

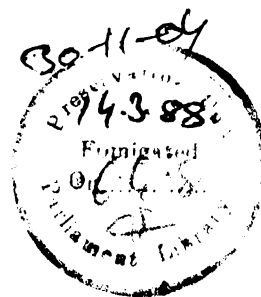
Tuesday, 6th March, 1934

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1934

(8th February to 27th April, 1934)

SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1934



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Tuesday, 6th March, 1934.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RECRUITMENT TO THE ARMY IN INDIA RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

43. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD :
(a) With reference to question No. 64 asked in the Council of State on the 12th March, 1930 and question No. 323 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th February, 1932, will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no recruitment to the Army in India Reserve of Officers has been made for some years ?

(b) If so, since when has no recruitment been made ? And was recruitment stopped as a measure of economy ?

(c) When will recruitment to the Army in India Reserve of Officers be made and will it be made from among the ex-officers who have held the King's Commission in the Indian Territorial Force ?

(d) Is it the intention of Government to consider the advisability of giving an opportunity for recruitment to the Army in India Reserve of Officers this year to those ex-(King's Commissioned) officers of the Indian Territorial Force who are about to become over age and likely to be deprived of this privilege shortly ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: Sir, with your permission, I will answer this question on behalf of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(a) and (b). Recruitment for the Army in India Reserve of Officers has been held in abeyance since the 10th November, 1931, as a measure of economy.

(c) It is hoped to reopen recruitment for certain categories about the 1st April, 1934. Officers who have held King's Commissions in the Indian Territorial Force will be eligible for recruitment provided that they fulfil the conditions prescribed by the Regulations.

(d) The maximum age limit for admission into the Army in India Reserve of Officers is 35 years and Government do not consider it either necessary or desirable to extend this limit except to men of very special qualifications.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: Will the Government be pleased to state if the recruitment on account of economy has also been stopped in England ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

EXPORT DUTY ON HIDES AND SKINS.

44. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) What is the duty levied on the export of hides and skins from India, and since when has it been in force?

(b) Is it a fact that the trade in hides and skins was about 20 years ago one of India's foremost trades, and that since the levy of the export duty it has diminished year by year in volume?

(c) Is Government in a position to say whether it is a fact that no other country in the world levies an export tax on the hides and skins trade? And is it a fact that one country, namely, South Africa, has subsidized this trade by a large bounty?

(d) Is it a fact that at the last session of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, held at Calcutta in January, 1934, a resolution was passed recommending the abolition of this export duty?

(e) What action, if any, does Government propose to take with regard to this proposal?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: (a) The export duty on raw hides and skins is at present 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. This rate has been in force since 1st March, 1923. It is, however, proposed in the Finance Bill introduced recently to abolish the export duty on hides from the 1st April, 1934.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Annual Statements of Sea-borne Trade of British India, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(c) From the information available it appears that there are countries other than India, *e.g.*, China, Ceylon, and the Malay States, which levy an export duty on raw hides and skins. A subsidy was paid by the Government of the Union of South Africa on exports of raw hides and skins up to 1933. It is not known whether this subsidy is still being paid or not.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government have already placed their proposal before the Legislature as stated in my reply to part (a).

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: What is the income from the duty on hides and skins which we are abolishing?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: I am informed that roughly it is Rs. 14 lakhs.

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED WHEN THE TITLE OF RAJA IS CONFERRED IN REGARD TO POSSESSION, SUCCESSION AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY.

45. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Is it a fact that there are certain restrictions imposed on those upon whom the Government confers the title of Raja with regard to possession, succession and disposal of property?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what these restrictions are?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. J. GLANCY: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

46. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) What are the duties and functions of the Indian Meteorological Department and what is the cost of its maintenance ?

(b) Has the Department got any connection with astrology ?

(c) If not, do Government intend to consider the advisability of encouraging research in Indian astrology ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) The duties and functions of the Indian Meteorological Department are stated in paragraph 1 of the publication entitled "Functions and Organisation of the India Meteorological Department", a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. The cost of maintaining the Department is approximately Rs. 17,50,000 a year.

(b) and (c). No.

HOMŒOPATHIC SYSTEM OF MEDICINE IN INDIA.

47. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Is it a fact that the homœopathic system of treatment is gaining popularity all over India ?

(b) Is it a fact that there are a number of bogus homœopathic institutions and practitioners who confer bogus diplomas even on laymen on payment of a small fee of Rs. 5 only or even less ?

(c) Do Government intend to consider the advisability of controlling the practice of this medical science by opening Government colleges to teach homœopathy or recognizing and subsidizing some of the existing reliable homœopathic medical institutions, or by prescribing a minimum qualification for homœopathic medical practitioners and introducing the system of registration of such practitioners ?

