. But, again, there too, although the need of renewal of these carriages has been impressed upon the South Indian Railway Company renewals can only take place gradually. As these carriages come into the shops for repairs, some of them are fitted with better seats and brought back to the line in an improved condition. There has been a continuous improvement in the situation, but as the South Indian Railway carry a considerable stock of this old kind of carriage and it is not practicable to scrap all of them and put on new carriages, I am afraid, though there is a steady improvement, we cannot have an entire change during the course of the next year or so. But we are impressing repeatedly upon the South Indian Railway that in addition to fitting more and more carriages with better seating accommodation they should take care that as few of the older type of carriages as may be practically are used on main lines. We shall again take the opportunity of impressing it upon them that Honourable Members have pointed out from their own personal experiences that they do not always compose their through rakes in such a fashion that there should be, on the main lines, as few carriages of the older design and type as it might be practicable.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, tried to make a point with regard to the Advisory Committees to which I might advert for a moment. He complained that whenever he asks a question with regard to matters of detail, I am in the habit of saying that these are matters to be discussed between the Advisory Committee and the Agent, and that the question is being sent down to the Agent for consideration. He said that when the same question were raised by the Advisory Committee, the Agent refused to accept their advice. He has selected an instance where the advice of the Advisory Committee has not been accepted, and he has ignored all those very large number of instances where that advice is accepted and carried into effect . . . .

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** There are very many occasions where he has not accepted such advice. I know it personally.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** If there are several occasions in which it has not been accepted, there are a very large number of cases where it has been accepted. But the position is this. The Advisory Committees no doubt continuously press upon Agents an addition of amenities for passengers. Some of their suggestions it is possible to accept, some it is not practicable to accept, and it is not correct to say that whenever a suggestion of that kind is made the Advisory Committee is flouted and its advice is not taken. As a matter of fact, a publication is issued showing all the suggestions that are made by Advisory Committees, those that are under consideration, those that have been carried out, and those which it has not been practicable to carry out. I do not think that there can be any complaint that the Agents do not make full use of the advice that members of these local advisory committees give them. They are very valuable adjuncts to the railway administration and often bring small matters, which are otherwise likely to be overlooked, to the notice of Agents and in a large number of cases these matters are set right.

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On the question of water supply in the tanks and the cleanliness of carriages, on a question to that effect being put by Professor Ranga, as I know already that the Honourable Member was in the habit of travelling in the third class and that matters with regard to which he professed to possess personal knowledge, were matters which ought to be looked into, I had a statement relating to the arrangements regulating these matters placed before me. It would take too long to read it out. As a matter of fact, I am already getting towards the close of my time. I shall admit at once that on such a vast system, sometimes instructions are not carried out to the extent to which it is necessary that they should be carried out in practice in order to provide all the facilities and amenities which the administration have in view. But so far as the question of laying down the rules and issuing instructions is concerned and impressing them upon the staff who have to carry them out I find that the rules and instructions are quite adequate. It will be the business of the Railway Board, it will be my business, having due regard to my other duties and preoccupations, to see that the railways pay a great deal more attention to these matters than they have done in the past. My attitude is not, sitting here and receiving reports from different railways, to say that I am entirely satisfied with the arrangements and that there is nothing in these complaints. No one having personal experience of this very vast system, with its thousands of railway stations, thousands of running trains, very large numbers of staff and very large numbers of passengers coming in contact with the staff, can contend that it is the best of all possible systems, and that every railway employee carries out his duties in the spirit in which we would desire to see them carried out. That is not my position at all. Apart from the experiences of Honourable Members, I myself have had experience of these matters. I have travelled in all classes of carriages and I know that a good many of the complaints that are put forward with regard to these matters are justified and whatever may be the view of the administrations, I intend to continue to pursue these matters. I do not think there can be any excuse for lack of courtesy and lack of helpfulness, though, I am afraid, in this country, through long years of habit, as I said in the other House, unfortunately, every one who possesses a little authority tries to lord it over poor helpless persons who may be a little lower in the scale than himself. That sort of spirit has to go. With regard to conveniences which require the expenditure of money, I shall go on doing all I can in a sympathetic spirit, so far as the provision of funds will permit. So long as I am in charge of this department, it shall be my concern to see that whatever amenities can reasonably be provided for the third class passengers are in fact provided.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 6E—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,80,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."



**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,80,00,000 be granted to the Governor (General in Council) to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1937, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

*Grievances of Railway Workers.*

**Mr. V. V. Giri** (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head, 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department' be reduced by Rs. 100",

to discuss the grievances of railway workers.

Without offence to the Honourable Member in charge of Railways and Commerce, I am bound to say that the Railway Department learns nothing and forgets nothing. If the railway workers demand better wage conditions, they are told that the financial commitments and the financial implications would not allow that payment to be considered. If, on the other hand, the railway workers put up their demand for a better security of service and better conditions which do not involve financial commitments, they are told the matters are under consideration. For want of time, I cannot take up all the points that I would like to put forward during the course of this debate, and, therefore, I content myself by taking up a few important points.

The first point that I would like to put forward before this House is the establishment of a joint standing machinery. The Royal Commission on Labour and its report has become, so far as the Railway Department is concerned, ancient history, and, in spite of the fact that there was a persistent demand that the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour should be put into effect with respect to this matter, eight years have gone by and nothing has been done. I would like for the benefit of the House to refer exactly to what is meant by the joint standing machinery. Their idea was to prevent industrial disputes; whenever they apprehended them, their desire was to remove the grievances of the workers through this joint standing machinery. They have stated on page 168:

"The Indian Railway Conference Association and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation are bodies whereby a Joint Standing Central Board can be formed in the best interests of all concerned. We therefore recommend the introduction of machinery for dealing with industrial relations on railways which will provide for the constitution of a Joint Standing Central Board to which representatives of the Agents and of the workers should be elected in equal proportions."

Further on, they state:

"We recommend that the representatives of the Agents should be elected by the Indian Railway Conference Association and those of the workers by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation."

They stated further:

"When a dispute is apprehended on any railway, if the matter is not capable of settlement by its Railway Council, it should be referred automatically to the Central Board; it being agreed that no stoppage of labour, either by strike or lock-out, should take place pending consideration by the Central Board or, in the event of failure to reach agreement, pending the decision of the tribunal to be set up."

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Later on, they suggest that the tribunal should be composed of five representatives of each side of the Central Board together with five persons from outside unconnected with railway administration or railway workers or the Association. This was suggested, Sir, eight years ago and the Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board have discussed this question year after year and the consideration was put off from time to time, and last year we were told that the matter was now before the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour. I would not wonder, Sir, if tomorrow the Honourable Member in charge of Railways and Commerce were to say that he would not like to anticipate the decision of that unwanted child, the Statutory Railway Authority, and when that Authority comes up, I would not wonder if that Authority were to say that the matter should be left to the Governor General in his individual discretion and special responsibilities to dispose of the matter.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** And we shall be told to wait till the Federation comes into existence.

**Mr. V. V. Giri:** Sir, that is the attitude of the Railway Department in India towards industrial disputes. They often shed crocodile tears and say that they are most anxious to have a healthy growth of the trade union movement. Therefore, Sir, I charge the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Railways that if, within the last eight years after the Royal Commission came to India and wrote their report, disputes have occurred and thousands and thousands of workers have been put out of work and thousands and thousands of families have been ruined, all the sins lie at the door of the Government of India. Sir, the labour policy of the Government of India, so far as industrial disputes are concerned, has entirely failed.

Now, the second point I would like to raise before this House during this debate is the policy of retrenchment of the Railway Board. During the depression period of 1931-32, the Railway Department in all the Company-managed and State railways have retrenched 47,000 workers. Now, that means 47,000 workers, and their families were put out of work, and they and their families were thus left without any hope of getting the next morsel of food for the day! Sir, the Railwaymen's Federation and the affiliated unions have cried hoarse that the retrenchment of workers should be prevented. They, on the other hand, were prepared to place before the railway authorities alternative schemes and thus avoid the retrenchment of men, but at the same time having a retrenchment of expenditure. They proposed three alternative methods—such as short time, leave by deputation, and attrition of normal wastage—because they knew that, after all, the Railway Department would not be able to get on for all time with the railways shorthanded and that they will again have to appoint men later on, but the Railway Department would not listen to us; they thought that they were quite wise enough and they could do without these 47,000 men altogether. But, Sir, in answer to questions put by me on the floor of this House, my Honourable friend, Mr. P. R. Rau, stated that, from and after the date of that retrenchment of 47,000 workers, they had taken nearly 36,000 people. They stated that the number of persons who had been re-employed after the retrenchment in 1931 were 18,482 and that those who had not been railway employees, but were new

recruits, numbered 18,188. Sir, again my protest against this Department is that while railway men were thrown out of employment, they have taken in 18,000 new men!

