

28th March 1936

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

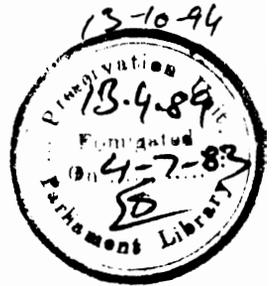
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Volume V, 1936

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1936



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Legislative Assembly.

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

Deputy President :

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

Panel of Chairmen :

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

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

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

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.

Saturday, 28th March, 1936.

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.

MOTION RE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE INDIAN DELIMITATION (HAMMOND) COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant is called on to move the motion that stands in his name, the Chair is to point out to the House that, as arranged, today has been allotted for the discussion of the Delimitation Committee's Report. The Chair understands that there are a number of amendments to the motion in the names of different Honourable Members, and it is supposed some of them at least want to move their motions, but it must be clearly understood that there is no more time that can be allotted for the discussion. It is also understood that a meeting of the Central Advisory Committee for Railways has been fixed at 3 P.M. today, and that is a meeting in which, the Chair understands, a very large number of Honourable Members are interested. It was suggested to the Chair that the debate might continue till 2-30 P.M. That the Chair would not perhaps be able to agree to because of the interval for lunch. Under the circumstances, the Chair wishes to impress upon those Honourable Members who wish to take part in this debate that the debate must close at the usual time when we adjourn at quarter past one.

Then, as regards the time-limit, it has been suggested to the Chair that only ten or fifteen minutes' time should be allowed to each speaker.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Ten minutes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Well, if ten minutes will be enough, and if every Honourable Member will stick to that strictly, then it is possible to finish the debate. The Chair does not know if the Mover will be satisfied with fifteen minutes

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On the outside.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very likely that will accommodate a large number of Honourable Members.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): [Sir, may I make a statement before Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant moves his motion? I was asked yesterday by some Honourable Members on the opposite side as to whether a summary or anything was sent to England. I may inform them that after we received the Report of this Committee,

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

the next day, or rather on the day following, we sent a telegraphic summary of that Report to London, and we sent the whole of it by the next available air mail. I think Honourable Members have also noticed that the Orders in Council would also be discussed on the 30th March, so that I venture to suggest that, unless these motions are all finished today by 1-15 P.M., it really serves no purpose whatsoever to send them to England even by telegram. For my part I undertake to send through the Reforms Office today any motions which may be passed in this House.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Sir, I move:

"That the Report of the Committee appointed by the Assembly to examine the recommendations of the Indian Delimitation Committee be adopted".

Sir, I am glad to know that the Government have already sent a telegraphic summary of this Report to London. Sir, I make this motion with a certain amount of gratification. I am not unaware of the fact that, since the appointment of this Committee, the draft Orders in Council relating to the subject-matter of this motion have been placed before Parliament. I am all the same satisfied with the results that we have been able to achieve in the Committee. It was one of the biggest Committees appointed by this House. The number of Members came to about 20. Every school of thought in the country and in this House was represented in the Committee. The questions which came before it for consideration were of an intricate character, and in certain respects there could be a notion about conflict or divergence of interests. In spite of all that, the Committee has been able to produce a practically unanimous Report, and that is not altogether a mean achievement. It demonstrates, in a conclusive manner, that the Members of this House can rise above prejudice and passion; act in a genuine and generous spirit of give and take; adjust their differences fairly; and it augurs well for the future of the country. So, irrespective of the ultimate fate of the recommendations themselves, I appreciate the labours of the Committee, and if it be not presumptuous, I would offer my sincere thanks to every single Member of the Committee.

Sir, I trust that, in spite of the fact that the draft Orders in Council have already been laid before the House of Commons, His Majesty's Government will take into account the recommendations that are embodied in this Report. From the description that I have given of the way this Committee was constituted, its recommendations are entitled to considerable weight. It was in every way better acquainted with the state of affairs in this country than the Hammond Committee; it had a better perception of the duties that will devolve on the Legislature under the new Constitution and it could take full account of the various currents of thought and opinion in this country and of the requirements of the situation. After having considered all these factors, the Committee has arrived at certain conclusions, conclusions to which every member of the Committee was a party. I trust that His Majesty's Government will not spurn these proposals in the manner in which they have disregarded other proposals that emanated from this House or from non-officials in other cases. It is really a tragedy that, while talking of self-government, there should be a studied, cool, calculated endeavour to disregard the wishes of those in whose interest and for whose benefit that scheme is said to have been devised. It is really an irony that, on the

one hand, we should be told that it is something which will place India very close to its destiny of a free State; and, on the other, even with regard to these matters, which do not touch the substance of the Constitution, but deal only with minor matters, the wishes of the people of this country should be disregarded. I hope and trust that sense will dawn upon those who are in a position to decide these matters, and that the recommendations of this Committee will be duly given effect to. I will look upon it as a test of the new Viceroy who is coming to this country—as to what weight he attaches to the opinion of this Committee. So far as the present Government are concerned, I do not expect that they will attach commensurate and adequate weight to the recommendations, as they have lost all sense of balance and proportion.

Sir, the recommendations of the Committee are confined to larger questions of common interest. The Committee has not, in spite of its knowledge that in details, too, the Report of the Hammond Committee is open to grave and serious objection, cared to express its opinion about those details. I personally believe, and I have credible information, so far as my own province is concerned, that, in the matter of delimitation of constituencies, as well as other cognate matters, a deliberate effort has been made to facilitate the entry of docile, pliable and subservient elements and to keep out men of sturdy, robust spirit. There has been an effort to devise the electoral scheme in such a manner as to facilitate the entry of the allies of the bureaucracy. But, we have, all the same, abstained from touching these matters of detail, though we are aware of the fact that even the principles enunciated by Provincial Governments, especially in the United Provinces, were not put into effect by them. The matters which deserve special consideration are those relating to the cumulative or the distributive vote, to the method of voting, to the manner of the delimitation of constituencies—whether these should be single-member or multi-member, to the withdrawal of restrictions in the matter of the selection of candidates, and to other minor matters affecting qualifications for special constituencies. I think the distributive vote alone is in consonance with the spirit of the Poona Pact. After a primary election, it is unthinkable to have a cumulative vote; otherwise, the primary election is a meaningless and illusory farce. So, I think the cumulative vote should be replaced by the distributive vote. The cumulative vote is hardly distinguishable from the single non-transferable vote. Only in the case of the latter, that is to say, the cumulative vote, instead of one, every vote is equal to two, but the ratio for the proportion between the scheduled part and the rest remains the same, with the result that the scheduled and non-scheduled castes will continue to be divided into separate airtight compartments. There is another matter as to the method of voting, especially in the United Provinces and the Punjab. It is provided in the Hammond Committee Report that the illiterate voters will declare their preference to the polling officer and the polling officer will make a mark. It will besides be open to the illiterate voter to take a friend with him and to enquire from the polling officer if the mark had been properly placed. Sir, freedom of vote and secrecy of ballot are needed, especially for protecting the voter against those who can coerce him or happen to be in a position to dominate over his will. This procedure is a mockery, a travesty and a parody of the system of voting by ballot. Whenever a person wants another man to vote for him and is in a position to dominate over him, he will ask him whether he is going to vote for him or his nominee. In case he refuses to do so, from that

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

moment his harassment will begin. If he agrees, then he will depute his nominee to go with him, so that he may not vote otherwise. This procedure will certainly lead to the coercion of the illiterate voter. I think it is absolutely necessary, in case the Government have any intention of allowing the Legislature even to be partially representative of public opinion in this country, that the freedom of vote and the secrecy of the ballot should be fully ensured. With respect to these matters, the system of vote by coloured boxes with or without symbols is the best one and must be adopted. With these few observations, I commend this report to the House and I hope that it will be adopted unanimously. I would, in the end, make a request to the various Movers of the amendments, whether they could not satisfy themselves with an expression of their opinion without pressing for these innumerable appendages to the report being made. I think if they do no more than express their opinion here on the floor of this House, the same purpose will be equally served.

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

"That the Report of the Committee appointed by the Assembly to examine the recommendations of the Indian Delimitation Committee be adopted".

The Chair finds as many as nine amendments, but four of these stand in the name of two Honourable Members who were on this Committee and who have also appended separate notes,—Pandit Nilakantha Das and Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji. The Chair wants to know whether any of these Honourable Members wants to move any amendment. Pandit Nilakantha Das's is the first motion.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I find that I have no reason to move these particular amendments, though on one of them, the first, has been appended a supplemental note. But, in paragraph 2, sub-paragraph 3, the Committee say:

"In fact, we would strongly advocate this method of voting in all multi-member constituencies including those constituencies . . ."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair wants to know if the Honourable Member wants to move his first amendment.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I am not moving, but I shall speak . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But he must take his chance. The Chair only wanted to know whether he wanted to move his amendment. Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta.