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

(a) No.

(b) The Honourable Member's statement may be correct. I have no information on the subject.

(c) The suggestion is one primarily for the consideration of Provincial Governments.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY LINE FROM KASHIPUR TO KALAGARH.

48. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is under consideration to construct a R. K. R. railway line from Kashipur to Kalagarh *via* Thakurdwara in the United Provinces ?

(b) If so, what progress has been made with the project ?

(c) When is the project likely to be taken in hand and when is it likely to be completed ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) and (b). The project referred to is one of those which are being re-examined at present with a view to ascertaining whether they are likely to prove remunerative.

The adverse effects of competition by motor traffic on roads have been so marked in recent years that it is considered necessary to re-examine projects in the light of that experience, even though they may have been considered remunerative in the past.

(c) If the project should be found, after re-examination, to be remunerative under present conditions, the question of its comparative importance and urgency, *vis-a-vis* other remunerative projects under examination, will have to be considered before a decision regarding its construction can be arrived at. The period required for construction will be about two years from the date of sanction.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: May I know, Sir, how long will the re-examination take?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I should say about six to eight months but I cannot guarantee that.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Was a preliminary survey made of these lines some months ago?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I believe a preliminary survey of these lines was made some years ago.

CERTAIN ALLEGED EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF THE ROYAL GARHWAL REGIMENT TO MIDNAPORE.

49. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Is it a fact that some days ago a notice was served by the Sub-divisional Officer of Midnapore on Congress workers and other citizens of Contai requiring them to be present "without fail" in the compound of the local dak bungalow at a particular hour on a particular day in order to welcome the soldiers of the Royal Garhwal Regiment who were reaching there, and to salute the British flag?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why such an order was issued by the Midnapore authorities and under what law?

(c) Were some people arrested for failing to comply with these orders and, if so, how many and with what result?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) A notice was issued on the 15th December, 1933, by the Sub-divisional Officer, Contai, to several local gentlemen in the sense indicated except that the words "without fail" do not occur in that notice.

(b) and (c). It is customary when troops visit a town to receive them with some formality and ceremony. It was on this account that the Sub-divisional Officer issued the notice asking gentlemen to be present. No action was taken against those who did not attend the ceremony and no force was used to compel them to attend.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: Was there any explanation asked from some gentlemen who did not attend as to the reason why they did not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: I cannot answer that question off-hand. I do not recollect seeing anything about that.

USE OF BLACK PAINT ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

50. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
 (a) Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway painted wagon No. 1469 in August, 1930, and wagon No. 1123 in September, 1930, with Muraco special black for carrying out an exposure test? If so, is it a fact that those two wagons came back to the Kanchrapara workshop in May, 1933? If so, is it a fact that on 15th May, 1933, the Agent and Chief Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Bengal Railway, inspected the paints on those two wagons and found them to be satisfactory after the actual service and run on traffic of about two years and ten months?

(b) If they found the Muraco special black to be satisfactory in the exposure test and economical in cost, will Government be pleased to state what steps have the Eastern Bengal Railway taken to replace the black paint of Jenson and Nicholson by the paint of Indian firms? If no steps have been taken, why?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the ready mixed paint of Jenson and Nicholson 3 per cent. carbon black had been tested by the Government test house or the Indian Stores Department before it was accepted against tender No. M./3530 for 1934-35? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Information has been called for and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

USE OF BLACK PAINT ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

51. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :
 (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities purchased 25 gallons of Jenson and Nicholson ready mixed black paint for trial on wagons at Rs. 3 per gallon?

(b) Is it a fact that they used that paint in painting wagons in September, 1932, and could only paint 11 wagons with those 25 gallons of paint purchased?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the paint tried was the same as that being used by the Eastern Bengal Railway from the same firm?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the area covered with these 25 gallons in square feet?

(e) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities purchased for the second time 50 gallons of Jenson and Nicholson ready mixed black paint for test on wagons at Rs. 3 per gallon?

(f) Is it a fact that they used that paint in painting wagons in December, 1932, and could only paint 22 wagons with those 50 gallons of paint purchased?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether the paint tried was the same as that being used by the Eastern Bengal Railway from the same firm?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the area covered with these 50 gallons in square feet?

(i) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway purchased for the third time 50 gallons of Jenson and Nicholson ready mixed black paint for test on wagons at Rs. 3 per gallon?

(j) Is it a fact that they used that paint in painting wagons in March, 1933, and could only paint 12 wagons with these 50 gallons of paint purchased ?

(k) Will Government be pleased to state the area covered with these 50 gallons in square feet ?

(l) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities purchased for the fourth time 500 gallons of Jenson and Nicholson ready mixed black paint for test on wagons at Rs. 3 per gallon ?