Sir, it is really surprising that the Department of Railways did not know that the Government of India had ratified the unemployment convention which required the establishment of employment exchanges and which required that the Government should place before the country quarterly statements of the number of unemployed taken back into employment and which also required the giving of information to unemployed men when vacancies did occur. We have been told that these new men were employed, because it was not possible to fit them into the jobs that were available, and we are asked to believe that explanation. Sir, we cannot accept that explanation, because it was the duty of the Railway Department to train those men who have been retrenched to suit themselves to the appointments that were many a time to be filled. That is what is done in other countries, but that is what is not done here, because, Sir, we have got an irresponsible Government. (Hear, hear.) Not only that; we demanded the establishment of employment exchanges on different railways and we demanded that the representatives of the trade unions should be associated with those employment exchanges, because we wanted the trade unions to help employees by assisting them to get back to work, but this demand has been refused, and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation put up this demand very strongly before the last half-yearly meeting, but I am sorry to say that the Chief Commissioner of Railways could not accede to this request. I will state for the information of this House that this is not a new demand. This demand was put forward by the unions of the Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal Nagpur Railways in 1928 and 1929, respectively, and the employers agreed to our request, and these employment bureaus worked very satisfactorily from the point of view of the employers and from the point of view also of the workers. Sir, if the Government of India in the Department of Railways and Commerce have any *bona fide* intention of encouraging the growth of a healthy trade unionism in this country, there cannot be a better way than to take up this demand and consider it on the floor of this House. Next, Sir, I would like to deal with the question of the supervisor of railway labour in relation to the hours of employment regulations. We have been told at great length that the Government of India in the Department of Railways and Commerce was trying to introduce labour legislation of this kind, but I am bound to state that the workers have a grievance so far as the hours of employment regulations or the Geneva Convention go. We are told that these two Conventions have not been introduced in the true spirit of those regulations, and it is due to this fact that because you are not prepared to employ new men, the Railway Department could not put these regulations into effect in the true spirit with which those Conventions intended that these should be put into effect, and even here our demand was or rather our demand is that the railway unions should be taken into confidence, and that whenever the supervisor of railway labour visits the different railways, we made the modest request to the Chief Commissioner of Railways at the last half yearly meeting, we also made a request to the Standing Finance Committee on Railways, that the supervisor of railway labour should intimate his arrival to the recognised unions so that the representatives of the recognised unions might meet him and assist him by representing the grievances of the workers regarding this Geneva and Washington Conventions being stopped. But this demand also was put down.

[Mr. V. V. Giri.]

Now, Sir, another point that I should like to raise is that today the supervisor of the railway labour is under the department of railways. The supervisor of railway labour is expected to go to the different railways to supervise and tell the Agents of those railways that they are not putting into effect the regulations relating to the Geneva and Washington Conventions in the way in which they ought to be done; well, Sir, a railway servant cannot be expected to be independent and tell the Agents and the authorities of the different railways that they were not doing their duty. Therefore, the demand of the railway unions is that the supervisor of the railway labour should not be under the Department of Railways, but should be under the Department of Industries and Labour, so that he could be expected to be more independent than he is when he is under the department of railways.

The next point that I would like to raise is with reference to the new scales of wages introduced. The demand of the Railwaymen's Federation is that they ought to have been consulted before these revisions of scales of wages were introduced. The Government of India would not like to change their views after having put their views into execution, but we are told now "You can come up and tell us whether we are wrong or whether we are right". That is a different proposition from what it would have been if we had been given an opportunity before they have come to a decision and put the same into execution. The organised workers have a right to be heard before points are settled. In that, the Railway Department have failed in their duty by the railway workers in this country.

Now, Sir, the next point that I would like to put forward before the House is the question of punishment, discharges and dismissals. The All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the respective trade unions affiliated to the Federation have demanded a most moderate demand that whenever a punishment has occurred or was going to occur, the worker aggrieved should have the benefit of representing his case by a representative of a trade union of which he was a member. Eight years ago, the Royal Commission on Labour made this recommendation, and if really the Government of India and the Railway Department are anxious to encourage the growth of genuine trade union movement, such a small demand could and should have been considered, but they have been refused.

Now, Sir, I do not like to take up any more time of the House, but I am bound to say that the labour policy of the Railway Department has been a failure, and, for dilatory tactics, and procrastination, the Government of India is a piece of perfection for those who want to imitate them, and, under these circumstances, the Railway Department and the Government of India deserve the censure of this House, because they have not been doing their duty by the seven lakhs of railway workers who are responsible for the efficient running of railways, but for whose efficient working, we would not have been here today, and, if they do not do their work properly, we shall not go back to our homes in the happy manner we are able to do at present. Sir, I move.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Mr. President, I shall try to make the best use of the four or five minutes which I have just now before the motion for adjournment begins. Sir, I was rather pained to hear in the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of Railways as well as in the speech of Sir Guthrie Russell, the Chief Commissioner for Railways, statements with an implication that at least a part of the deficit which the railway budget has shown is due to the labour legislation which the Government of India during the last some years, perhaps ten or fifteen years, have undertaken for the benefit of railwaymen and for increasing the salaries and wages of railway employees. I feel that that statement is a misleading and unfair one. It is true that some years ago the Government of India passed legislation for regulating the hours of work for some classes of railwaymen. But the Government of India should remember that this legislation, they had undertaken to pass, was in pursuance of their having ratified the Convention of International Labour Conference which was passed in 1919 at Washington. If the labour legislation was passed in 1926 or 1927, the Government of India had only delayed what they had agreed to do in 1919. Secondly, it is said that the Government of India have spent 50 lakhs more in order to increase the wages and salaries of some classes of railway employees. So far as I know I have not heard of much increase of salaries of the railway employees in India. It may be that the railway employees of some lines, a section of them perhaps, may have got the benefit of this increase in wages, but I have not heard of a general increase of wages even of the lowest employees of the Indian railways. As a matter of fact, the Royal Commission on Labour made a recommendation that the rates of wages of the lowest paid employees should be revised and from the statement made by the Railway authorities in reply to that recommendation you will find that recommendation has not yet been given effect to. I therefore, feel, that it was wrong for both the Honourable Member in charge of railways and for the Chief Commissioner to throw out an implication that, at least, a part of their deficit was due to what they have done for railwaymen. Moreover, the statement was somewhat unfair. It is not that the Government of India have spent money only for labour legislation and for improving the salaries of railwaymen. They have spent larger sums of money in several other directions where it was not necessary at all. I have seen for several years that the Government of India have stocked first class carriages a little too much but even now they continue to spend more and more money in maintaining more and more first class carriages . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Sardar Sant Singh.

### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

REFLECTIONS BY THE HONOURABLE THE FINANCE MEMBER ON THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS ADMITTED BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT.

**Sardar Sant Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I move that the business of the Assembly be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance . . .

4 P.M.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Leader of the House): Sir, I rise to a point of order. The only motion which can be moved is that the House do adjourn.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is so. The motion will be that the Assembly do now adjourn.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

It is never a pleasant duty for any man to discuss questions involving personalities and it becomes still more difficult to discuss such a question when the principle and the personality go together and are inextricably mixed up. It is particularly so when passions are high and it is very difficult to bring about a calm and cool consideration of the points involved in the controversy.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair hopes the Honourable Member will not treat it as a personal question; it is not a personal question.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: I am trying to explain this very fact that I want to eliminate the personal question as much as I possibly can from the issues involved in the present dispute. At the very outset I may say that I do not know the facts involved in the question that was put yesterday to the Honourable the Finance Member, nor do I know how the information came to Mr. Sham Lal. What I am concerned with is the right of the Members of this House to ask questions and to get answers by way of information from those who are in a position to give that information. It has been contended, Sir, that Honourable Members of this House are in the habit of giving untrue facts amounting to misrepresentation and thus securing publicity for those untrue facts through the medium of this House.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: That is not the statement.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He said, "some Honourable Members".

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: The statement is misquoted.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: The exact words are:

"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some Honourable Members giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints from subordinate Government servants."

I hope, Sir, the House will agree with me that the plain meaning of this expression is the sweeping condemnation of those who are in the habit of putting questions, the facts of which are not palatable or agreeable to the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches. The fact of the matter is that there is some misunderstanding on the part of Honourable Members now occupying the Treasury Benches as to what the position of Honourable Members is in respect of putting questions. I will refer to Standing Order 14 which lays down the rule:

"A question addressed to a member of Government must relate to the public affairs with which he is officially connected or to a matter of administration for which he is responsible."