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added :

'With the following modifications :

(a) In para. 4 of the report under head 'Women' the following shall be added :—

'Out of the four divisional headquarters in C. P. and Berar Raipur town alone should not have been left out. Raipur Municipality should be included with Jubbulpore and the name of the constituency be changed from Jubbulpore to Jubbulpore and Raipur.'

- (b) In para. 5 of the report under head 'Landholders' after the words and figures 'Rs. 500 cess' the words and figures 'in C. P. to Rs. 1,500' be inserted."

I heartily congratulate the Committee for producing this report. Unfortunately, in that Committee, probably there was no Member who represented the Central Provinces, and, therefore, certain very obvious things have been omitted from the report which intimately concern the Central Provinces.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Why didn't you give evidence as I did?

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta: You were wise. Probably you were called to give evidence. In paragraph 5, under the head "Landlords", they have suggested modification in the case of the United Provinces from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 2,500. and, in the case of Bihar, from Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 2,000. My Province of the Central Provinces is poor, and, if we do not diminish the qualification from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 1,500, then the representation will be very meagre and the actual number of voters will be very small. I shall suggest that, in the Central Provinces, the qualification should be the payment of land revenue of Rs. 1,500, and not as at present Rs. 3,000. Even in the Provincial Committee, some of the Non-Official Members did recommend that the qualification of a landholder should be less than Rs. 3,000, and if this our Committee had known the conditions in the Central Provinces, it would very readily have reduced the figure from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 1,500. I do not think that there can be any objection to this amendment. When they are reducing in the case of the other provinces, they may as well recommend in the case of the Central Provinces which is really very poor.

Now, the other point on which I wish to speak is about women. The recommendation of the Committee occurs at paragraph 5, and, unfortunately, there, again, their attention has not been directed to the case of the Central Provinces. In the Central Provinces, there are two seats allotted to women. One is given to the Nagpur Division and the other to the Jubbulpore Division. The town of Jubbulpore has been given one seat, and the town of Nagpur has been given another seat. The third seat has been given to the towns of Berar. Now, in the whole of the Central Provinces and Berar, there are four divisions, and Raipur is the head-quarter of one of the Divisions. My submission is that, out of the four divisional headquarters in the Central Provinces and Berar, Raipur alone should not have been omitted. Therefore, the constituency which is called Jubbulpore should be changed into Jubbulpore and Raipur and the municipal committee of Raipur should also be given representation under the head women. This is so far as my amendment goes.

Now, I want to say something about the report itself. I wish to congratulate the Committee on one point, and that is about the cumulative versus the distributive vote. My humble opinion is that the cumulative vote defeats the very object of the Poona Pact for which Mahatma Gandhi risked his life, and, if the cumulative vote is not changed into distributive vote, the whole purpose of the Poona Pact will have been practically destroyed. The reason is this, that in a cumulative vote it cannot be

[Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta.]

said that one section of the people do not give all their votes to the same class of candidates only. The whole object of the Poona Pact was that, both in the case of caste Hindus, as well as in the case of the so-called depressed classes, they should represent the whole of the Hindu community, or, more correctly, the whole of the non-Muhammadan community. If we stick to the cumulative vote then it cannot be said that the members returned would really represent the whole of the non-Muhammadan constituency. Then, in the case of the cumulative votes, there is always an incentive to one community to ask all its members to give all their votes for a particular candidate of that community. In that case, the whole object of the Poona Pact would have been destroyed,

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

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: and the object for which Mahatma Gandhi risked his life would have been destroyed. I, therefore, very strongly recommend that this particular thing should be changed.

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

“That at the end of the motion, the following be added :

‘With the following modifications :

(a) In para. 4 of the report under head ‘Women’ the following shall be added :—

‘Out of the four divisional headquarters in C. P. and Berar Raipur town alone should not have been left out. Raipur Municipality should be included with Jubbulpore and the name of the constituency be changed from Jubbulpore to Jubbulpore and Raipur.’

(b) In para. 5 of the report under head ‘Landholders’ after the words and figures ‘Rs. 500 cess’ the words and figures ‘in C. P. to Rs. 1,500’ be inserted.’”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next amendment is in the name of Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty. Let the Honourable Member simply move it.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I move:

“That the following be added at the end of the motion :

‘subject to the following recommendations :

1. That the town of Tuticorin be accorded one Urban seat for the Provincial Legislature of Madras.
2. That it be recommended that in the qualification in the Commerce constituency for a candidate of a paid up capital of not less than rupees one lakh in respect of companies and assessment to income-tax on Rs. 10,000 derived from trade, commerce or industry in any one of the five income-tax years preceding the preparation of the electoral roll be reduced to Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 3,000, respectively.
3. That it be further recommended that any such qualified elector may before the preparation of the electoral roll nominate any other person being a member of the same chamber or association to exercise all the rights and duties appertaining to the elector including candidature for the Provincial and Federal Legislatures.’”

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

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

subject to the following recommendations:

1. That the town of Tuticorin be accorded one Urban seat for the Provincial Legislature of Madras.
2. That it be recommended that in the qualification in the Commerce constituency for a candidate of a paid up capital of not less than rupees one lakh in respect of companies and assessment to income-tax on Rs. 10,000 derived from trade, commerce or industry in any one of the five income-tax years preceding the preparation of the electoral roll be reduced to Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 3,000, respectively.
3. That it be further recommended that any such qualified elector may before the preparation of the electoral roll nominate any other person being a member of the same chamber or association to exercise all the rights and duties appertaining to the elector including candidature for the Provincial and Federal Legislatures."

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji. The Honourable Member was a member of the Select Committee and appended a note?

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion is to the same effect as the note?

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): And still the Honourable Member wishes to move his amendment in the hope of carrying that amendment?

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: Yes, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to an important subject.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well. Mr. Vissanji.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): On a point of order, Sir. As the time allotted for the discussion of this Report is very limited, it is but fair that other Members who were not on the Committee should express their views on the subject first.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member may have his chance. The Honourable Member Mr. Vissanji had better move his motion.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: Sir, I beg to move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

with the following modification, viz.—

'In the place of para. 10 of the Report the following be substituted, viz:

'The qualifications recommended by the Hammond Committee regarding voters as well as candidates from the Commerce constituencies, in Appendix to Chapter IX of the Hammond Committee's Report, be dropped; and,

[Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji.]

instead, the mere membership of the Commercial Organizations entitled to return representatives to the Central or Local Legislatures be deemed sufficient qualification both for voters and for candidates; and that, consequently, the modification of the Income Tax Law or Practice, recommended in Para. 430 of the Hammond Report; be dispensed with'."

Sir, I have appended a separate note to the Report of the Committee wherein I have stated all the arguments that are necessary for the introduction of this amendment. The only thing I want to say on the subject is that if the qualification that has been prescribed by the Hammond Committee will be carried into effect

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Chair simply wanted the Honourable Member to move his amendment now. Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added :

'with the following modification, viz.—

'In the place of para. 10 of the Report the following be substituted, viz. :

'The qualifications recommended by the Hammond Committee regarding voters as well as candidates from the Commerce constituencies, in Appendix to Chapter IX of the Hammond Committee's Report; be dropped; and, instead, the mere membership of the Commercial Organizations entitled to return representatives to the Central or Local Legislatures be deemed sufficient qualification both for voters and for candidates; and that, consequently, the modification of the Income Tax Law or Practice, recommended in Para. 430 of the Hammond Report; be dispensed with'."

Dr. F. X. DeSouza (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added :

'with the following modifications :

'(a) the following be added after para. 8 of the Report :

'Indian Christians, Madras.

1. One seat be given to Madras city and the remaining seven seats be divided between selected areas where the Christian population is concentrated, the Christians in the other areas voting in the general electorate.
 2. The woman's seat go by rotation between the city of Madras, the municipalities of Tinnevely, Palamcutta and Tuticorin forming one group and the municipalities of Mangalore, Calicut and Cannanore forming a third group.
- Bombay.
3. The third Christian seat be given to the municipal boroughs of Ahmadnugger, Poona, Sholapur and Nasik'."

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

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added :

'with the following modifications :

'(a) the following be added after para. 8 of the Report :

'Indian Christians, Madras.

1. One seat be given to Madras city and the remaining seven seats be divided between selected areas where the Christian population is concentrated, the Christians in the other areas voting in the general electorate.