(m) Is it a fact that they used that paint in painting wagons in July, 1933, and could only paint 105 wagons with those 500 gallons of paint purchased ?

(n) Will Government be pleased to state whether the paint tried was the same as that being used by the Eastern Bengal Railway from the same firm ?

(o) Will Government be pleased to state the area covered with these 500 gallons in square feet ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Information has been called for and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

52. THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

(a) Is it a fact that the Indian Stores Department was created for the purpose of centralizing all the purchases of Government stores ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the State Railway authorities are empowered to purchase stores independently of the Indian Stores Department ? If so, why ?

(b) Do Government propose to issue orders for the purchase of all Government stores for State Railways or for other departments through the Indian Stores Department ? If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the Indian Stores Department has been kept in existence and so much money is being spent on the department ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Indian Stores Department was created for keeping a watch over Government purchases from the Indian firms and for supporting indigenous industries ? If so, what steps do they propose to take to stop the purchases for railways by the railway authorities themselves ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the final report of the Stores, Printing and Stationery Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee which gives a clear and succinct account of the circumstances leading up to the creation of the Indian Stores Department, the objects the Government had in view when the department was created and the extent to which those objects have been achieved. A copy of this report is in the Library. The position is reviewed annually in the administration reports published by the department and the special attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the report for 1932-33 which was published after the Retrenchment Committee had submitted its report. This also is in the Library.

AGREED PROPOSALS OF THE CONFERENCE OF REGISTRARS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

53. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : Will Government be pleased to state the agreed proposals of the last conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : A copy of the proceedings of the Conference will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as printed copies are available.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALL-INDIA CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL.

54. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Is it a fact that Government is going to establish an All-India Co-operative Council on the lines of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ?

(b) If answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, what will be its constitution and when will it be established ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : (a) No. The Honourable Member is probably referring to a proposal that has been under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

DISPOSAL OF MOLASSES IN SUGAR FACTORIES.

55. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the urgent necessity of disposing of molasses in sugar factories ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay their schemes on the table at an early date ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) is in the negative, do Government propose to take early steps through the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to find out all possible solutions of the problem ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Sugar Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research discussed the question of the utilization of molasses at its meeting held at Coimbatore in November last. A copy of the proceedings of that meeting has been placed in the Library of the House. The question of the action to be taken on the Sugar Committee's recommendations is under consideration.

THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK : Will the Government be pleased to state how long it will take to come to a definite conclusion ?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : It is impossible to say, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: Has any scheme been suggested by the Sugar Committee?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: When the Honourable Member reads the report he will find many schemes discussed.

IMPORTS OF SUGAR AND SUGAR CANDY.

56. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: Will Government be pleased to state how much sugar as well as sugar candy from each country has been imported into India in accordance with the latest figures available?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: As regards imports of sugar, the Honourable Member is referred to Volume I of the Annual Statement of Sea-borne Trade of British India and the Monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India, copies of which are available in the Library of the Legislature. Imports of sugar candy during April to December, 1933, which are not shown separately in the above publications, were as follows:

	Cwts.	Rs.
From Japan	23,851	1,75,968
From other countries	31,550	2,44,793
Total	55,401	4,20,761

ADMISSION OF CEYLONESE TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

57. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Is it a fact that Ceylonese are eligible for recruitment to the Indian Civil Service through the competitive examination held in London?

(b) If so, are the Ceylonese recruited to the Indian Civil Service counted as Indians for the purpose of Indianization?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) Yes.

(b) The question has not yet arisen, as even with the recruitment of three Ceylonese in the last two years, Indians have received more than the quota of appointments to which they are entitled in accordance with the 50:50 ratio.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Are Indians eligible for appointment to the Civil Service of Ceylon?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Are Government considering the question of introducing the principle of reciprocity so far as appointments to the Indian Civil Service and the Ceylon Civil Service are concerned?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That supplementary question does not arise out of the original question. The Honourable Member may give notice of that question.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY MUSLIM EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, LUCKNOW.

58. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD :
(a) Is it a fact that there is an association of the Muslim employees of the East Indian Railway at Lucknow ?

(b) Is the Association recognised by the authorities ?

(c) Is it a fact that the so-called East Indian Railway Muslim Employees' Association, Lucknow, at its meeting held on the 1st February passed a resolution to the effect that the Association " views with strong disapproval the extreme paucity of Muslim staff in the establishment section of the East Indian Railway workshop and divisional offices and requests the authorities to appoint suitable Muslims " ?

(d) If so, do Government approve of the existence of a communal organization of the employees of a State Railway and of their indulging in politics of the communal type ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) and (c). Government have no information.