The latter portion is very important for the purposes of the present controversy. Probably the Honourable the Finance Member thinks that the Member's privilege of asking for information about any matter is only confined to the matters of public interest or public affairs, as the expression is used in this Standing Order. He forgets that whenever injustice is done in any department of the Government of India or its subordinate offices, it is not only a right but a duty cast upon the Honourable Members of this House to see that justice is done and the rules of equity and good conscience are observed in treating that public servant in that office. I need not remind my Honourable friends that even in the Mother of Parliaments questions relating to individual injustice have been taken up. I may refer to a case which is cited in the *Hindustan Times* of today in which Lord Weir who was head of the Air Ministry punished a lady typist of his department and she was dismissed. That question was taken up by several Members of Parliament and a committee was appointed to go into the question. I do not know what happened but probably justice was done to her. (Interruption from Major Ahmad Nawaz Khan). You know better, Nawab Saheb. Here, a parallel case has arisen where, according to the questioner, injustice has been done to a public servant doing his duty in the office of the Honourable the Finance Member. The Honourable Member expected that the questioner should have been supplied with the right information. My submission is that if such a condition is laid upon Honourable Members to secure the right information first and then ask for the information, the privilege loses its value and force. As a matter of fact, whenever any one comes to us for redress of his grievance, we look into it whether his grievance involves any principle of public interest, and we put the question. From the very nature of the case, the information supplied to us is one-sided. We have no access and cannot have any access to the Government file. We cannot be expected to test our information before putting the question. We are to make out a *prima facie* case whether the facts given to us involve certain principles of public interest or do not involve such principles. When once we are satisfied that injustice has been done and that some principle is involved we put the question. It is for those who are in charge of that department to correct our information if it is wrong in any particular. But in this case, the Honourable the Finance Member, while replying to Mr. Sham Lal and making a sweeping remark about some Honourable Members being in the habit of putting questions of that nature, did not make it clear to the Honourable Member where the misrepresentation lay. As a matter of fact when the Honourable Member asked the Honourable the Finance Member to point out the facts which he called misrepresentations, he referred him back to the informer. Is that the attitude of Government towards the Members of this House?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** (Finance Member): Certainly.

**An Honourable Member**: Certainly not.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: I am pained to find, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member has not taken note of the temper of this House and is still persisting in an attitude which, in my humble opinion, is not the correct attitude towards this House. We are, and, Sir, with your assistance we have, to maintain the dignity of this House. You are the custodian of the dignity, the privileges and the rights of this

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

House. May I ask whether you will permit, or any Honourable Member of this House will permit, that the dignity of this House be lowered in any way? Certainly not. Not a single Member will wish it. We are here to enlarge our privileges in our march towards the freedom of our country, and, whether we have to resort to the painful necessity of censuring an individual Member of the Government or the Government of India as a whole, we cannot permit, situated as we are, a challenge to our rights and our privileges. You, Sir, in the morning, gave another opportunity to the Honourable the Finance Member to review his own attitude and adopt better manners—I should say parliamentary manners—but he refused to do it. That is why you were pleased to permit the motion to be discussed. Personally, I shall only be too pleased to find honourable amends made to those Members of the House towards whom the hint was directed that they are in the habit of asking questions containing untrue statements. May I once more appeal to the Honourable Member himself and to his colleagues on that Bench not to allow this unpleasant controversy to be prolonged, but to make honourable amends to the House? Sir, I move.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

“That the Assembly do now adjourn.”

**Mr. K. L. Gauba** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I agree with Sardar Sant Singh that this is a motion which should be considered calmly and dispassionately. We have to see what justification there was for the allegations which the Honourable the Finance Member made yesterday. The report in the *Statesman* and the report in other papers also indicate that the Honourable the Finance Member used the words “Honourable Members” generally. Today we are informed that he said “Some Honourable Members.” I am willing to accept that the *Statesman* has not reported correctly.

**Some Honourable Members:** It never does.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba:** But, Sir, what difference does it make if the Honourable the Finance Member says “Some Honourable Members” without naming those Members? The Honourable the Finance Member has got to tell us who are these Honourable Members and to prove that they have this habit of putting unfounded and improper questions.

When the motion was admitted this morning, I looked at the list of questions on the table of the House, and I found there were 330 printed questions in it. I would ask of the Honourable the Finance Member to point out which of those 330 questions come in the category of questions which Members are in the habit of putting,—either as improper questions or questions based upon unfounded reasons.

The question, Sir, of interpellation is a valuable right of this House. The Members of this House are not going to take it from the Honourable the Finance Member as to how they are to put their questions. (Hear, hear.) The Honourable the Finance Member referred to certain Government employees invoking political assistance in order to ventilate their



grievances. I agree that there may be cases where a Government employee wants a grievance ventilated, which might not legitimately be ventilated on the floor of this House. But there are hundreds of cases where a Government employee's only means of getting justice is through the Members of this House. I will only give one instance without naming the person. A very humble man in the Railway Department was retired 13 years before his time through a clerical error; his record had not been properly entered. He appealed and appealed to every conceivable person, but got no justice. He came to a Member of this House. There are several cases of that kind, and I think it is the duty of Honourable Members of this House to take up such cases.

I will not keep the House very much longer. I would only refer to page 245 of May's Parliamentary Practice which refers to the answers which Members of Government might give to interpellations addressed to them. It says:

"An answer should be confined to the points contained in the question with such explanation as renders the answer intelligible."

I submit that the Honourable the Finance Member's answer yesterday was entirely irrelevant to the question that was addressed to him. We are not concerned with his lecture to his own Department and to his own officials, but the Honourable the Finance Member went out of his scope in addressing a gratuitous lecture to the Members of this House. All I would say is, just by way of friendly advice to the Honourable the Finance Member, that we will be quite ready to withdraw this motion if he will make amends to Honourable Members. If the Honourable the Finance Member wants consideration from this House he must first show consideration to this House. We have had two or three incidents recently, very unpleasant incidents, all arising from the same quarter. We had the remark addressed to Sir Cowasji Jehangir, one of the Leaders of the Opposition.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot refer to other points, not connected with this motion.

**Mr. F. E. James** (Madras: European): May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I understand that this motion refers to a specific matter arising out of an answer to a question yesterday: I suggest that no other consideration should enter into this.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has already said so.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba**: Very well; I accept that. As I said in the beginning, all I have to point out is this: a serious allegation has been made against the Members of this House. If the Honourable the Finance Member can prove it, so much the better. If he cannot, then the only decent, honourable, gentlemanly thing he can do is to apologise to the Members of this House.

**Dr. N. B. Khare** (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, to start with, I thank the Honourable the Finance Member for providing us for our discussion with a first class issue of political importance. He has charged some Honourable Members with the habit of giving publicity to

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

improper matters in asking questions. I need not say that it is a direct insult hurled by him on this House, and he has dared to do so simply because we are ourselves a nation under political subjection, and he happens to rule over us: that is all: otherwise in an independent country he would not have dared to do so; and he has told us that in the English Civil Service there are different rules. It may be so, it may not be so: we are not concerned with the English Civil Service at all. Conditions in England are certainly different. An Indian government servant in India, whether high or low, has to work under a double handicap; the first handicap is the service itself—he has to serve: the second handicap is that he has to serve under people who dominate over him politically and in every other way and who are foreigners. Under those conditions it is quite easy to imagine to what iniquities and to what insults these government servants may be put; it is, therefore, doubly necessary for this House to protect them. I had the misfortune to be one and I know what that means to my cost. He comes from a foreign country, dominates over us as a Finance Member and he thinks that the Government of India is a close preserve of his, and, therefore, his attitude can be easily compared with that towards a poacher.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go into personal matters: he can discuss the question without regard to personalities, as has been done by other Honourable Members.

**Dr. N. B. Khare:** Sir, this is not a personal matter, it is only a simile. He thinks certainly that it is a close preserve and, therefore, any encroachment which he thinks we make on the rights of the Government of India or their unholy secrets ruffles him and he comes down upon us with his vitriolic outbursts. The House cannot tolerate that. Even though we may be under political subjection, we have not lost our self-respect. We are here to assert it and assert it with all the force and emphasis we can command.

The other day, there was a reference in this House to some mother-in-law. God knows how many mothers-in-law we have got! There is one mother-in-law, the big and cruel one who sits in Whitehall, and there are so many subordinate mothers-in-law here who come and dominate over us. By birthright, we are sons-in-law and this Government of India is our bride to whom we are lawfully wedded. We are kept away from her by these mothers-in-law who so jealously chaperon her; the bride is kept away in such severe seclusion that she has become an excluded area for us. This sort of thing cannot go on for ever and we protest. If it comes to that, we all shall have to turn Garos and marry these mothers-in-law.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, the unseemly scene which we witnessed this morning reminds me of the lines of an Urdu Poet who, it seems, foresaw what the Honourable the Finance Member was going to do this morning. His lines are:

“Bare gunah barh gaya uzre gunah se  
Dhone se aur damné iman chikal gayá.”

which means, "that the gravity of the mistake or sin was made much more by the way it was sought to be explained away. The garment of truth and honesty which was to be washed clean was made more dirty by the way in which the cleaning was done". As you know, Sir, washing needs a little blue indigo, and I am sure that a little blue blood of courtesy and good manners in the Finance Member would have at least prevented the scene which we witnessed today. The Honourable the Finance Member instead of withdrawing the objectionable remarks, when they were pointed out to him—and when he must have noticed that a large section of this House resented his remarks—said "I stick to what I have said" and something more in that strain. The result naturally is that he sticks to his remarks and this House must, therefore, stick to its position. I for my part do not like incidents like this. I have been to this House before—I was here when Sir Malcolm Hailey was the Leader of the House. I was here when Sir Alexander Muddiman—may his soul rest in peace—was the Leader of the House; I was here when Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra was leading the House. I have seen the Opposition Benches adorned by stalwarts like Pandit Motilal Nehru who lived and died for us, people like Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. Jinnah, who is even now with us, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas and others; but I never had an occasion to witness what we saw this morning. It seems there is something rotten in the state of Denmark. We are bidding good-bye to the tradition, and decorum which used to be observed in this House. The Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches, as well as other friends of mine sitting on this side of the House, will, I hope and trust, be more careful hereafter. It is very natural, Sir, that when people of different shades of political opinion gather together when there are people to look after vested interests and there are others to pull those interests down, when there is a tug-of-war between the have's and the have-not's, feelings sometimes do run high, hot words are exchanged at times, but it has never been witnessed in this House that from hot words we come to blows and scene like the one we are all out to condemn.