2. The woman's seat go by rotation between the city of Madras, the municipalities of Tinnevely, Palamcutta and Tuticorin forming one group and the municipalities of Mangalore, Calicut and Cannanore forming a third group.

Bombay.

3. The third Christian seat be given to the municipal boroughs of Ahmadnugger, Poona, Sholapur and Nasik."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Bajoria.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, there is a slight mistake in the amendment standing in my name, as printed in the list of amendments. Certain words have been omitted . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow any substantive amendment now.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: There may have been a mistake in printing, Sir. In the fourth line of clause 1 of my amendment, after the word and figures "Rs. 2,000" I wished to add the word "derived from trade, commerce or industry"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not a printing error. The Chair won't allow it; the Honourable Member had no right to say that it is a printing error.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Sir, I beg to move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

with the following modifications:

1. That it be recommended that the minimum qualification for an elector or a candidate in the Commerce Constituency should be a paid up capital of Rs. 25,000 in respect of companies and assessment to income-tax on Rs. 2,000 in any one of the five income-tax years preceding the preparation of electoral roll instead of Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 10,000, respectively as recommended by the Hammond Committee.
2. That the seat for Indian Commerce Constituency from Bengal for the Federal Assembly be allotted by rotation to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Marwari Association, Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Muslim Chamber of Commerce instead of by formation of an electoral college of these bodies as proposed by the Hammond Committee."

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

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

with the following modifications:

1. That it be recommended that the minimum qualification for an elector or a candidate in the Commerce Constituency should be a paid up capital of Rs. 25,000 in respect of companies and assessment to income-tax on Rs. 2,000 in any one of the five income-tax years preceding the preparation of electoral roll instead of Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 10,000, respectively as recommended by the Hammond Committee.
2. That the seat for Indian Commerce Constituency from Bengal for the Federal Assembly be allotted by rotation to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Marwari Association, Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Muslim Chamber of Commerce instead of by formation of an electoral college of these bodies as proposed by the Hammond Committee."

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: Sir, I beg to move:

“That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

‘with the modification that the Hammond Committee’s recommendation in para. 436 of their Report (p. 160, Vol. I), that ‘the Registering and Returning Officers should be Government Servants’ be negatived, and the prevailing practice allowing the Commercial Association’s own Secretary to function as the Registering and Returning Officers be adhered to.’”

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

“That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

‘with the modification that the Hammond Committee’s recommendation in para. 436 of their Report (p. 160, Vol. I), that ‘the Registering and Returning Officers should be Government Servants’ be negatived, and the prevailing practice allowing the Commercial Association’s own Secretary to function as the Registering and Returning Officers be adhered to.’”

Raj Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni (Ajmer-Merwara: General): Sir, I beg to move:

“That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

‘with the following modification:

‘That it be recommended that educational qualifications for electors from Ajmer-Merwara constituency for Federal Assembly and the Council of State should be the same as for Delhi General Constituency and that qualification regarding rent should be lowered for voters of Ajmer-Merwara Constituency to the level of Delhi Constituency’.”

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

“That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

‘with the following modification:

‘That it be recommended that educational qualifications for electors from Ajmer-Merwara constituency for Federal Assembly and the Council of State should be the same as for Delhi General Constituency and that qualification regarding rent should be lowered for voters of Ajmer-Merwara Constituency to the level of Delhi Constituency’.”

The debate will now proceed on the original motion as well as on the various amendments moved.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, a servant went up to his master on board a ship and put him the simple question: “Do you, Sir, call a thing to have been lost when you know where it is?” The master replied: “Certainly not”. Then the servant informed his master: “Sir, your suit case lies at the bottom of the sea.” Similar is the state of affairs with the discussion that is going on today. We have been supplied actually with the Orders in Council that have been placed by the Secretary of State before the House of Commons. We know that this Committee’s report with all the amendments have been sent by air mail to the Secretary of State, and now we are asked to discuss this report and express our views. I wonder what will be the effect or the object of these views upon the decisions that have already been taken. These facts point to the unreality of the debate that we are holding today on the motion before the House, in spite of the appeal addressed by the Mover of the motion to the Secretary of State, both by way of reason to look into this debate

with greater care on account of the fact that we, who are chiefly concerned to carry on the self-government in the country, should have our say in the matter in which the Provincial Assemblies are to be constituted. The Mover of the motion also held out a threat to the Secretary of State telling him that his disregard of the views of the House on this point would be the test whether they, in reality, are keen to see new Constitution working in this country. In spite of all these threats, we still feel and probably we are justified in feeling that this debate is not going to have any effect upon the Secretary of State. However, in the short time at my disposal, I want to refer to one matter in the report which to me seems to be of considerable importance and that is the method of recording votes. I find from the report, para. 740 and onward, that the various methods have been discussed by the Committee for recording the votes. The committee has discussed the merits and demerits of the various practices which are at present followed. For the United Provinces and for the Punjab, the Committee is in agreement with the opinions of the Government of both these Provinces that the ballot papers of the voters should be marked by the polling officers, as is the system practised today in these two provinces. Well, in the case of the other Provinces, they recommend a change in the matter of the ballot papers. The first question that arises before us is why the United Provinces and the Punjab should be singled out. Why not a uniform practice be introduced throughout India? No reason has been given, but the report simply says, the United Provinces Government and the Punjab Government require that this practice should continue, and they agreed with the recommendations of both these Governments. We have had ample experience of recording of votes in the elections. We know that the polling officers—I do not say the whole lot of them, a few of them—are actually purchased by the candidates and the marking goes on not to express the will of the voter, but to express the pleasure of the officer who is there to mark those papers. This is certainly well-known in the Punjab circle. In the recent local board elections of Lyallpur, I personally know of a polling officer who marked the ballot papers against the wishes of the voters, with the result

Sir Oowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Was the polling officer a Government servant?

Sardar Sant Singh: Yes; he was a Government officer.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Did you purchase the Government officer?

Sardar Sant Singh: I say there are several persons who purchase. There is no doubt about that. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, who sits quietly as a Nominated Member, has no experience of elections. He once goes to the Secretariat building and gets his nomination sanctioned, and he does not bother and he does not know what happens at the time of elections. Therefore, I say that this practice of allowing the ballot papers to be marked by the polling officers is a practice which should stand condemned, and the time has come when the secrecy of the ballot as well as the freedom of voting should be secured to the voter. I, therefore, suggest that for the Punjab, at any rate, the system of introducing coloured boxes for putting in coloured ballot papers as it is proposed for other Provinces should be adopted. I have nothing more to add.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, I shall only make two or three points in the report a little clearer. I may first point out that, in sub-para. 3 of para. 2 of this report, we have said that in all multi-member constituencies we advocate the system of distributive voting. These multi-member constituencies evidently include those for which single non-transferable voting has been proposed by the Hammond Committee. I should like to make this clear. Our Committee's recommendation, therefore, is that the method of single non-transferable vote also should be replaced by the method of distributive vote. This, our decision, has also been made clearer in a supplemental note added to this report. There are only seven such constituencies in Bihar, two in Orissa—for the Provincial Legislatures—and four Muhammadan seats in Madras—one constituency for the Council of State. Seats in these constituencies only are to be elected by the method of single non-transferable vote. I will not expatiate here on the disadvantages of the single non-transferable vote. They are obvious. But I would urge that in these constituencies members should be elected by the distributive voting, and, if need be, to safeguard any special interests, reservation of seats might be provided. Otherwise, this system should entirely go, as it goes against all equitable principles of election.

Then, secondly, I would stress upon the nominated seat. It must also go. Our Committee have recommended its total abolition in the Legislative Assemblies. They have also said that Orissa alone should not be singled out. All seats in all other Provincial Legislative Assemblies are to be elected. In Orissa alone, out of five seats reserved for backward areas and tribes, four are proposed to be nominated. These nominated seats are again to be considered as the general seats according to the Schedule of the Act. In that case, these nominated members will have to elect representatives to the House of the Assembly. So the effect will be that, out of five members elected to the House of Assembly by the 60 Members in the Orissa Assembly, at least one, if not more, will be returned on account of these nominated Members, and will thus damage the contemplated representative character of the Central House of Assembly.

These nominated Members, again, will be taken to represent the interests of the backward tribes who are in the special responsibility of the Governor. These seats, again, will have to be nominated at the discretion of the Governor. Is it then to safeguard the Governor's special responsibility that this unusual indignity is inflicted on Orissa? Surely, the Governor's special responsibility should be considered enough safeguard. Why, then, is device for nominated Members a speciality for Orissa? It is undoubtedly a case of special injustice.