(b) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce to starred questions Nos. 332 and 333, asked by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad in the Legislative Assembly, on the 1st September, 1933.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: Will the Honourable Member please state what is the proportion of Muslim employees in the establishment section of the East Indian Railway?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

LOANS FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT.

59. THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA JAGADISH NATH RAY OF DINAJPUR :
(a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to give effect to the Honourable Sir George Schuster's proposal regarding loans for road development ?

(b) Has any Provincial Government taken advantage of the proposal or shewn any tendency in that direction ?

(c) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government state if any practicable scheme has been received by them from any of the provinces ? And if so, which are the provinces ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) The attention of Local Governments has been drawn to this matter, and they have been invited to make specific proposals.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Does not arise.

**COMPULSORY INSURANCE BY MOTOR OMNIBUSES AGAINST PASSENGERS' AND
THIRD PARTY RISKS.**

60. THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA JAGADISH NATH RAY OF DINAJPUR:
(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that drivers of motor omnibuses in big cities and elsewhere owing to their competitive runs and eagerness to pick up the greatest number of passengers and other causes, very often bring about accidents and consequent injuries to passengers ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the Government of Bombay have of late so amended their Public Conveyance Rules, 1922, as to make it compulsory for motor omnibuses to insure against passengers' and third party risks ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state in how many and which of the provinces such insurance rules are in existence ?

(d) Have Government considered the advisability of drawing the attention of all Provincial Governments to the extreme necessity of having such safeguards against motor bus risks ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to all the parts of the question together.

As far as the Government of India are aware, until lately, none of the provincial motor vehicles rules provided for the compulsory insurance of public vehicles against passengers' and third party risks; but, recently the attention of all the Provincial Governments has been specifically drawn to the desirability of providing for such insurance, in the interests of public safety and convenience. So far, only the Bombay Government who have recently amended their Public Conveyance (Motor Vehicles) Rules, 1922, in the manner referred to, have acted upon the suggestion.

**NUMBER AND NAMES OF LIGHT RAILWAYS THAT HAVE TO COMPETE WITH
ROAD TRANSPORT.**

61. THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA JAGADISH NATH RAY OF DINAJPUR:
Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) The number and the names of the light railways, if any, that have to compete with the growing road transport in India ?

(b) Which of the railways have been adversely affected by such competition ?

(c) Whether any of the railways have outlived their utility owing to their operation at a loss mainly through such competition ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) and (b). A list of all the light railways will be found in Statement 6 or Statement 7 (pages 50-51 and 58-60) of Volume II of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1932-33, copies of which are in the Library. Practically all of them have been affected, in varying degrees, by competition from road motor transport.

(c) The answer to this is so largely a matter of opinion and depends so much on various factors which it is not possible correctly to assess, that Government cannot make a definite statement on the subject.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS ON STEAMERS GOING TO THE ANDAMANS.

62. THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA JAGADISH NATH RAY OF DINAJPUR :
(a) Will Government be pleased to state what sort of steam vessels are used by passengers bound for the Andamans? Are the said vessels chartered by Government or run by Companies?

(b) What medical arrangements are provided on those vessels?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) Two steamers are chartered by Government from the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., for the Andamans mail and passenger service. They are run by the Company under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) A sub-assistant surgeon travels on the steamers and is in charge of the medical arrangements.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Are the medical arrangements quite adequate?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: I might suggest, Sir, that the Honourable Member might discuss that point with my friend Mr. Sloan, Joint Secretary in the Home Department, who recently travelled by this line and who can give him any information that he requires. I understand they are satisfactory.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Are the arrangements quite on a par with those on British sea-going vessels?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: I understand they are quite adequate for the purpose of the short trip from Calcutta, Madras or Rangoon to the Andamans.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Have Government taken any steps recently to improve the position?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: So far as I am aware, there is no necessity for improvement.

LINKING UP OF DARJEELING WITH CALCUTTA, ETC., BY AEROPLANE, ETC.

63. THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA JAGADISH NATH RAY OF DINAJPUR :
Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there has been any proposal to link up Darjeeling with Calcutta or any other place by aeroplane, mail or passenger service?

(b) If so, what progress has been made?

(c) Whether the route proposed to be taken will pass over any part of the Dinajpur district and whether there will be a landing station in Dinajpur town?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. G. MITCHELL: (a) Government are not aware of any active proposal of this nature. In 1928 a private firm carried out an experimental flight between Calcutta and Siliguri with a view to testing the possibilities of a regular service to connect with Darjeeling, but abandoned the project.

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

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

64. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD :
 (a) (i) Will Government be pleased to state the functions of the Indian Medical Service, its composition and the existing method of recruitment to it ?