**An Honourable Member:** Not yet.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** I do not remember to have ever seen things coming to a pass when adjournment motions because necessary or unavoidable. The common practice of gentlemen and amongst gentlemen is to express regret or to apologise as soon as it is known or even feared that you have hurt another bodily or you have hurt his feelings. No one gets up to think whether the other was really hurt or not. It is generally presumed that the other has been hurt, but one has to live and learn, and we have learnt something today. The Honourable the Finance Member refused to withdraw his words even when he was given a chance to do so by you, even after he saw from the attitude of Honourable Members of this House that he did hurt their feelings. Well, Sir, it seems that we have to learn every day etiquette of polite society, and it would not be amiss, Sir, if we could arrange to have a book placed on the table of the House which would teach manners to the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches. What is most painful, Sir, is that the fortunate few sitting on the Treasury Benches trample down not only the privileges of the Honourable Members, but they in a way trample down the privileges of the Chair as well. I have found, Sir, that when these good friends cannot meet our arguments with arguments, when they find

[Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya.]

that logic, truth and reason is on the other side, they generally have recourse to executive action, which means the use of executive power, undignified language, lathi charges or lathi blows. When, Sir, they find they cannot touch you, they inflict punishment on some near and dear to you.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is straying away from the point.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** The question was asked in this House by your permission. When you had approved the question that it was within the four corners of the rules and regulations which govern this House, the Honourable the Finance Member condemned the question in his own way. I am glad he was in a tight corner being unlike the United Provinces Government within the four walls of this House, and he had to eat his words back and apologise to you, even though his apology was preceded by an 'if' which took away the grace of his action. Sir, I beg of you to guard against these encroachments upon the privileges of the Chair. The practice, it seems, is growing and is taking root. The action taken against the *Abhyudaya* for publishing my speech which was allowed by you and which our Secretary has already published. ....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member should confine himself to the motion before the House.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** Sir, I am just citing an example of the way in which. ....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would ask the Honourable Member not to allude to it.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** Very well, Sir. This is not the first occasion, when Honourable Members of this House have been hit below the belt. We have not forgotten what the Honourable the Home Member said regarding my friend, Mr. Sham Lal. ....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Again the Honourable Member is straying away from the subject.

**Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** Well, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member asked my friend, Mr. Sham Lal, to furnish him with the sources of his information. It is open to him to prosecute my friend in the name of the Official Secrets' Act, or if there is no such Act, he can easily have one passed and then prosecute him, but he has no right to ask the Honourable Members of this House to furnish him with the sources of their information. My friend charged him with having recourse to confidential official files. Sir, we are here to right wrongs, to fight for those who cannot defend themselves. I say, my friend would have been false to himself, to his duties and to this House if he had not stood up for the protection of the weak and expose the high-handedness of the official concerned, once he was in possession of these facts. It is immaterial to me how he got the information. What are we here for, and

why should we be here if we cannot do even this little bit and protect the unfortunate brethren of ours who daily receive kicks from their superiors and cannot complain? They are poor, they have families to support, they cannot tender resignations and leave the service, and it is up to us to see that they are treated with due respect and are not treated as inferior beings. Our tin gods need a lesson in manners. They have to be told, Sir, that if they do not behave properly and keep within bounds, they will be paid back in their own coins.

The Honourable the Finance Member thought it fit to withdraw his remarks so far as the Chair was concerned. He knows he cannot remain in the House if he insults the Chair, but he thinks that he can overlord us and continue to sit on his Bench even after insulting the Honourable Members sitting on this side of the House. This he should not be allowed to do. I, for my part, Sir, would only ask him to express regret for his words, when Honourable Members on this side of the House think and believe that they have been hurt by his words. This is only due from a gentleman, and as a gentleman he should express regret and apologise to the Honourable Members. Nothing will be lost, courtesy and good manners never fail and they always pay.

**Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have been all my life a firm believer in discipline, and I know what harmful results will follow if proper discipline is not maintained even in civil administration. (*An Honourable Member*: "Even in this House.") Discipline is as necessary in civil administration as it is in the army, but lack of discipline in the army will probably bring in invaders from the Frontier to India, and in the meantime our army may be ready to resist, but lack of discipline in civil administration is very very difficult. . . .

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Especially in this House.

**Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan**: That is why Honourable Members are getting out of discipline. They do not know anything about discipline. (*An Honourable Member*: "Including you".) Lack or breach of discipline in this House, to my mind, is an internal rebellion in the House. ("Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.) Breach of discipline in civil administration will create enemies, and if Honourable Members take grievances from discontented subordinates in every department without considering whether really public interests are served in any way and put questions, then it is the duty of every Member of Government to protect his own department. . . .

**Sardar Sant Singh**: I rise to a point of order, Sir. How is this relevant to the matter under discussion?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on.

**Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan**: To paralyse the civil administration, we have only to create discontent and breach of discipline in the rank and file against the highest authority. The present case seems

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to me to be one of internal discontent, and the Honourable the Finance Member is within his right to resist any encroachment on secret files. Even my Honourable friends over there, if they are in charge of any big department, will not allow any outsider to encroach upon their secret files. (Interruption.) „If officials or subordinates can approach Honourable Members with personal grievances and if Honourable Members can have access to these Government files, the matter will not stop there. We have heard of some leakage in the budget proposals, we have heard that some people have benefitted by that. If such things were allowed, Honourable Members must know what the result would be. It has been the custom of the House to keep the secrets of any department which are not to be divulged, but if they are to be obtained through these methods, that must be deprecated. If Honourable Members on the opposite side, who have great sacrifices to their credit in the cause of the country and who have suffered heavily both in physique and comforts and financially during the last fifteen years, are to be a party to such a thing as this—it is really very unfair for them to be such a party. I know they have come here to give as much trouble to Government as they can, but one never appreciates the use of underhand methods. This is a worst case to enable subordinates to get the upper hand of the Legislature. No excuse can tolerate such a conduct. A study of the history of the European countries shows that, wherever democracy has been abused, the result has been to place a dictator in charge of the administration. I hope my friends would not like democracy to be replaced by a dictatorship. Now, Sir, without being personal and without meaning any disrespect to any Member of the House, I appeal to the good sense of the House to support the dignity of administration. It would be more dignified for the Mover to withdraw this motion, but I know the personal element has come, and it is rather difficult for Members to vote with their conscience.

**Mr. F. E. James:** I think that a certain amount of irrelevant material has been imported into this discussion, and I wish, in the very few words which I desire to speak, to bring the discussion back to what I understand to be the real issue involved in this adjournment motion. In the first place, I understand that no question of privilege is involved. . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Good manners!

**Mr. F. E. James:** . . . and, in the second place, I understand that the merits of the particular question which formed the subject of the question and answer yesterday are not in the picture. If the merits of that particular subject were under discussion I would say unhesitatingly that, on the merits of that point, quite apart from the precise wording of the answer, the Honourable the Finance Member has performed a public service of great merit in dealing definitely with the subject-matter of that question. (Interruption.) On the merits of the case we certainly are of his view that one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India or in any other country. . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Is himself!

**Mr. F. E. James:** . . . is the habit—one of the most serious dangers to decent debate in this House is the interruptions of my Honourable

friends—we certainly agree with the Honourable the Finance Member in his view that one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in any country is the habit, where it exists, of invoking political assistance in the interests of individual Government servants. My Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, quoted a case which was, if I may say so, not comparable to the case which was the subject of this particular question. It is certainly improper for any Government servant, whether he is a subordinate, or whether he is a superior, while he is in service, to invoke political assistance in the redress of his grievance as long as there are remedies laid down and as long as he is under the discipline of the service of which he is a member. I do not think that anybody can possibly complain about that. As I say, if the merits of this question were under consideration, that is the view that I believe frankly would be taken by most Members in this House to whatever party they belong. But, Sir, unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, the merits of the question from that point of view are not now under discussion.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Yes, they are.

**Mr. F. E. James:** Perhaps my Honourable friend will allow me to proceed; he will have a chance to reply afterwards. But, as I understood the point of the discussion this morning when you were pleased to admit this motion, it was to be limited to the question as to whether a certain extract from the answer to the question yesterday cast a reflection on a Member or any body of Members in this House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is also another passage as regards political assistance:

"In my view, one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India is the habit of invoking political assistance . . ."