In the White Paper, the province of Orissa did not include the Vizagapatam portion of the backward area. Vizagapatam and Godavari agencies are 16,000 square miles of continuous backward area, and for this there was provided in the White Paper one seat for the backward tribes in Madras. In the Joint Select Committee's Report, 12,000 square miles of this area were cut away from Madras and added to Orissa. Only 4,000 square miles i.e., the whole of Godavari Agency and a part of Vizagapatam Agency remained in Madras. The White Paper proposal for allocation of seats in several provinces were *in toto* accepted by the Act after the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Madras was allotted in the Act that one seat for the 4,000 sq. miles of backward area, which had been provided in the White Paper for all the 16,000 square miles. But, only in the case of Orissa, out of

the 49 general seats, three were taken away and reserved for the backward area, now taken over from Madras. Orissa got an addition of more than half her existing area, but no addition to the proposed number of seats. No seats were added. Even Madras did not give a seat to Orissa. She still retains that one seat for the remaining 4,000 square miles. It is the same area with the same civilisation and practically the same or quite similar tribes, as may be found from the White Paper on Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas. In Madras, again, this seat is elected. But, in Orissa, all these three seats and another perhaps in consideration of the contiguous Ganjam Agency Area—these four seats are proposed to be nominated at the discretion of the Governor.

This is a glaring case of injustice, and the reason is not perhaps far to seek. Perhaps Orissa is a homogeneous province, and this may have influenced our Local Government or the local authorities to report that, in the case of Orissa, there should be four seats out of 49 reserved for the Governor, four votes at least in the pockets of the Governor. I say this is a glaring injustice, and I strongly urge with our Committee for its redress.

The backward tribes in these areas, again, were hitherto enjoying right of franchise in principle. The terms of reference to the Delimitation Committee, moreover, never contemplated any nominated seats for these or any other areas or tribes. They say :

“A number of points still remain unsettled in connection with the electorates for the constituencies to represent special interests, such as commerce, industries, mining, planting, labour, landholders, university and backward areas and tribes”

Then, again :

“They (*His Majesty's Government*) would be glad also if in the case of the seats to represent special interests your committee should, if they find it necessary, include in their report proposals dealing with qualifications of voters, the conduct of the elections (including election inquiries) and qualifications necessary for candidature where no specific provision conveying these matters has been made in the Bill or its schedules.”

Then, again :

“In particular it should be possible for your committee to perform a useful work of co-ordination in connection with the constituencies allotted to special interests . . . His Majesty's Government attach great importance to your committee's ensuring that it is fully informed of the views and wishes of the various interests for which representation is to be provided, particularly in the case of those interests such as scheduled classes, labour, women and the backward areas and tribes, for which specific provision has hitherto either been absent or has been made by means of nomination.”

From this it is clear that nomination is entirely ruled out in all Provincial Lower Houses in the coming Constitution. Why, therefore, of all provinces, Orissa should be selected for four nominated seats, no one can understand, specially when the same class of people in Madras and C. P. are to be elected by constituencies. I press that this point should be reported to His Majesty's Government, particularly in the interests of the Central Legislature as well as in the interests of responsible Government in the Provinces, called Provincial Autonomy, where there is no place for nomination, and also because it disenfranchises people already enfranchised in principle, and because it does not occur in the terms of reference to the Delimitation Committee. This should be pressed upon His Majesty's Government, so that, in the draft Order, there may be made a suitable

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

change to provide constituencies and election for these four proposed nominated seats in Orissa. This in equity should be remedied. Orissa should not be unjustly singled out like this in a thing which is undoubtedly a major issue in a system of responsible Government.

Then, lastly, I would say a word about the Orissa Chamber of Commerce. Here they have not recommended it as a constituency and the reasons are fully given in the report. Their reason was that either the Chamber had not been formed, or, if it was in existence, they did not consider it well established. Since then, it has transpired that it was a long-standing institution and there is no reason why it should not be made into a constituency.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan): Sir, I have already submitted my memorandum and supplementary note to the report of the Committee appointed to survey the recommendations of the Hammond Committee. My notes are probably sufficient, and I will not take much time of the House in making further comments except by way of an explanatory remark as to how I arrived at my conclusions. I have said that the landholders' constituency in Bihar should be created a multi-member constituency in the interest of the Muslim landholders. The viewpoint, as I have said in my memorandum, is this, that unless this constituency is created a multi-member constituency of the whole province, it eliminates all possible chances of Muslim landholders being ever represented. All through, it has been so, and we have not seen this constituency ever being represented by a Muslim landholder even in the past. In Bihar, we are only about 10 or 11 per cent., and there is very little or no chance of returning a member in the different Divisions as constituencies are proposed to be constituted, but there is a chance if plural voting is adopted, and the whole province is created one constituency as a multi-member constituency for the landholders of the province.

Now, coming to the Commerce constituencies, I find to my greatest surprise that membership is considered to be no qualification for enfranchisement through a Chamber, and that a certain qualification has been arbitrarily fixed, for reasons better known to the authors of the Hammond Committee themselves. To me it appears that it is against all traditions, customs and laws which exist in other countries. I do not know any country as yet which has got a commercial constituency and has fixed a monetary qualification for franchise and has refused to recognise membership of a chamber a necessary qualification. In my humble opinion, I submit that the qualification for returning a member from the commercial constituencies should be the mere fact of membership to a commercial body recognised, and not the payment of income-tax or possessing a paid-up capital of one lakh of rupees, etc. The very fact that the Hammond Committee has allowed a registered firm with a capital of one lakh of rupees to be a member of the Chamber and to be eligible for voting is inconsistent with the fact that, in the case of private companies, they have laid down a law that they should pay an income-tax on an earning of over Rs. 10,000. It is not very probable that, in these days of depression, a registered firm, with a capital of one lakh of rupees, would pay an income-tax on Rs. 10,000. If Government were at all keen in fixing up a qualification, they should have done so in consultation with commercial bodies

for both registered and unregistered firms, a qualification which would have been considered proper. I suggest that the mere fact of membership should be the only qualification; but if Government are keen and are anxious to fix up a qualification as a criterion, it should be a capital of Rs. 25,000 in the case of registered firms, and payment of income-tax on Rs. 2,500 within five years. In this, I have the support of my friend, Mr. Baijnath Bajoria, who is an important merchant and a Member of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce. I have also received letters from different Chambers, including the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, who resent this particular qualification and state that their rights have practically been trespassed and their privileges snatched away from them for no fault of theirs. The Chambers thought that under the new reforms they were going to get more representation and better rights and privileges, but the Committee report has come as a bolt from the blue. I do not know how and why and for what reason the merchant class has been considered to be the condemned class, and why in their case they have added an extra qualification besides membership. I may also stress upon the House the fact that it is absolutely necessary that representation should also be given to the smaller merchants, because, in many cases, the interests of the smaller traders differ from those of the big merchants in the sense that the stockholder's interests, the shipper's interests and the interests of the ordinary distributor initially differ. For instance, there is a class of merchants in export trade, called shippers or exporters, whose interests naturally differ from the class of stockholders (in big cities like Bombay, Calcutta or Delhi), or from those who are the actual buyers in small villages like tillers of soil and who collect small stock and send them to Calcutta for sale. The shippers, as representatives of the European countries, are always anxious to lower the prices ruling in this country, whereas the stockholders in this country, who advance and finance the small merchants, and the smaller merchants, who collect the merchandise first hand, are anxious to get better values and higher prices for their goods or stock. I think that the same applies to those who are importers. Again the interests of those who import directly from other countries differ from those who are in the class of stockists or distributors. For these reasons, I think that there should be no bar placed on the entry of the smaller merchants to the Legislative Assemblies.

Here, I wish to refer particularly to the question of the Federal Assembly and the representation given to the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. In my opinion, a gross injustice has been again done here in dealing with Muslim representation. The Hammond Committee proposed the creation of an Electoral College of fifteen, giving three members to the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, six to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, three to the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, and three to the Muslim Chamber of Commerce. Without any intention of injuring anybody's feelings, I must say that this proportion is in the interests of none of the Chambers—at least I, as one for the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, candidly and conscientiously feel that every chance of our representation in the Federal Assembly has been eliminated by this proposal. We have seen what happened in the last election which took place in Calcutta for the Local Board of the Reserve Bank. Our representative, Mr. Ispahani, who is a merchant of great repute, and who was the only Muslim candidate for Calcutta Districts, was eliminated by a clique and combine arranged by Hindu brothers. Such things happen every day. Hindus are also my friends,

12 Noon.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

but it is better to state facts frankly. We feel that we will have no chance of representation with the proposed Electoral College in the Federal Assembly: that is to say, a member coming from the minority section will have probably no chance. In this connection, I may say how the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, came into existence. It came into existence not because we were very anxious to have it. We would have been quite willing to be merged with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce or the Indian Chamber of Commerce, but when we found that we were not given proper representation and not given proper facilities, we had to organise our separate existence and we made a representation to the Government of India that we should be considered as a separate Chamber. The proposal, which I have made in the memorandum, therefore, is that an electoral college of 26 members should be established, including Europeans and Indians, of the different Chambers—the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, and the Marwari Chamber of Commerce. As the Bengal Chamber of Commerce is the oldest of commercial organisations, I am willing to give them five seats, and the Indian Jute Mills Association also five seats, in the electoral college, the other four Indian Chambers to be given four each.