(ii) Is recruitment made every year and is it made in England alone ?

(iii) To what classes of His Majesty's subjects is recruitment open ?

(b) Is there any percentage fixed for the recruitment of Europeans and Indians, respectively ? And if so, what ?

(c) Is it a fact that a competitive examination used to be held formerly for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service and, if so, where was the examination held and under what conditions ?

(d) In what years was this system of examination in vogue and for how long did it continue ?

(e) When was the system of competitive examination discontinued and for what reasons ?

(f) Is it the intention of Government to reopen the competitive examination for recruitment of candidates to the Indian Medical Service and, if so, under what conditions ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: With your permission, Sir, I will answer this question on behalf of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(a) (i) The functions of the Indian Medical Service which is primarily a military service, include administrative and executive medical duties in connection with the care of the health of the Army in India. Similar duties are performed by officers of the Service who are transferred to civil employ under the various Local Governments and Administrations. In civil employ officers also perform teaching, research, jail and other miscellaneous work.

The Indian Medical Service is composed of British and Indian officers.

The existing method of recruitment to the Indian Medical Service is by selection committees held in India and in England who recommend candidates for appointment by the Secretary of State.

(ii) Recruitment to the Indian Medical Service is made in England and in India as and when required.

(iii) Every candidate must be either (a) a British subject of European descent in the male line, whose father was, at the time of the candidate's birth, a British subject, or (b) a British subject whose father was, at the time of the birth of the candidate, either a British subject domiciled in British India or a subject of a State in India. In either case, such father must still be, or have continued to be to his death, a British subject or a subject of such a State in India.

(b) Yes; the percentage at present fixed for British and Indians is 66½ and 33½, respectively.

(c) Yes; in England; under conditions prescribed from time to time by the Secretary of State for India.

(d) It was in vogue for over 60 years, starting from January, 1855.

(e) The competitive examination was discontinued after July, 1915, owing to lack of competition and because it was considered that the system of selection by interview which has been in force since that date gave better results.

(f) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remainder of it does not therefore arise.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA: Will Government be pleased to state if they propose to stick to the number fixed for recruitment in India and England at present, or are they going to increase recruitment in India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: As I am not personally cognisant of the facts with which this answer deals, I must ask for notice of that question. I have no doubt it will be explained in the course of the debate tomorrow.

PAY FOR FUTURE ENTRANTS TO THE IMPERIAL OR ALL-INDIA SERVICES.

65. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Is it under the consideration of Government to reduce the pay of future entrants to the Imperial or All-India Services?

(b) If so, is Government in a position to disclose their plans in this behalf and to state how far the proposal has progressed?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: (a) and (b). The Secretary of State has been addressed on the question of the revision of the pay of future entrants to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: Are Government in a position to disclose their recommendations made to the Secretary of State in this behalf?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: No, Sir.

WHEAT IMPORT DUTY (EXTENDING) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

This is the third occasion on which it has been found necessary to propose an extension of the operation of the Wheat Import Duty Act which was passed as a temporary measure in 1931. Since on three previous occasions this Honourable House has accepted the principle of this Bill it is unnecessary, I submit, for me again to deal with that principle. It will suffice, I think, if I endeavour to show to Honourable Members that the conditions which justified the original passing of the Bill and its continuance on two subsequent occasions are still in existence. The first condition is

[Mr. T. A. Stewart.]

that there should be in existence large supplies of surplus stocks of wheat in the great wheat-producing and wheat-exporting countries of the world which are available for being exported to India should the duty be removed. The second condition is that the price of wheat in India should be above the parity of world prices. Given these initial conditions it is inevitable that the removal of the duty would result in the invasion of Indian markets by foreign supplies. The result, I am sure you will agree, would be disastrous for the wheat producer in India. Let me sum up the position as far as stocks are concerned. The most important wheat consuming area in the world is Europe, and Europe in the past year has enjoyed extraordinarily favourable crops, not only of wheat but of other cereals such as rye and of other food crops such as potatoes. As a result of this bumper harvest and as a result too of the restrictions on international trade, which unfortunately still exist, the European demand has been estimated at the exceptionally low figure of 375 million bushels. Of this 375 million bushels about 100 million bushels will be supplied from European sources, such as Russia and States on the Danube, leaving a matter of 275 million bushels to be supplied. Against this there is an exportable surplus in the four big producing countries, Canada, the United States, the Argentine and Australia, amounting to 970 million bushels. The non-European demand amounts to about 150 million bushels, so that when the European and non-European demand has been satisfied, there will still remain the enormous quantity of 545 million bushels looking for a market. That quantity converted into tons represents something like 15 million tons, which may be compared with an Indian production of between nine and ten million tons. I think it may be taken, Sir, that the first condition to which I refer is very adequately satisfied.