The Chair has included that at the instance of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. F. E. James:** Then that makes no difference whatever to my general argument. I have already dealt with the second extract, namely, "In my view one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India is the habit of invoking political assistance in the interests of individual Government servants." We stand by that, by every word of it. We believe it is absolutely true; we believe it is absolutely necessary in any country which pretends to have any sort of decent administration, and I may say I believe that my Honourable friends, if and when they assume office anywhere, will want decent administration under their supervision and will come to precisely the same conclusion.

Now, Sir, with regard to the other extract, the words I have before me are those which are contained in a copy which is, I believe, the report from the Official Reporter's Office:

"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some Honourable Members giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints from subordinate Government servants."

Now, Sir, it is suggested that those words are in fact a reflection upon Honourable Members of this House. The Honourable the Finance Member this morning was quick to withdraw any suggestion that words which he had uttered were meant to convey any reflection upon you, Sir, as the

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occupant of that Chair and as the custodian of the dignity and privileges of this House. I cannot believe that it was the intention of the Honourable the Finance Member to cast a general reflection upon Members of this House. It has always been the tradition in this House that when we call one another 'Honourable Members', we assume for each Member honourable motives; and I cannot believe that my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, willingly cast a general reflection, on . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Let him say so.

**Mr. F. E. James:** . . . the propriety of the conduct of Members of this House. I would ask him, if that is not the case, then surely the remedy would not be a difficult one. I would ask the House that if in accordance with these particular words there were some indication from the Honourable the Finance Member that no general reflection upon the conduct of Honourable Members of this House is intended, then as far as that part of the extract from the Honourable Member's answers is concerned, the matter may be dropped. I would only say in conclusion that it is easy in the cut and thrust of political argument sometimes to over-emphasize a point of view. It is true that these particular words are taken from a written and printed statement and, therefore, it is to be assumed that they have a deliberation which perhaps is not invested in words which are used in answer to supplementary questions. But I am reluctant to believe that there is, in these words, any intention to do what I believe to be improper, namely, to cast a general reflection upon the Members of this House. If that is the case, then I do hope that the Honourable the Finance Member, in this respect, will make some modification. Surely, this reflection which appears to have been imported into these words by the interpretation of various parts of the House might be withdrawn and the matter might be dropped.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Mr. President, in more senses than one, I genuinely regret this debate. I had hoped that the Honourable the Finance Member would speak, and I would follow him; but quite unusually he is keeping very silent, with his tongue in his cheek. If he follows this example oftener than he does, then it would be better for him, and for this side of the House. Mr. President, this is an unusual debate in more senses than one. Here are a set of gentlemen whom we cannot remove. We defeat them week after week, month after month and yet nothing happens to them, and they sit there and flourish, as the green-bay tree. Here we are representing tens of thousands and lakhs of our countrymen and having their mandate, and we can do nothing and we get nothing out of these people. If human nature were to assert itself, then we should be throwing books, ink-bottles and order papers at them, and you should be calling us to order, whereas they in the consciousness of their strength, should at least put on an amiable appearance; but whom the Gods wish to destroy, Mr. President, they first turn mad; and I think the Honourable the Finance Member's malady is symptomatic of the decay of the Government of India. They know they are going, and, therefore, they say these things. But, frankly, I am not surprised. I am reliably informed that the Honourable the Finance Member once told His Excellency the Viceroy: "Your Excellency, you are talking through your hat."



**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think these private talks can be referred to.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: I was simply commenting on the habitual lapse of language of my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, and, therefore, I think he really has made the position worse than it need have been, had he followed the sedate, wise, calm and deliberate advice of my Honourable friend from Madras. Now, Sir, I would have no quarrel with my friend from Madras, if the Honourable the Finance Member had either yesterday or today seen his way to modify his answer to the extent to which this House has a right to demand. You, Sir, in the generosity of your heart, were willing to give him an opportunity this morning. He did not take advantage of that opportunity. He had only one lucid interval, in his angry madness, and that was when he apologised to you. I congratulate him on that. We have vindicated the honour of the Chair. You are the custodian of the dignity and the privileges of this House. We look to you and to this House to vindicate the dignity, the honour, and the privileges of this House, against these attacks on its privileges by an occupant of the Treasury Bench.

Now, what is the point at issue, Sir? I shall read only the answers to the question. He says with regard to (a), there is an instruction; (b) and (c). *In his view*, the Deputy Secretary did not use language of the nature suggested. That is a matter of opinion. Then, Sir, he has used the word "misrepresentation" not once, but twice. He did it yesterday. He did it today. I regret I was not alert enough to call your attention to the unparliamentary nature of that word. Now, Sir, I shall draw his attention to May's Parliamentary Practice. I may as well read that sentence:

"The use of temperate and decorous language is never more desirable than when a member is canvassing the opinions and the conduct of his opponents in debate. The imputation of bad motives or motives different from those intended, misrepresenting the language of another or accusing him in his turn of *misrepresentation*, all these are unparliamentary and call for prompt interference."

Then, my friend talked of the English Civil Service and various rules thereof. May I ask him one question? Is there a committee called the Whitley Committee there on which Government servants are also represented and their interests are safeguarded? Is there any such committee in this country? Was there a demand? Was it turned down? Is he satisfied that all the subordinate servants get absolute justice and that there is no injustice at all? Does he think that people who suffer injustice ought not to ventilate it? I do not encourage the habit of public servants seeking the assistance of legislatures; and if my Honourable friend had used temperate language and criticised an Honourable Member's particular question in courteous, mild and decorous language, things might have been different; but I do strongly object and the House strongly objects to my friend taking the opportunity of answering a question to use unparliamentary language. You have ruled consistently, and we have always obeyed your ruling instinctively, that question time ought not to be used for any purpose other than putting questions, and getting information, but my friend deliberately says:

"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some **5 P.M.** Honourable Members giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints from subordinate Government servants."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

Before I comment on that, I want to draw your attention and the attention of this Honourable House to two Rules, or Standing Orders rather, on that question which are a complete answer to this charge. The first Standing Order is Standing Order No. 15, which simply says in part (2):

"In order that a question may be admissible, it must satisfy the following conditions, namely:

(2) if it contains a statement by the member himself, he shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement."

**An Honourable Member:** Read the next.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** My Honourable friend asked a question of my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, *viz.*:

"Is it a fact that the Deputy Secretary wrote the word 'stupid' against the note of a gazetted officer of his Department?"

He simply asked a question: if he really made a statement, and, on that, proceeded to base his case, that would have been a different matter. At that rate, we can ask no questions, if we have got complete information on all the allegations made. What is the use of asking questions, then? I know all about it, and you will naturally rule it out and say: "You can not give information, but only ask for information."

The other Standing Order is Standing Order 16 on which I also rely:

"16. The President shall decide whether a question is or is not admissible under these standing orders, and may disallow any question when in his opinion it is an abuse of the right of questioning or calculated to obstruct or prejudicially affect the procedure of the Assembly, or is in contravention of these standing orders . . ."

Now, Sir, all these questions have escaped the eyes of the President; that is to say, the Chair is given the power of disallowing questions which are an abuse of the right of questioning. My friend says, on that, in spite of it, some Members indulge in this habit; now that is undoubtedly casting a reflection on the Members,—that they somehow manage to escape the eyes of the Chair and indulge in a habit which the Chair is bound to protect the House against. I submit, Sir, that that is wrong, and I ask my friend to suggest what is the percentage of questions on which he can honestly make this criticism. Then, Sir, the next sentence is not relevant, because you have ruled it out as a matter which cannot be taken up during this debate. But the next point I want to make is this. If my Honourable friend had added:

"Honourable Members sometimes unintentionally give publicity to these allegations",

there might have been something to be said for it; but, as I read it, it is a charge of a deliberate moral turpitude on the part of Honourable Members, that they intentionally put questions which they know are based on unfounded and improper complaints.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** That is not at all what I said.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Wait; I know you will go to ruin. (Laughter.) Sir, there is a story of an Irishman who said: "I will be drowned, you shall not do anything for me". Sir, in spite of my friend from Madras,

I know what will happen. (Hear, hear.) If the answer had been: "Some Honourable Members sometimes unintentionally give publicity to these unfounded allegations", the feeling aroused would not have been so great, but my charge is, as I read the Honourable Member's answer, that it is an allegation and imputation on his part of moral turpitude of some Honourable Members of this House. Sir, we cannot stand it, and we will not stand it. Then, Sir, he said in the last sentence of that answer:

"In my view one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India is the habit of invoking political assistance in the interests of individual Government servants."

I agree, Sir; but may I ask my friend to turn his eyes to the members of the Heaven-born service. Sir, there is no political service better organized than the I. C. S. Every time their case gets heard first, it is their interests which are protected first, and the views and interests of the people of India count for nothing at all. They are allowed to organize themselves, to send representations, to carry on agitation, and to bring various kinds of pressure to bear, and will my Honourable friend dissolve all those Associations and stop all those activities? (Hear, hear.) Therefore, it seems to me that to put this responsibility on us of encouraging Government servants to seek political assistance is to blame the wrong quarters. I think the I. C. S., for instance, is grossly guilty already in this matter. Moreover, I want to draw your attention to one ruling in the Extract from the Rulings of the Chair which are printed in this book which, although not *ad idem* with this point, still throws some light. At page 360, it says:

"The Chair is not concerned with the private opinion which one Member holds regarding the good faith of another; but when private opinion finds public expression in the suggestion that officials mislead the Assembly by not being straightforward, we are perilously near the point where reasoned discussion becomes impossible owing to the intrusion of personal feeling and personal charges that are not easily proved or disproved. To this the Chair cannot turn a deaf ear. To pass in silence expressions of that kind would create a precedent which would open the straight road to recrimination and consequently to disorder. Hence the rigour with which expressions, commonly called *unparliamentary*, must be scrutinised by the President."