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

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This electoral college of 26 is to elect three members for the Federal Assembly. That is the only way in which we feel we may have fair play and a chance of getting a seat in the Federal Assembly at the same time. With these few remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. C. H. Witherington (Assam: European): Sir, I wish to refer to the suggestions made by the Assembly Committee in their Report regarding Labour seats in Assam—Members will find them in the Report in paragraph 8, sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d). I make these remarks in order to make it clear that I am not in agreement with the suggestions made by the Assembly Committee. The first suggestion made is that one of the four labour seats should be given to non-plantation workers especially those in the collieries, oil-fields and the railways. That is the first one with which I am in disagreement.

Now, the large majority of labour employed in the collieries and oil-fields is composed of ex-tea garden coolies who go to the collieries and oil-fields for limited periods of work. They form a floating labour force who do casual work, whereas the tea garden labour is a definitely settled and permanent labour community whose political rights I think few will question. This floating labour force was originally recruited from the same sources from which the tea garden labour was recruited. They are of the same castes, and I think that we can safely presume that they will have their interests completely and safely looked after by their own caste representatives who sit in the Legislatures. The collieries and the oil-fields and the labour employed on railways are widely scattered up and down the length and breadth of Assam with widely differing conditions,

according to where they are situated. It will be extremely difficult to elect a person to occupy the proposed seat who will be truly representative of all these widely divergent interests, to say nothing of the difficulty of the actual election carried out over such a wide area. According to the Hammond Report, there are 6,000 labourers employed in the collieries and oil-fields, whereas, in the tea-gardens, there are about one million people resident on the tea-garden lands, whose interest is essentially wrapped up in the tea-gardens. The four labour seats were allotted to the tea-garden labour as a means of representing the huge resident labour force, and dependants, which is recruited to Assam from other provinces and which would not otherwise have any representation. I think it would be a most unfair step to deprive tea-garden labour, this enormous resident labour community, of one of their seats in favour of the comparatively few labourers who work periodically in the collieries, railways and oil-fields.

Then, the next point is the suggestion to remove the restrictions both as regards the franchise being conferred on certain castes or tribes only and the residential qualification; and the committee proposes the extension of the right to all workers on the plantations whether residing there or not, regardless of caste or tribal or residential considerations. Now, this list of castes in the Hammond Report—specified castes for franchise and candidature—was devised obviously with the greatest care by the Hammond Committee and it embraces all the types of labour which are employed in the tea gardens. I can see no valid reasons why this list of castes should be eliminated, since it is solely the tea-garden labour which is to be enfranchised.

Then, as regards the residential qualification, those labourers who live outside the boundaries of the tea-gardens in the villages are enfranchised in the ordinary territorial constituencies by reason of their property qualifications. They may go to work occasionally from their villages to the nearest tea-garden in order to earn a little money when they want it; that is the only reason that they go to the tea gardens. Their interest is wrapped up chiefly in such subjects as Land Revenue, Forests, Roads and so on—subjects which the tea-garden labour representatives will not be concerned with; but they are subjects which the ordinary representatives in the territorial constituencies will be very much better able to deal with in the Legislature.

The next suggestion is that sardars and other members of the supervisory and recruiting staff in Assam should be disqualified from being candidates for the labour seats. This suggestion was evidently inspired by the fear that such people might be under the influence of their employers and would, therefore, be afraid of voicing any views which might be contrary to the wishes of the employer. I do not for a moment admit that this would be the case. But even if it was so, I see no reason why a sardar or any other member of the supervising staff in one garden, providing he was of the proper caste, should be debarred from offering himself as a candidate for any other labour constituency in Assam where he would be far removed from any possible influence of his employer. I think it would be a very unwise thing to deprive the labour constituencies of this valuable source of candidature which I feel sure will increase in its value and will be a means of a closer and a more true form of representation when this class of person has gained more political ability. The sardar is a man who, by his capability and propensity for leadership, has

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worked himself up from the ranks of the ordinary labour, and he has, therefore, an intellect above the average of other labourers. Having served a long apprenticeship as an ordinary labourer he is fully conversant with the needs of labour and he has their confidence and respect. It would be a most unwise step to cut off this valuable potential supply of representation.

That is all I want to say on these points and I think I have made it clear on behalf of my constituency that we are not in agreement with this proposal.

Before I sit down, I want to refer to one other point in the Assembly Committee's Report: that is in section 6 (c) where a proposal is made that one of the Commerce seats in Bengal allotted to the Indian Tea Association or the Calcutta Trades Association should be given up in favour of a seat for the Bengal Mahajan Sabha. That question is very thoroughly dealt with in the report of the Hammond Committee, and I do not propose to endeavour to elaborate any of the arguments made in the Hammond Committee report. But I want to say this—and on this point I have the authority to speak on behalf of the European Group—that such a proposal runs contrary to the Communal Award, and we are definitely against the suggestion.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: Mr. President, at the outset, I should like to state that the amendment which stands in my name should more properly have been discussed in committee and not before the whole House; but, unfortunately, no Member of the Indian Christian community was appointed to a seat on that committee and it was with painful surprise that I heard my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, stating in his introductory remarks this morning that the Committee embraced every school of thought and political opinion in this country. Does the Honourable Member consider that the Indian Christian community have no place in the sun in the Indian political system? I expected better things from the representative of the Indian National Congress, especially as a member of my community has furnished the sole exception to the general rule—and has won a seat for the Congress in this Assembly in a general constituency: so, let him remember in future that we too have a place in the sun in any Committee that may be appointed.

After this preliminary observation, I have not got very much time—I have got three points to move, and I have hardly nine minutes in which to move them. The first point is that the Communal Award assigns eight seats to the Indian Christian community in the Madras Presidency and this is the provision in the Communal Award. I shall read it for the information of the House. It says:

“It seems almost certain that practical difficulties will, except possibly in Madras, prevent the formation of Indian Christian constituencies covering the whole area of the province, and that, accordingly, special Indian Christian constituency will have to be formed only in one or two selected areas in the Province. Indian Christians in these areas will not vote in a general constituency. Indian Christian voters outside these areas will vote in general constituency.”

This also was the proviso in the White Paper embodied in paragraph 5 in appendix III, and that was also the view expressed originally by the

Government of Madras in their communiqué, dated the 9th of May, 1933. This is what they said:

"If the whole of the Presidency is divided up into seven rural constituencies, Madras City being constituted into an urban constituency, three or four districts will have to be clubbed together to form a constituency. Though the constituencies thus created will be less unwieldy in size than the present constituencies into which the presidency is divided, it will be a question for consideration whether the better arrangement will not be to adopt the scheme proposed in the Communal Award."

In spite of the provision of the Communal Award and the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, in spite of the directions of the Parliament, the Hammond Committee have gone out of their way to divide the whole province of Madras into eight unwieldy constituencies. Now, Sir, what is the result? You are aware of what the Joint Parliamentary Committee said about the close contact there should be between the candidates and the voters. This is what they say:

"It ought to be the happiness and glory of a representative—*this is a quotation from Edmund Burke*—to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence and the most unreserved communication with his constituents, their wishes ought to have great weight with him, their opinions high respect, and their business his unremitting attention."

In spite of this provision of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Report of the Hammond Committee say—"Oh, well, that does not matter very much." They say:

"It is true that the constituencies thus formed will be extremely large, and any direct contact between the member and his constituents would be difficult,"

Mind you, Sir, they have stated the difficulties, and how do they solve them? They say:

"Yet even, so, this seems to us preferable to selecting certain areas, the allocation and size of which might be the subject of keen controversy."