To show that the second condition is also satisfied I would give you only two price quotations. The spot price of Australian wheat in London today, or rather at the end of December, expressed in Indian units was Rs. 2-9-0 per maund. At a corresponding period the price of Lyallpur wheat landed in Calcutta was Rs. 3-3-0 per maund. Honourable Members will I think agree that the removal of the duty would be sure to result in very considerable imports of wheat from abroad.

It may be suggested that there is another condition that should be fulfilled before the continuance of this wheat duty is justified, and that is that it should be demonstrated that the imposition of the wheat duty does not prove an unreasonable burden on the very large mass of consumers in India. That the imposition of the wheat duty has not been such a burden will, I think, appear from the following prices which I quote. Back in 1928 the price of wheat f. o. r. Lyallpur was Rs. 5-14-0 per maund. In the following year it stood at Rs. 5-5-0 per maund, and in December, 1931, nine months after the imposition of the duty, it had fallen as low as Rs. 2-10-6. There was a slight recovery in 1932, when the December quotation was Rs. 3-3-0 per maund. Last December however the price had again fallen and stood at Rs. 2-2-3 per maund. I think those figures will satisfy Honourable Members that the result of the imposition of the duty has not been a rise in price against the consumer. In these circumstances, Sir, it is considered necessary that the duty should be continued for still another year.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Stewart for again bringing this Bill up this year to give another year's life to wheat production. When a similar Bill was introduced last year I requested the Government not to bring in Bills for giving protection to wheat again and again every year, but that they should give it for a period of at least three years. There is no other way of solving the economic problem of India but to raise the prices of agricultural products and this measure is one which helps in doing so. With the protection given the price of wheat ranges round about Rs. 3 per maund, which is quite reasonable. Had there been no protection, I do not know to what level prices would have gone.

Sir, there are certain other things which also ought to be taken into consideration with the protection given to wheat and the most important of them is the reduction of canal rates. The Punjab and the United Provinces can produce wheat still more cheaply if the canal rates are reduced. We have been pressing for it and I hope the Government of India will draw the attention of the Local Governments on that point. Then, Sir, it is also very necessary that the ratio should be lowered. We are suffering greatly on account of high ratio. If it is lowered to 1s. 4d. or even still less, we are sure that the price of agricultural products in this country will go up and it will help to solve the economic problem. Sir, we are grateful to Government for having reduced the freight on Punjab wheat from Lyallpur to Karachi, but so far as the United Provinces are concerned, no such concession has been made. The United Provinces comes second on the list so far as this wheat crop is concerned and I would request the Government to see their way to give some concession of freight to United Provinces wheat as well and I hope the Government will do it soon.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDRI MUHAMMAD DIN (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, it is a matter of gratification that the Government of India has proposed to extend the Wheat Import Duty Act for another year. The current price of wheat and other agricultural produce hardly covers the cost of production and does not leave any margin for the unfortunate cultivators. The plight of cultivators, who have no other source of income, may well be imagined. Any measures to tackle the problem will be welcomed all over the country. I would suggest that railway freight on food grains imported into Bihar province from other provinces of India should be reduced as a temporary measure. This would help in disposing of large stocks of wheat in Northern India to some extent and would also be a source of relief to the unfortunate victims of the earthquake calamity in Bihar. Sir, I support the Bill whole-heartedly.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, being an elected representative from the Punjab, I welcome this measure. It would have been much better if the Government had put forward a consolidated measure covering protection to all food grains produced in India which are subjected to dumping from and by foreign countries. Sir, the Honourable Mr. Stewart has given us a lot of statistics, but what I expected from him was this. As this House is quite unaware of the terms of the new Anglo-Soviet Agreement I should like to know whether in that Agreement Great Britain has agreed to take any specific quantity of wheat, rice or other food grains from Soviet Russia;

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

because in that case India is bound to suffer because so far as Dominion preference is concerned India will be at a loss. Sir, one of my colleagues complained that railway freight on wheat from the Punjab to Bengal has been lowered. For this, Sir, I must thank the Punjab Government as they have taken a great deal of pains in getting that rate reduced, but I cannot avoid mentioning that it has been quite a business proposition for the railway. It has been purely the loss of long distance traffic which has induced the railway to lower the freight. Punjab wheat used to go to Karachi and thence it was shipped to Calcutta and the result was that the railways got traffic only for about 600 or 700 miles instead of 1,400 miles. However, Sir, that is a question on which I need not dilate, I have simply mentioned it because as far as the development of India is concerned railway rates play an important part.