Sir, amending those words and applying them here:

"The House is not concerned with the private opinion that my Honourable friend holds regarding many of us, but when that private opinion finds public expression in the suggestion that some Honourable Members mislead the Assembly by not being straightforward, we are perilously near the point where reasoned discussion becomes impossible owing to the intrusion of personal feeling and personal charges that are not easily proved or disproved."

I, therefore, appeal to all Honourable Members of this House on whatever Benches they sit, including the European Benches, to help in protecting in this matter the dignity and the prestige of this House. (Loud Applause.)

Then, Sir, there is one point on which I want to make a few remarks in order to bring home the rule to the Honourable Member. This morning we had a long discussion between you and the Honourable the Finance Member when this matter came up. Then, Sir, he said:

"I am entitled to say that information must have been obtained by improper means, either improper on the Honourable Member's part or improper on the part of those who gave him the information,"

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and he persisted in that, Sir, and although you suggested to him, more or less broadly, that he might see his way to withdraw the expression, he insisted, and he persisted in that course. It seems to me, Sir, that the position of Honourable Members in this House who have got to do their work under terrible handicaps will become almost impossible, if Honourable Members occupying the Treasury Benches are to hold a threat to us, or to abuse us under the cover of privileges of the House, and also suggest that we are in the habit of obtaining improper information, and using it in order to ventilate individual grievances. On behalf of the non-official Members of this House, Sir, I want to assure this House that we have no desire here except to do our best by those who have sent us here; and if we have used the right of interpellation, it is to get information, in order that we may explain to the people exactly the actions and the motives of the Government. Reading the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member of yesterday, reading his comments to-day, and reading them all together, there can be no hesitation on the part of any Honourable Member that this is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Honourable the Finance Member to coerce or frighten some Honourable Members and to lower the dignity and the prestige of the House; and, in the name of the dignity and prestige of this Honourable House, I appeal to all Honourable Members to join with us in passing this vote of censure on the Government, so that this scene may not be repeated hereafter. (Loud Applause.)

**Several Honourable Members:** The question may now be put.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** (Home Member): Sir, I join in the Honourable the Mover's hope that this subject, in the small time that remains, may still be discussed dispassionately, and, if possible, in an impersonal manner, and I regret that the last speaker should have kept his observations so very much on the personal plane. I regret, too, that he should have accused us on these Benches of treating him and his friends on those Benches with discourtesy. I must say that that struck me as somewhat ironical, because, surely, if you, Sir, are compelled to call the House to order, then eleven times out of twelve, your appeal is directed to those Benches, and not these. The Honourable Member also thought fit to inform us that the question hour was to be reserved and devoted to eliciting information on questions of facts. For one who occupies three-fourths of every question hour in a kind of police court cross-examination of the Members sitting on the Treasury Benches, that strikes me as a little ironical.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** That is the courtesy which Government show us!

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Why not?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The Honourable Member called us pettifogging and doing "dirty tricks".

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Then let us be quits!

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** This question has an importance far greater than its personal aspect, and it seems to me that there are two points of view from which it should be approached. The first point of view and that which has been prominent in most of the speeches delivered this evening is from the point of view of the rights of Members of this House.

Now, Sir, it is not denied, I do not think anybody has denied for a moment the rights of Members of this House to ask questions on matters of public concern. That right is general and restricted only by the exclusion under the rules of certain subjects and by the right of the Chair to decide what is or is not a matter of public concern. That right, Sir, is undoubted and was never for a moment denied and that point is not in issue at all. But, Sir, there is another and in my opinion a far more important side to this question and that is the importance of safeguarding the efficiency, the discipline and the purity of public administration. It is from that point of view that I, in contrast to other speakers, desire for a few moments to examine the motion before the House. Sir, it is well known to most students of English parliamentary history that for many years down to as late as the end of the 18th century political influence carried a very great weight in the matter of appointments and promotions in the public services and it was not till after a long struggle lasting the better part of the century that the public administration has been freed from that kind of influence.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What has this to do with the motion for adjournment before the House?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is speaking with reference to the second passage in the answer.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** It was not till about the year 1860 or thereabouts that political influence was eliminated, not only in the matter of appointment to the public service, but also in the matter of what I may call generally promotion in and the ventilation of grievances in the public administration. It was, I think, in the year 1867 that the Treasury and certain other great Departments issued an order or an instruction to their subordinates explicitly discouraging in the strongest possible terms the invocation of any kind of political influence in order to bring it to bear upon a matter of departmental or service grievance. The tendency for the Legislatures to interfere in service and departmental matters came into prominence very early in the history of reforms in India, and that very eminent Parliamentarian, Sir Frederic Whyte, who was the First Speaker of this Assembly, soon after he assumed his office, had occasion to note on this matter. Writing some eight or nine months after his assumption of office, he said "that he noticed that it is the practice of clerks and other subordinate officers in Government employment to approach Members of the Legislature and to ask them to air any grievances they may have on the question paper of the Legislative Assembly. There is an administrative rule in England by which all candidates for office under Government are warned that any attempt to enlist the influence of Members of Parliament in favour of their candidature may entail disqualification and certainly will not promote their

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success". That was the view of the President of the Assembly, a gentleman who was selected for that great office by virtue of his intimate acquaintance and close study of parliamentary conventions and procedure. He went so far as to suggest that questions on these subjects should be disallowed by the Chair. That suggestion was put forward tentatively and was discussed by him at a Conference of the Presidents of other Legislatures in India. After that conference, he noted:

"We agreed that questions likely to interfere with the discipline or proper working of a Department were undesirable and one President (*that is to say, President of one provincial Legislative Council*) went so far as to say that he disallowed them as not being of public concern. I think this is a sound view. There are presumably means whereby subordinates can approach the Head of an office when they have a real grievance: If so, such questions cannot become 'of public concern' unless and until the prescribed method has been tried and failed—and I would add, unless the grievance is substantial."

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury** (Assam: Muhammadan): I understand that the Honourable the Home Member is reading from the proceedings of the Presidents' Conference. Is it in order for him to read from a confidential document? It is always understood that the proceedings of the Presidents' Conference are to be kept confidential.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is so. The Proceedings of the Presidents' Conference are confidential documents.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik**: This is not a quotation from the Proceedings of the Presidents' Conference. This is a quotation from a note that the President of the Assembly sent to Government.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: On a point of order, Sir. Can my Honourable friend quote from a document which is not an official document and which is not available to Members of this House. He must place it on the table of the House, if he wants to use it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member willing to place it on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik**: I am quite ready to do that. I quite understand that such a ruling from so eminent an authority is not altogether palatable to Honourable Members opposite.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: That is not the idea. We only want to see what the document is.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik**: The suggestion that was then tentatively put forward by Sir Frederic Whyte was that such questions should be disallowed. That was not ultimately done as that would possibly have been too great an interference with the right of interpellation. (Hear, hear.) But it was decided that such questions were most undesirable and should be discouraged so far as possible. And with that object in view the Government issued many years ago instructions to their Departments designed to discourage as far as possible their employees

from attempting to get such subjects as their personal grievances ventilated on the floor of the House. That, I think, is a perfect healthy and perfectly sound principle. It was from that point of view that my Honourable friend the Finance Member expressed his strong remonstrance with the question that was put to him by the Honourable Member from Rohtak yesterday. It is, I submit, Sir, a matter of even greater importance than the right of Members of this House to ask questions. It involves the vital principle of securing the complete impartiality and the complete freedom from political influence of the administrative services. That is a far more important question than any that has been raised so far in this debate.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know if it overrides the Standing Orders and the rules laid down?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I have tried to explain the position, but apparently my Honourable friend was not able to follow me. I have said that a suggestion was made to disallow questions regarding individual grievances but that suggestion was only tentatively put forward. It was decided that such questions were most undesirable and should be discouraged; and that has been done.

Now, Sir, let me also remind Honourable Members that if they enjoy this very wide right of interpellation on matters of public concern, that right surely carries with it a corresponding obligation, namely, that the right should be used with discretion and with a due sense of propriety. And I submit, Sir, that some Honourable Members occasionally appear to forget what is a very firmly established convention in Parliament in England that any member making any allegation, specially an allegation against a public servant, in the course of his question is responsible for the correctness of that allegation. That seems to me a perfectly essential convention. It is embodied in our own standing orders and it should be far more generally respected than it is. Only this morning a supplementary question was addressed to me when I was asked "whether a certain officer, because he had published in the course of an official document certain remarks, was not pushed out of his appointment and sent back to an inferior appointment". That was, I submit, a completely incorrect suggestion which ought never to have been made; the fact being that the officer was at the time acting in a higher appointment for another officer on leave and that he simply reverted to his original appointment in the ordinary course when the permanent incumbent returned from leave. If that convention which I have quoted were more strictly observed, that the questioner assumes responsibility for the accuracy of any allegation contained in his question, no such question could or should ever have been put.