In other words, this Committee which consisted of two learned Judges, one from Madras and the other from Lahore, shirked the consideration of this question, because it is a question that will involve keen controversy. Did they not in the course of their judicial career ever tackle questions which involved keen controversy? Sir, their reasons seem to me to be insufficient, they seem to be absolutely absurd, and, in my humble opinion, the original direction of the Communal Award and the provision of the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report should have been followed, and selected areas in the Presidency of Madras where the Christian population is concentrated should have been selected for the Christian constituencies, and the rest of the Christian population in the other parts of the presidency should have been merged in the general electorate. By that means, Sir, two great ends would have been achieved. The first is that, according to the provision of the Communal Award, the Indian Christians would have furnished a sort of connecting link between the general and separate electorates, because those Christians living in the general electorate would have voted in the general electorate, and they could have been candidates for general electorates, as my friend, Mr. Aaron, in this House has been. So that that would have enlarged the field for candidature of Indian Christians. Also it would have

[Dr. F. X. DeSouza.]

afforded excellent educational facilities for the future when obviously separate electorates will have to go and the minorities will have to be represented in general electorates by reservation of seats. Therefore, I respectfully submit that my first point is that the allocation of seats in the general constituency for the eight candidates should be in accordance with the Madras Government's memorandum, dated the 15th July, 1935.

The second point is with regard to the one woman's seat. It is an extraordinary thing that Indian Christian women's seat has been confined for all time in a group of three municipal boroughs of Tuticorin, Palamcottah and Tinnevely, boroughs which are situated in the backwaters of the Coromandal Coast.

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

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: Therefore, Sir, I ask why should that one seat for women be confined to the municipal boroughs of these three places I have just mentioned? Will female political wisdom be ever confined to backwaters of the Coromandal? Are there not women with sufficient political enlightenment in the City of Madras and on the West Coast in the municipalities of Mangalore, Calicut and Cannanore who possess the requisite amount of enlightenment and political wisdom? Sir, in the west coast there are two first grade colleges for women, and there are many Christian women graduates, so far as I am aware.

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

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: The last point which I should like to make. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought not to take any more time. There are a number of other speakers.

Dr. J. H. Hutton (Assam: Nominated Official): Mr. President, in intervening in this debate, I find myself, I fear, in rather an anomalous position. Although we appear to debate about the limitations of constituencies in the provinces, we are actually debating the delimitation of constituencies for the Central Legislature. The Local Government, therefore, can have no say in that, so that I cannot speak in any representative capacity and I must be taken as speaking as a sort of disembodied vote twittering in the limbo of the Government back Benches. I shall be very brief, Sir. I have only three points to make. The first relates to paragraph 7 of the Committee's recommendations. While I do not take any exception to the general principle enunciated, I should like to point out that we have in Assam nine constituencies representing, at least, seven different tribes and speaking at least six different languages. Some of them are scattered in different parts of the Province, and they cannot really be represented honestly by anybody but their own people. In the case of one or two of these tribes, they have had the misfortune to be included for many years in regulation districts, and they, therefore, received little attention. It will be very difficult at first to find suitable

representatives, and I think that it is really important that the representatives should be limited in their case to their own areas in order to give them a proper education and a demand for representation which will produce the supply in order that as soon as possible these tribes may be able to produce their own members. For that reason, I think it is desirable to start to maintain the residential qualification of candidates for those constituencies.

The second point that I wish to raise—and my Honourable friend, Mr. Witherington, has already dealt with it—relates to the labour of collieries and oil-fields. He has pointed out the difficulty of putting these into a single constituency and that much of the labour will already have been adequately represented by the tea garden labour representatives. I would add to that, that a great deal of the colliery labour, which is not tea garden, consists largely of persons who are non-Indians and non-British subjects. The colliery which I know best was, for many years, almost entirely staffed with Pathans from Afghanistan, Makranis from the Persian Gulf, and Gurkhas from Nepal, all of them a floating population with no permanent interests in the province, not forming any labour organisation, merely coming to earn money and go back to their homes outside India. And as far as protection against the employer is needed by these people, it seems to me from what I have seen of them, that a great deal more protection from them is needed by the employer.

The third point that I have to make is in regard to the Shillong constituency. In consultation with the Delimitation Committee the Local Government revised their opinion and agreed that Shillong should be represented by a single women's constituency. The reason is that Shillong at present has a special representation which it will lose entirely if it is not given some constituency under the new Constitution. It has 27,000 inhabitants as against 22,000 in Gauhati and 21,000 in Sylhet, and the women of Shillong have a very high standard of literacy and of emancipation and are very advanced in many other ways. In fact, I am not quite sure that my colleagues from Assam would not agree with me that some of them are very forward. I think it would be unfair to make Shillong town into a split constituency by adding to it Gauhati and Sylhet, which will be extremely inconvenient from an administrative point of view.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: On a point of order, Sir. I should like to be enlightened as to the procedure which you are adopting in regard to amendments which you permitted to be moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is no point of order. The Chair is following the ordinary practice. Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): As one of the Vice-Presidents of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, I want to place before this House their claim for a seat in the Federal Legislature. The Indian Franchise Committee laid down:

"The object of special representation of Commerce is essential to make expert knowledge available to the Legislatures and not to give any particular voting strength to individual interests."

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.]

We stand by that object. We of the Muslim Chamber say that we occupy a unique and definite position in the commercial community. There is practically not a single item in the export and import trade of the province, in which the members of this Chamber are not interested. They hold the first position in the export of the principal commodities of Bengal, such as, raw and manufactured jute, rice, lac, shellac, tea, hides and skins, etc., among Indian merchants, while they are no less conspicuous in the import of salt, sugar, white oils, vegetable product, hosiery, glassware, fancy goods, fruit, etc. They are interested in tanning extensively and as industrialists manufacture jute fabrics, matches, shoes, soap, sugar, buttons and cigarettes and a variety of other goods. The members of this Chamber control about 75 per cent. of the coastal trade of Bengal and India, in which connection commitments for freight to the extent of over 1½ million tons are made by them annually with the shipping companies, principally, British, operating in Bengal. My point is this. According to the Delimitation Committee's report, I find the Government of Bengal have said :

"The Muslim Chamber has made out a case for representation on the merit of its functions and importance as a commercial body."

What is the position in the electoral college which will elect a member for the Central Legislature? The electoral college consists of fifteen members, the Bengal National Chamber has got six, the Marwari Association three, the Indian Chamber three and the Muslim Chamber three; that makes 15. There is not the ghost of a chance for a member of the Muslim Chamber getting a seat in the Central Legislature from this electoral college. We have got only three out of 15, and it is impossible even if we combine with any other Chamber,—it is only three; we will never get a chance, as against the Bengal National Chamber who, if they combine with any other, will make a higher number. If we are not allowed one seat separately which we claim, we should be allowed,—at any rate, the electoral college quota for the Muslim Chamber to be increased from three to six. That will give us a reasonable chance if we could combine with any other Chamber. Otherwise, it is hopeless to get a chance of having our own representative in the Central Legislature. The object is to have expert knowledge and the Muslim Chamber claims that in their members they have that expert knowledge which is essential to Government to carry on the administration of this country. As I have shown, it is hopeless to get any seat for the Muslim Chamber in the Central Legislature unless you raise the number from three to six, in which case we may have some chance. If that is not acceptable, I would support my Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, in his note of dissent, where he has increased the number of seats to 26 giving all the Chambers a proportionate representation; then we could have a chance of having our own representative in the Central Legislature. Failing that, I would support my Honourable friend, Mr. Baijnath Bajoria, in his amendment. That gives us at least one chance by rotation. With these words I request that this also may be forwarded to His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshah Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to say a few words in support of the recommendation of the Committee made in paragraph 6(c), where the Committee

recommend that one seat may be given to the Bengal Mahajan Sabha. My occasion for participating in this debate is that the Honourable Member from Assam has protested against this recommendation. As the report of the Committee states:

"This organisation is at present represented both in the Bengal Legislative Council and the Central Legislature; the Local Government did, in fact, recommend the continuance of this representation."

The Provincial Advisory Committee also recommended that the representation enjoyed should be continued. I should like to tell the House the grounds on which the Bengal Government have recommended that this representation should be continued. On page 100 of the report of the Government of Bengal, they say in paragraph 86:

"The claim of the Bengal Mahajan Sabha the Local Government also consider valid, and they, accordingly, propose that the seat this body enjoys at present should be continued. As already indicated, the Advisory Committee, at their first Session, were in favour of the Sabha sharing a seat alternatively with the Indian Mining Federation. This view was not supported at the second Session where there was no opposition to a full seat being allotted to the Sabha."

What follows is very important:

"The Bengal Mahajan Sabha represents two important interests—inland trade and indigenous banking. It is the only body in Bengal which does so, and there can be no question that these branches of Bengali business call for representation."

Later on, the paragraph proceeds to say:

"The Sabha is a well established and well-known body which has fully justified the seat granted it under the present Constitution."