I fully endorse the view of my Honourable friend Rai Bahadur Mathura Prasad as regards raising of prices of wheat and other agricultural produce which are at present very low. Sir, this sort of protection does help India to some extent, but when prices fall down to the level of last year when, in certain villages away from railway stations in the Punjab, the price of wheat ruled somewhere between Re. 1 and Rs. 1-2-0 a maund, the Government must take some effective measures to raise the price of wheat and rice, etc., which are the principal products of India and thus help India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (East Bengal: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I rise to support the Motion but I do it not with an unmixed feeling of joy and sorrow. I am feeling happy as the Bill aims at helping the agriculturists, be they Punjabis, Bengalis, or Biharis. But, Sir, I feel depressed when I remember the attitude adopted by some of my friends from the Punjab in the other House regarding the Government's provision in the present budget for the payment of half the jute export duty to the Government of the province to which I have the honour to belong. Sir, this Bill does not help Bengal or any other province except the Punjab. All the other provinces are welcoming the measure knowing fully well that this duty on wheat means the raising of the price of the article and which also means that the consumers are asked to pay more to help the producers. I think the House will agree with me when I say that in this case of wheat the producers are mainly the people of the Punjab who are being helped by the consumers in Bengal and other provinces where wheat is not cultivated. I hope my friends from the Punjab will emulate the example of the members from other provinces in not grudging any help rendered in times of need to other provinces.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: Would these remarks be relevant?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Yes; perfectly relevant.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Before I resume my seat I feel it my bounden duty to congratulate the Honourable the Commerce Member for extending this measure for another year and thus rendering the help required to the agriculturists producing wheat, mainly in the Punjab and Northern India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, if I rise, I rise to support not to oppose. I simply wish to draw the attention of the Government to the position in which we are at present. To all those gentlemen who look at the papers it will not come as news that there was a great hue and cry in Bengal against this import duty on wheat as well as this protective duty on salt and I was really surprised to see that a representative of Bengal should of all men object to the ventilation of Bengal's grievance. But these are the advantages of not being elected!

Sir, we are in entire agreement with the Government that wheat must be protected and the fact that the prices have not soared high and the internal production has helped the Government in bringing the prices down is also something for which we may be thankful on behalf of the consumers. But, Sir, as my leader pointed out, it is necessary that we should take a wide view and try to safeguard not merely one product but all the products in India as far as possible.

Sir, I support the Bill.

*THE HONOURABLE SIR KURMA VENKATA REDDI (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to support this Bill whole-heartedly. We do not raise any wheat crop nor do we consume much wheat but at the same time we know the mischief that is being done on account of low prices. If only one province in this great land is benefited, we feel that the whole of India is benefited to that extent. Sir, a perusal of the trade revenue furnished to us along with the budget papers will clearly show that whereas the national income from agricultural produce was something like Rs. 1,000 crores in 1928 and 1929 it has come down to Rs. 503 crores in the years 1932 and 1933. That means, Sir, that the national income has been reduced, and any attempt made to raise the prices and increase the national wealth would be welcome and we are thankful to the Government for extending the operation of the Bill for another year.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Bill and associate myself with the Honourable Members who preceded me; and join hands with them in support of the extension of the period of this Bill in the interest of the wheat-growers of India.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I would not have spoken on this Motion had it not been for the fact that the speeches of my Honourable friends Mr. Banerjee and Sir Kurma Reddi might create an impression that it is only the Punjab that would benefit by this measure. I may tell my Honourable friends that the United Provinces is also a wheat-producing province and so is Bihar as my friend, Mr. Hossain Imam, informs me. So, in addition to the Punjab, the United Provinces, the province of Bihar and the North-West Frontier Province will also be benefited by the provisions of this Bill.

As regards the interests of the consumer, I may point out that since the import duty in the past has not resulted in an undesirable rise in the

*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad.]

prices of Indian wheat and since the harvest this year is very good, there is absolutely no danger of the interests of the consumer suffering in any way by the continuance of the import duty on wheat.

With these remarks, Sir, I give my whole-hearted support to the measure.

THE HONOURABLE NAWAB MALIK MOHAMMAD HAYAT KHAN NOON (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): To me, Sir, this appears to be a measure of necessity and not a measure of generosity. I assure the Honourable Members that the plight of the zemindars in the Punjab is pitiable. (*Honourable Members*: "What about Bengal and other places?") I refer to the Punjab because the Punjab has been mentioned again and again. I know there is wheat produced in the United Provinces and my friend informs me in the North-West Frontier Province and also in Sind, but if this little indirect help which the Wheat Import Duty Act of 1931 extends to the zamindars is withdrawn or refused, the condition of the zamindars will be very much worse. The zamindars will not be able to pay land revenue and then the Punjab will be forced to put forward deficit budgets and then later on the Punjab will have to approach the Government for a share of the salt duty produced from the mines in the Punjab and the oil duty produced in Attock.