And may I add this, that greatly as I respect and desire to maintain the privileges of Members of this House to ask questions and indeed to enjoy the other privileges which they do enjoy, I do suggest that the ventilation of petty personal grievances, especially when done, as I think I can fairly say it was done in this case, on the wholly *ex-parte* and untested statement of an individual with a grievance, does not add to the dignity or credit of this Assembly? The washing of dirty linen in public is not a pleasant spectacle for the spectator. We have provided a machinery for the redress of grievances. The Honourable Member

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from Madras asked if there is a Whitley Commission in this country. Of course there is not, but there is the Public Service Commission which is the proper machinery to investigate, or to advise on or in some cases to adjudicate on service grievances. So long as that body exists, I venture to suggest that the proper way in which redress should be sought for grievances is through the machinery that is provided and not in public in this House on the strength of unsupported and completely untested statements. Now, Sir, on that view of the case.....

**Several Honourable Members:** The Honourable Member has exceeded his time.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should finish his speech now.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** I submit that the view of the case which I have put before the House is one of far greater importance than the view put forward by the preceding speakers: and I venture to suggest that on that view the person whose conduct should come under review is not my Honourable friend the Finance Member but the person who put these questions without in any way taking the trouble to investigate or test the completely untrue allegations made to him by an interested party.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is difficult indeed to speak on a motion like this. I have no doubt that the motion has been put in a very clever manner. As soon as the question of casting a reflection upon the Honourable Members of the House was introduced in the motion, naturally it created a wave of emotion amongst the Members. Sir, we have, no doubt, got certain privileges, we have got certain rights, and certainly we ought to be very jealous and very scrupulous in safeguarding our rights and privileges. In fact you, Sir, are the custodian not only of our rights and privileges but also of the dignity of this House. At the same time, Sir, we ought to know that as we have got certain rights and privileges we have also got certain responsibilities upon our shoulders, and we must remember that to the extent to which we realise and discharge our responsibilities, to the same extent will our rights and privileges be safeguarded. Now, Sir, we should discuss this question very coolly and calmly. We should not be carried away merely by sentiments or merely by the phrase that the dignity of the House has been attacked or that reflection was cast on the Members of the House. Sir, we must do unto others as we wish to be done by. If we go into the proceedings of the House from day to day, if we look into the interjections and supplementary questions, the cajoling and hampering which Honourable Members of the House receive from Honourable Members on my right when a speaker gets up and speaks something which is not palatable to them, I think everybody will agree with me when I say that we are not realising our responsibility as we ought to, and we have not on occasions behaved in a dignified manner as Members of this Honourable House ought to do. Sir, we have got to see now very calmly and dispassionately whether the words used by the Honourable the Finance Member really cast a reflection upon the Honourable Members of the House as such, whether they can be interpreted as



casting any reflection upon the *bona fides* of the Honourable Members of this House. Now, Sir, the words used by the Honourable the Finance Member, to which exception is taken, these:

"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some Honourable Members giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints from subordinate Government servants."

Now, if the allegations contained in this statement are correct, if it can be proved that certain Honourable Members abuse the right of putting questions and base their questions on information which is not correct and credible, then I think the Honourable the Finance Member was perfectly justified in making the remarks which he did, and we should only thank ourselves for the indignity which we have brought upon this House.

The Honourable the Home Member has just quoted an example of a question which was put to him this morning. My friend, Mr. Gauba, asked us if in the list of 300 and odd questions there was a single question of the nature complained against. I will point out to him only one question, because I do not want to take up the time of this House—but if I go through the bundle of questions I can show him more than a dozen of them.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. It is not that an individual question has to be shown; it is the habit of Members that has to be established.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Quite right, Probably my friend knows that custom can only be proved by quoting numerous examples of the act being done by individuals. As I said, the Honourable the Home Member quoted one example. I will, with your permission, quote another example. My friend, the Mover of this motion, this morning, asked a number of questions about broadcasting in Delhi, and he was so much led away by his anti-Muslim mentality that he went to the length of saying that five members of one family were employed.....

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Not a single question of mine contained a word "Muslim" or "anti-Muslim". My friend is absolutely wrong. Probably he got his cue from the broadcasting station.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** I knew what he meant and every Member of this House knew what he.....

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member disclaims any such intention.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** In putting that question, he was stating a fact for which there was absolutely no foundation; it was based on—I should say—the creation of his own imagination and nothing more. If in two speeches you can point out two questions which were based on this sort of information, you will find, if you scrutinise this bundle of questions, dozens and dozens—even hundreds—of them based on mere imagination and meagre information. I ask: "Is it right, is it proper, is it dignified, on the part of Honourable Members, when they claim to be fully

[Sir Muhammad Yakub.]

qualified to shoulder the responsibility of governing our country, and are going soon to take the responsibility for the government of this country in their own hands to behave in this way and then to say that their dignity has been assailed?" (Interruptions.) From the interjections which are being made by Honourable Members on my right, one can see like daylight that they make false aspersions, attributing motives to the Honourable Members of this House, and then they do not say that the dignity of the House has been assailed.

The other point to which exception was taken by Honourable Members supporting this motion is this. The Honourable the Finance Member said :

"In my view, one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India is the habit of invoking political assistance in the interests of individual Government servants."

Now, I cannot understand how there can be any aspersion in this on Honourable Members of this House. On reading this I thought that the Finance Member wanted to show that there were certain Government servants who invoked the assistance of Honourable Members of this House -- it was a remark against the Government servants and not against the Honourable Members of this House. Therefore, it cannot be said that he meant any aspersion on the Honourable Members of this House.

Sir, several Honourable Members have laid stress upon the fact that you passed these questions and that if the Honourable the President admits a question, its propriety is guaranteed. I beg to submit that mere admission of a question by the Honourable the President does not mean that the question is based on authenticated or full information. In fact, the President has only to see that the question is within the four corners of the rules and regulations. It is not the responsibility of the President to find out also, whether questions are based on proper information or not. Honourable Members are, perhaps, laying a great burden on the Chair if they expect the Honourable the President to scrutinise every question in the way they want him to do.

My friend, Mr. Satyamurti, of all Members, reminded us that the question hour should be devoted only to putting questions and giving answers. If he will kindly read the supplementary questions which he puts every day and the number of argumentative questions which so often you have to disallow, . . . .

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Often!

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** It is difficult for the Honourable the President to stop, every minute, an Honourable Member who puts argumentative questions and supplementary questions which have nothing to do with the main question. It is surprising that an Honourable Member like him should point out that the question hour should be devoted to questions and answers only. Example is better than precept, and I hope that my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, from to-morrow, will act upon the sermon which he has preached to us and will not take so much time in putting irrelevant supplementary questions.

**Several Honourable Members:** His time is up.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** I think we would be stultifying ourselves and we would be lowering the dignity of the House if we were to push a motion like this to vote. With these remarks, I oppose the motion.

**Several Honourable Members:** The question may now be put.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I do not desire to deprive my Honourable friend of the right of reply under any circumstances. I regret, I have to take part in this debate. I am one of those fortunate persons who never put questions. Therefore, I can speak without being challenged from the other side. I trust my Honourable friend will not misunderstand my speaking today or believe that it is due to the few words that passed between us the other day.

To come to the point, and not to side-track it, as has been attempted by some Honourable Members, the point is, should a Member of Government, in answer to a question, lay down the law to Honourable Members on this side of the House? (*Opposition cries of "hear, hear".*) That is one of the issues. Whether he does it politely or in the rough and ready manner, usual with my Honourable friend, is another question. The whole point is, should he do so? By all means, he is entitled to lay down the law amongst the clerks. There he can. But let me remind my Honourable friend that it is most unusual to try and lay down the law to Honourable Members on this side of the House. (*Opposition cries of "Hear, hear".*) Now, I fully realise—and I say it honestly and sincerely—the lack of experience of my Honourable friend. (Laughter.) I realise that he has not been in a House of Legislature for very long. I would beg of him to try and emulate the manners, the ways of speech of his great predecessors, some of whom were mentioned today. Let us get back to the days of Hailey, Muddiman and Vincent on the Government Benches. Let us get back to traditions of those days and let there be a better atmosphere in this Honourable House, which is much more needed today than it was ever before. We shall not get that better atmosphere if we get answers such as we have received, and if the rules are violated in the manner we have seen. Now, there is not the slightest doubt from the answers given today that the Honourable Member meant to say that there are some Honourable Members on this side of the House who deliberately put questions knowing them to be unfounded and based on wrong facts. . . . .

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** There is nothing about "deliberately" in my answer at all.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Your answer was read out today and also what you said this morning. . . . .