The Delimitation Committee did not consider these arguments given by the Local Government in favour of the Sabha. On the contrary, the very first ground of the Delimitation Committee is this:

"In the first place, it is not clear whether the interests, which this body seeks to represent, are not sufficiently represented by the Bengal National Chamber."

On the contrary, the finding of the Local Government is that it is the only body in Bengal which does so and there can be no question that these branches of Bengali business call for representation. The point that arises in this connection, is, where to take this seat from. This is the case of an organisation which enjoys representation now, but which is sought to be disenfranchised under the recommendation of the Delimitation Committee. The position is this. So far as these Commerce seats are concerned, the Government of India Act does not make any provision as to the distribution of seats between European commerce and Indian commerce. All that is laid down in the Act is that 19 seats are to be allotted to Commerce. Under the existing Constitution, it appears that the Indian Tea Association had one seat and the Calcutta Trade Association also enjoy one seat, but the Delimitation Committee has given two seats to each one of these two bodies. It is proposed to add one more seat to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. The whole question is: "Is it fair that the one seat that was enjoyed by the Bengal Mahajan Sabha should be taken away, and that additional seats should be given to these

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

bodies?" So far as the Calcutta Trades Association and the Jute Mills Association are concerned, we find in the Report of the Delimitation Committee that between these two the membership is only 100. Therefore, I do claim that the request of the Bengal Mahajan Sabha is a modest one and that its representation should be continued and that one seat should be taken away from one or other of these two associations, namely, the Calcutta Trades Association or the Indian Tea Association. This is all I have to say.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: I only wish to say that the town of Tuticorin is a very important sea port town in the Madras Presidency. While similar towns have been accorded representation, it is a pity that this important town has been neglected. I would recommend that this town of Tuticorin be accorded one seat. With regard to the Commerce constituency, it has been stated by my Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, that it was a mistake to have deprived the members of the Chambers of Commerce of representation. I am afraid he had misunderstood the recommendations of the Hammond Committee. It was only in the nature of an additional qualification that this income-tax qualification was imposed. Primarily one must be a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Secondly, he must also be paying a certain amount of income-tax. With regard to the income-tax qualification, I feel that the limit put by the Hammond Committee is rather too high for Indian Commerce, particularly in the Madras Presidency, where persons are comparatively poorer than in other Presidencies. The fixing of this high qualification would reduce the Chambers of Commerce into cliques and coteries. I would, therefore, recommend that this high limit of Rs. 10,000 be reduced to Rs. 2,500, and that, with regard to registered companies also, the paid up capital of one lakh of rupees be reduced to Rs. 25,000. There is no doubt considerable force in the note of dissent which my friend, Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, has appended to this Report that, persons, who might be well versed in commercial matters, but, who for various reasons are not in a position to pay sufficient income-tax in order to come up to this qualification, would be deprived of the right of representation, and thereby Commerce might suffer for want of effective representation. In such cases, I would like that those who are competent candidates might be enabled to transfer their representation to other persons who are already members of the Chambers, so that their case may not go by default.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have very few words to add to my notes attached to this report or to what I have said before in this Honourable House. I, however, wish to reiterate the demand of my community that it is allowed postal voting in all provinces and not direct election, so as to use its voting strength to the best possible advantage. If the recommendation made in this report were carried out, *ie.*, multi-member constituencies in Karachi, the Anglo-Indian community in Sind would not have the ghost of a chance of representation in the Provincial Council. I leave aside all other communities, and may I, without causing offence to the European community, refer in more detail to their constituencies and seats. They have been allotted two seats in the general constituencies and one in the Chamber of Commerce. These two seats in the general constituencies are both confined

to Karachi, although electors may come from the rural parts of the province. A reference to Volume II of the Hammond Report shows that the population of Europeans in Sind is about six thousand and five hundred, and this includes British troops and those who were in the port of Karachi also when the census was taken in 1931.

Now, Sir, my point is this. If I am denied representation, as adumbrated in my note, I suggest the following. Sir, it is an undeniable fact that half or more of the 1,200 European electors in Karachi and Sind are Anglo-Indians. The Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European population in Sind today, excluding British troops, is over 7,000. Now, according to the new definition of "Anglo-Indian", he will not be able to vote for the two European constituencies, when the new Council is being formed. He will then have to vote for multi-member constituencies in the province of Sind and in the City of Karachi and which would practically be non-European and non-Anglo-Indian constituencies. Moreover, with the new Anglo-Indian definition enforced, the European electors would scarcely be 500, and the Anglo-Indians much more in number. I, therefore, put it to the European community to enter into a friendly agreement with the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European community in Sind to this effect that they give us one seat out of their two general constituencies in Karachi and that that seat be located at Karachi and be voted for by the entire community in the Sind Province in which we number about seven thousand. I hope the European Group and the European community in Sind will sympathetically consider this matter, and, if they agree, let us come to an understanding and inform Government about it. That would afford my community a seat in the new Sind Provincial Council which it does not possess today. If this or something else is not done, my community would be entirely disenfranchised. Under the present Reforms, the community in Sind and Bombay was granted one seat in the Bombay Legislative Council, on the basis of the opinion expressed by the Assembly Committee that they are averse to disenfranchising existing constituencies, the Anglo-Indian community in Sind is entitled to ask that it be not disenfranchised in the future. Sir, the community I represent is much larger than the Europeans, and it holds a very important place in the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and Customs and the Auxiliary Force in the province of Sind. The average tax paid by members of my community per head is almost equivalent to ten times the average tax *per capita* of the two major communities, and the entire community is literate.

I conclude with these words, Sir, and I do hope that my European friends will sympathetically consider the suggestion I have made; otherwise, I must ask the Honourable Member, who will present this debate to the Secretary of State for India, to press for a separate seat for the Anglo-Indian community on the lines indicated in my note.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, this report has been most carefully considered by a Committee on which representative Members of all Groups in this House had seats, and, according to the convention of this Honourable House, naturally it will be the duty of those who sat on that Committee to support the recommendations of the Committee as they stand, and, therefore, I can understand Honourable Members desiring the House to know from their own lips certain amendments they would desire to make in the Report, but, having done that, may I now appeal to them, considering that it is five minutes to one, that either all the amendments be withdrawn or be rapidly put to the vote.

An Honourable Member: Withdrawal would be the best.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: If we are all agreed that withdrawal would be the best, in the circumstances, Mr. President, I feel that the House will come to the conclusion that the members of the Committee have given all sections of the House a very fair hearing before they came to any final decision in the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the Honourable Member, Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni's amendment, the Chair allowed it to be moved, but attention of the Chair has been drawn to the fact that His Majesty's Government has already decided the point and it does not arise out of the report. It is, therefore, out of order. This also ought to have been brought to the notice of the Chair before.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the artificial division of the constituencies has done a great injustice to many provinces, and, particularly in Bombay, the injustice has been greater. Sir, the Southborough Committee in 1919 recommended that "at the time of the delimitation stage, one of the most important matters to be taken into consideration will be the desirability of making the representation of town and country in the Legislature proportionate to the population in each". As a matter of fact, under the present Constitution the urban population in the Bombay Presidency is 27 per cent and the representation is 23 per cent, but, in the Hammond Committee's Report, although the proportion of the urban population is 27 per cent, the seats work out to a proportion of 17 per cent. Out of 158 territorial seats, only 27 seats have been allotted to urban areas in the Bombay Presidency. In fact, on the population basis, which has been laid down as the criterion by the Southborough Committee, as I have just read out, 42 seats should have gone to the urban area. The reasons that seem to have prompted the Bombay Government are obvious to those that come from the Bombay Presidency. They want to cut down the representation of the urban areas as far as possible, although they have all agreed that intelligence, talent and political consciousness are much more available in the urban areas than in the rural. But their experience during the last five or six years in the matter of the Congress activities appears to have led them to represent that the urban representation should be further cut down, and the result is that greatest injustice has been done to the urban areas in the Bombay Presidency. Then, Sir, we have another very bad feature, so far as the Bombay Presidency is concerned, *viz.*, the multi-member constituency. I am glad the report that has been presented to this House has recommended that, excluding the city of Bombay which really stands on a very different footing, the principle of the single-member constituency should be accepted. As a matter of fact in the Draft Order, this principle has been accepted so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned. It is not merely a platitude to say that no constitution can work unless there are two parties and if the intention of the Government was that there should be some sort of a stable government, I think the multi-member constituency is the least calculated to fulfil that expectation. In the first place, whatever may be the object of the Communal Award, the result is going to be that it will be the greatest hindrance to the evolution of any system of party government in India. That is the first hindrance, and the second great hindrance, so far as the Bombay Presidency is concerned is this. Sir, a few days ago Bombay was in good company with

Madras, but Madras now appears to have fared better. Bombay still remains under the principle of a multi-member constituency, and although the Bombay Government say that there is at present no existence of a two-party system in Bombay and that is not very likely to come in the near future, I think, if they were really anxious for that, the remedy was not to propose multi-member constituencies, but the remedy was to propose single-member constituencies and I think, therefore, the fear that the Congress is very likely to capture most of the seats has been very greatly in evidence, and the result is this differentiation. The third point I wish to urge is about the university representation. The recommendation in the Draft Order is that those graduates who are of seven years' standing and are registered as such are alone entitled to be on the electorate roll. Now registration costs Rs. 10. I think there is no general constituency or a constituency of a similar nature anywhere which requires a payment before enrolment in the roll. That will, therefore, prevent many of the people who are really entitled to be on the roll from voting because there is registration fee. I think registration ought to go. The recommendations so far as they go in other matters and in other particulars are welcome.