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I will read it again.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** What the Honourable Member said this morning was read out. Let me read this out and there can be no other interpretation of the words used:

"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some honourable members giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints."

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

If those complaints were unfounded and improper, but if they were innocently made, there is nothing to complain about. . . .

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Indeed, yes.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** They may be unfounded and innocently made: then there can be no complaint.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Certainly

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** There could have been a cause for complaint if it was deliberately improper. . . .

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Nothing of the kind, it may be irresponsible.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** That is exactly what my Honourable friend said. If that was not so, what did my Honourable friend mean to convey; why does he not say so and apologise? Why does he not withdraw it? Why does he not withdraw the insinuation which this side of the House contend his words imply? Let him follow the advice of my Honourable friend, Mr. James, from Madras, and let him say openly that this is not what he meant to do: he did not mean to hurt anybody's feelings and he would be the last person to do so. Knowing my Honourable friend as I do, sometimes he can be rather rough with his tongue. . .

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** But not patronising: never.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** That is exactly what he is. That is what is resented. In our private houses, my Honourable friend and I can say what we like; but when it comes to speaking in this Assembly, he must forget the language people are accustomed to use amongst themselves and adopt the language of Members of the front Treasury Bench. Let me now appeal to him that if that is not what he meant, if he did not mean to hurt the feelings of anybody, let him withdraw it: the thing is over.

**Several Honourable Members:** The question may now be put.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** You, Sir, have ruled that this discussion must be confined to two quite narrow grounds: first, the remarks I made about some Members of the Assembly, and, secondly, my promise to punish Government servants under my control.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Not that one: this sentence:

"In my view, one of the most serious dangers to decent administration in India is the habit of invoking political assistance in the interests of individuals."

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Very well, Sir—the habit of individual Government servants invoking political assistance in promoting their individual fortunes or ventilating their grievances. But, with your permission, Sir, I should like to repeat one assurance which I gave this morning. The idea of my having been represented as casting reflections upon you,

Sir, has caused me great distress, and as I said this morning, if anything I said has been so taken by you, I unhesitatingly withdraw it and apologise for having said it. You were good enough to accept this assurance this morning and I am very grateful to you for that, particularly as it relieves me from having to combat the attack that has been sought to be pressed behind the shelter of your inviolable person. Now, we will come to the first part of the discussion. Under Standing Order 15 (2)—if I may read it out—"if it contains a statement by the Member himself, he shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement". Now, I will also quote again the ruling of one of your predecessors, which I quoted this morning: these passages are very relevant.

"I observe from the supplementary questions that have been asked that there is a certain amount of feeling in the House regarding the Honourable Member's question. I may say I considered the matter very carefully before admitting any of these questions as to whether they were matters of public concern. I gave the Honourable Member the benefit of the doubt. I would further add that I hope every Member of this House, when he proceeds to ask questions about individuals, will exercise more than usual caution in not casting reflection upon individuals unless he is very sure of his ground."

To reinforce that, perhaps I may quote Erskine May:

"A question may not contain statements of facts unless they have been necessary to make the question intelligible and can be authenticated."

Further on, on the same page, 242, he says:

"Nor is it in order to ask merely whether certain things such as statements made in a newspaper, are true".

and this disposes of the argument of the Honourable the Mover of the motion that fishing inquiries are perfectly proper:

"But attention may be drawn to such statements if the Member who puts the question makes himself responsible for their accuracy."

So much for that. On the first point therefore I conceive that all I have got to do is to produce cases in which Honourable Members have not satisfied themselves of the accuracy of their accusations. First, let me quote my exact words—"I should like to take this opportunity of protesting against the habit of some Honourable Members giving publicity to all kinds of unfounded and improper complaints from subordinate Government servants". The opposition has sought to give these words a much wider generality than they possess or they were intended to possess. My remarks were not to be taken as meaning more than they actually say, and for me to prove they are justified, I have only to produce a sufficient number of instances in which they are literally justified. I cannot believe that my remarks have caused pain to that majority of Honourable Members to whom they have obviously no application and can have no application whatever, and that those Honourable Members, as I said the great majority, could have been under any idea that reflections were being cast upon them.

Let me remove two other causes of misunderstanding. I am not quite sure whether the Honourable Member from Madras,—well, I had better not say anything which may be taken by that sensitive soul as casting reflections. . . .

**Mr. F. E. James:** There are two Members from Madras. Do you mean me?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** No. The Honourable Member opposite from Madras gave currency to two other misunderstandings which I would like to clear up. The first was that I considered it as improper or that Members on this Bench consider it as improper for Honourable Members of this House to ventilate the grievances of whole classes of civil servants or of a large body of civil servants. That is not so and the whole discussion, in so far as it relates to the question of principle, has been based on the question of ventilating individual grievances and individual claims, and I want to make that absolutely clear. The second is the question raised by the Honourable the Baronet from Bombay in which he made a great point of the deliberate accusation that Honourable Members came to this House and deliberately made misrepresentations which they knew to be untrue. My words do not bear that meaning. The whole complaint is that Honourable Members, as I have said three times already, give currency to stories without taking themselves the trouble to verify their accuracy. . . .

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury** (Bengal: Landholders): How can they do it?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Don't ask me questions.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable Member repeat what he said?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I will come to you later on. My complaint is that currency is given to these accusations and the grievances of individual Government servants without Members troubling themselves to verify their accuracy. If some Honourable Members get out of my words, what the Honourable Member from Bombay says that he gets out of them, words which quite obviously mean what I am now explaining—that they do actually mean, if the Honourable Members get out of them—an intention to accuse Honourable Members of this House of deliberately giving currency to what they know to be untrue,—well, the Honourable Baronet can read more into the English language than I can. As I said just now, the accusation I make is that Honourable Members do not make themselves responsible for the accuracy of their statements, which is not only the letter but the spirit of the Standing Orders, the rulings of the Chair and Parliamentary practice here and in Great Britain.

Well, Sir, we will now come along to the cause of all the battle. The Honourable Member who is the cause, the prime cause, or as I am the prime cause, perhaps I should say the secondary cause of all this battle, has not himself spoken in the matter. . . .

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): We gagged him; we did not allow him to speak.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I gave him an hour and three quarters, but he did not get up. Now, let us read the questions. I will read in particular parts (b), (c) and (e).

**Some Honourable Members:** Let us take the vote.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:**

"(b) Is it a fact that a European Deputy Secretary of the Finance Department has in several cases in the past been found guilty of using objectionable language in official files and has so far been doing so with impunity?"

(c) Is it a fact that high officer of the Home Department strongly objected to the indecent allegations and insulting observations made by the Deputy Secretary referred to in part (b) against the Office Note of the former's Department?"

Again, this is what is asked in part (e).

"Is it a fact that a few days ago, the Deputy Secretary wrote the word 'stupid' against the note of a gazetted officer (Indian Assistant Secretary) of his Department?"

Leaving out of account the thin-skinness of people who can really go to the length of having questions asked in Parliament as to whether a certain officer or his note was called 'stupid', leaving that aside, there are three definite allegations. I have the file here, and I see that I said in my answer that those allegations were a gross misrepresentation of facts. If the President informs me that 'misrepresentation' is an unparliamentary word,—I gather that the suggestion has been made here,—I will certainly withdraw it and substitute for it 'grossly inaccurate'. I also repeat,—I will quote what I said about it in actual words—"The suggestion contained in part (c) of the question is a misrepresentation of what occurred",—I am quite ready to substitute for that "an entirely inaccurate account". "(e) and (f). The suggestion made in these two parts is a most gross misrepresentation of what actually occurred." There, again, I am quite content to say that the Honourable Member's allegations give a grossly inaccurate picture of what actually occurred. But as I have pointed out, all this raises a very serious issue. The Honourable Member purports to be telling the House or asking me whether certain things which he says are in a certain file were there. How did he know about it? Who told him about it? Has he seen the file himself? I repeat—have you seen the file yourself?

**An Honourable Member:** The Honourable Member must address the Chair.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Sir, I ask you whether the Honourable Member has seen the file?

**An Honourable Member:** No.

**Another Honourable Member:** Not necessarily.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** How then has the Honourable Member satisfied himself about the allegations?

(At this stage, there were several interruptions from the Opposition Benches.)

[Sir James Grigg.]

Has the Honourable Member seen the file himself? How has he managed to satisfy himself that the allegations for which he makes himself responsible are true? He is on the horns of a dilemma, Either he has committed a gross impropriety in having access to Government files or he has accepted, . . . . .

**Several Honourable Members:** We would like to have the decision of the House.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** . . . . without verification, statements made about the contents of a file to which he can have no access, and as I said in my answer, the disclosure of which to outsiders brings the person concerned within danger of dismissal. Well, Sir, it is rather unfortunate that the time is so near. I was going to quote a number of other cases in which allegations have been made without verification. I will repeat the one I read out this morning in case Honourable Members should be under any misapprehension. The questions were asked in this case by a Member of the Independent Party who comes from Bengal, who has been interrupting me and various other Members in the course of this debate. This question contains a number of instances. . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The House stands adjourned till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 26th February, 1936.