Then, as regards women's constituency in the Bombay Presidency, one great injustice has been done to the Dharwar district. The Bombay Government recommended that one seat should be reserved for women in the southern division of the district of Dharwar, and that was a good recommendation as far as it went, although the Women's Associations in the Dharwar district desire that it should be allotted either to Gadag, Hubli or Dharwar—all three municipal towns—where women are more progressive and where women know the value of the franchise and are better organized. However, the recommendation of the Bombay Government was not entirely bad; somehow or other those who rule the ministerial *Gaddi* in the Bombay Presidency wanted a pocket borough for themselves and now that seat has been allotted to Rannibennur. This is not my criticism alone that I am ventilating. But the Women's organizations in the same district of the Bombay Presidency have said the same thing. What is far more important, the *Times of India* has criticized and it says it cannot explain this change from the southern division of the district of Dharwar to one particular *taluk* of Rannibennur. I say, if it were still possible, that seat which has been reserved for the women of Rannibennur *taluk* should at least go to the three municipal towns of Gadag, Hubli and Dharwar.

The last point that I wish to urge is about the system of distributive voting. I am glad that it has been recommended and in fact it carries out the spirit of the Poona Pact much more than cumulative voting. In the words of my esteemed friend, Dr. Ambedkar:

"The test is, I think, the final elections of the depressed classes must be part and parcel of the general election. Mutuality is the essence of the Pact and mutuality is the essence in the final election."

Therefore, if the cumulative system is accepted, there is the least likelihood of those who are not of the Scheduled castes giving or distributing their votes in favour of the scheduled caste candidates, but if the system of distributive voting is adopted, perforce those who belong to other sections will have to exercise their choice and select one of the four from the panel that has been elected as a result of the primary election. With these suggestions, I trust that motion for the adoption of the report will be carried.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): A suggestion has been made by the Honourable Member, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. The Chair would like to know from the Honourable Members, who have moved amendments, whether they want the question to be put on their amendments. If so, the Chair should conclude the debate now and put the amendments to vote.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: If my withdrawing my amendment does not vitiate the note I have appended to the report, I should like to withdraw my amendment.

Some Honourable Members: No, it will not vitiate.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair takes it that no Honourable Member who moved amendments wishes any of those amendments to be put to the vote of the House.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Then, it is taken that all these amendments are withdrawn?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will, later on, put the motion for leave to withdraw the amendments. Now, the Chair calls upon another speaker to speak. **Mr. Joshi**.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. President, I should like to thank the Committee for accepting my suggestions which I had placed before the Committee as regards labour representation. The Committee has recommended that more seats should be given out of the total number of labour seats for Trade Union constituencies instead of special labour constituencies. As regards the Federal Legislature, I want that all the seats given to different Provinces, except to Assam, should be filled in by trade union constituencies. As regards Provincial Legislatures, I suggest that in Madras, at least one more seat should be given to trade union constituencies from the seats given to the provincial labour constituencies. In Bengal, two more seats should be given to trade union constituencies from the seats allotted to special labour constituencies. I would also like one more seat being given to Bihar trade union constituencies from the seats given to special labour constituencies. Similarly, in the Central Provinces one more seat should be given to trade union constituencies instead of to special labour constituencies. Besides this distribution of seats, in the Federal Legislature and in the Provincial Legislatures, I should like to make one or two suggestions for the acceptance of the House as regards labour representation. Those suggestions are embodied in a Minute which I have appended to the report. The first suggestion is, that in the case of railway men, where their unions are registered in one Province they are deprived of their votes in the other Provinces where their union is not registered. A Railway Union, on account of its very nature, is registered in one Province and its membership is extended over two or three and sometimes even four provinces. What the Hammond Committee has done is that a railway trade union will have representation in the Province in which it is registered. The members in other Provinces are practically disenfranchised. I, therefore, suggest that Trade Union constituencies are formed in other Provinces, the branches of the Railway Unions in those Provinces should get representation instead of their being disenfranchised.

That is one of the suggestions which I should like the House to adopt. Secondly, I have suggested the extension of the field for candidature for labour seats. What the Committee has recommended is that those people whose names appear on the electoral rolls of labour constituencies alone can become candidates. The Committee has recommended special labour constituencies of factory workers, for instance in Bengal. There are also some constituent trade unions in Bengal, but those constituent trade unions in Bengal are restricted to unions of water transport workers, that is, seamen and inland transport workers and also railway unions. Now, in Calcutta, there are various unions in every industry such as unions of Port Trust workers and the unions of workers in other industries such as match factories, and so on. These unions not only are deprived of sending a representative through Trade Union constituencies, but their members and officials will not be permitted from appearing as candidates for the special labour constituencies, with the result that candidates for special labour constituencies in Bengal must either come from factory workers themselves or from seamen and railway-men. The workers in other industries especially, who are members of trade unions in other industries, will have not only no chance of sending a representative of their own, but they cannot even stand as candidates for election for either a special constituency or a trade union constituency. I have made one or two other suggestions, but before I go to those suggestions, I should like to say one word in reply to my Honourable friend, Mr. Witherington, who referred to the representation of plantation labour in Assam. I should like to enter my emphatic protest against an employer's representative trying to interfere with the method of representation adopted for labour representatives. We never interfere with the method of representation of employers and I do not know, Sir, why employers, unless it is to their own interest that particular method of representation should be selected for representation of labour, should interfere in this business. Sir, he said that labour outside the plantations is floating labour. How can there be floating labour all over the mines and oil-fields of Assam? No mines can be worked with casual and floating labour; no oil-fields can be run with floating labour; and no railways can be worked with floating labour.

Mr. C. H. Witherington: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I did not refer to railway labour as floating. And when I spoke of the labour in collieries being floating labour I meant that they went in for limited periods of employment.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The rules themselves will lay down that unless a man has worked for 180 days in a year in the mines or oil-fields he will not get a vote. So, if the labour is really floating labour, they will not get votes. But surely no industry can be run on mere casual labour or floating labour.

Then, Sir, he tried to point out that those labourers who live outside the garden should not have any vote. Well, if a man is employed on a garden, what does it matter whether he lives on the plantation or outside, in order that he should get a vote? The only object of the planters insisting upon only the labourers living in plantations and on their lands getting votes is that the planters want control over labour representation.

Mr. C. H. Witherington: That is not so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, this is a wicked thing, and I hope the House will not support such a thing.

Then, Sir, in all other provinces the committee has laid down a disqualification for candidates who stand from labour constituencies. They disqualify sardars and all people who hold supervisory authority over the labourers from standing as candidates. It is only in Assam that sardars and supervisors and recruiting officers can stand as candidates. Why is that so? If it is wrong for them to stand in any other province, why is it right in Assam only? The obvious object is that the planters want control, not only over their own representation, but over the representation of labour.

Mr. C. H. Witherington: Sir, I must rise on a point of personal explanation. That is not true, and I strongly refute the statement made by Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member may refute my statement but I would ask him why, if, in all other Provinces, these sardars and supervising officers and recruiting officers are disqualified for standing from labour constituencies, in Assam only, they want these men to be candidates from these constituencies. Sir, I hope the Assembly and the British Parliament will accept all the suggestions which I have made for improving labour representation in the provinces and in the Federal Legislature.

(The amendments moved by Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty, Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, Babu Baijnath Bajoria, and Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn. Dr. F. X DeSouza was not in his seat when his name was called, and, therefore, his amendment failed.)

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

“That the Report of the Committee appointed by the Assembly to examine the recommendations of the Indian Delimitation Committee be adopted.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 30th March, 1936.