Sir, I agree with my Honourable friends who have suggested that it would have been much better if the Government instead of bringing a year to year measure had proposed that this little protection should continue till the circumstances are so changed that the duty becomes unnecessary. By having this year to year measure, Sir, the zamindars are kept under suspense and they do not know what is going to happen next year.

With these remarks, Sir, I support the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: Sir, the opinions that have been expressed by Honourable Members are so unanimously in favour of this measure that it requires no further justification or defence from me. There are one or two points that have been raised in the course of the debate to which I might refer. It has been urged by several Honourable Members that the time has now come when this measure should no longer be put forward as a temporary measure from year to year but should be made a permanent measure. If the Honourable Members who urge that course on Government could themselves be sure that the disharmony between Indian prices and world prices is a permanent feature, that there would never be any readjustment of the two prices one to the other, then I think there would be some case for making this a permanent measure, but until that is established I consider that the only possible course is to renew the measure from time to time as circumstances warrant the more so as this is a duty which is applied to one of the principal food crops of the north of India, or may I say the North-West so that I may not trench on Bengal. And so long as there is any suspicion that the circumstances justifying the imposition of this duty may cease, so long as there is any hope that there may be a readjustment of those circumstances, then so long it is considered that the Legislature should have the opportunity of reviewing from time to time what may at any moment become a burden on the consumer.

Reference has also been made to railway freights and their effect on wheat prices in India's markets. I am informed by the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Railways that the question of adjusting freights to the best advantage of agricultural produce is a matter that is continually under the consideration of the Railway Board and such adjustments are made, as in accordance with business principles, will ensure the most satisfactory movement of crops from the producing areas to the marketing centres.

Reference has also been made to the general question of raising the prices of agricultural products other than wheat. The commodity that is in the mind of most of us, I suppose, is rice. As regards rice, I gave the Honourable Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi an assurance some days ago that the question was receiving consideration. My assurance was repeated from the Government benches in the other House and it is hardly necessary for me again to repeat here today that the subject is receiving the consideration of the Government of India.

I think there is no further matter which calls for a reply.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: What about the effect of the Anglo-Soviet Agreement?

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: I must apologise to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I was not aware that he was going to raise the question and I do not know myself what the terms of the Anglo-Soviet Agreement are. Should he desire, I shall do my best to obtain for him the terms of that Agreement.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Thank you. Try to get a copy of the Agreement.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Question is:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

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

The "certain purpose" mentioned here is to rectify the mistake of phraseology in the case of the University of Rangoon. There it is the Board of Studies in Medicine which corresponds to the Medical Faculty of other Universities and it is in order to give appropriate phraseology in the case of the University of Rangoon that it has been found necessary to bring in this Bill.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIE NASARVANJI CHOKSY (Bombay: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, it is a matter for satisfaction that this change in the Indian Medical Council Act has been made. It was a matter of considerable grievance that some of the Universities had not been recognized, nor were their diplomas and qualifications included in Schedule I of the Indian Medical Council Act. So far as the Burma qualifications were concerned, I am glad to say that when the matter was represented to the Bombay Medical Council, that body, after proper investigation, came to the conclusion that the qualifications of the University of Rangoon should be recognized by it. We thereupon approached the Government of Bombay who ordered that the qualifications should be included in our Schedule. Now, Sir, it is to be hoped that as the Indian Medical Council has been established, the qualifications of the Rangoon University will at no distant date be placed upon Schedule I. Two other Universities—Andhra and Patna—are awaiting recognition as it has been laid down in the Indian Medical Council Act of 1933 that soon after the establishment of the Council, and within a certain period, the Council shall investigate the merits of their qualifications. I do hope that this work will soon be taken in hand and the qualifications of these Universities placed upon the Schedule.

Sir, I support the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEHROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to congratulate the Honourable the Leader of the House for bringing in this Bill and rectifying the mistake which, as he said, was committed, and especially because we fear that the Government of India are of opinion that Burma should be separated from India against the wishes of Burma and India. This Bill shows that Government have got a little sympathy and respect for their views and that they will not cut off Burma so far as the medical question is concerned. I hope they will consider again the whole matter and do their best to keep Burma united with India in all other respects too. I therefore welcome this measure and congratulate the Honourable the Leader of the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN: Sir,
I move:

"That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART (Commerce Secretary): Sir,
I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the reasons that prompted the Government of India to put forward this measure are fully set forth in the statement of objects and reasons. There is no need that I should elaborate them further.

Sir, I move.

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, this is a very welcome measure. The 12 Noon. real measure which is going to give proper protection to the textile industry will be shortly coming before us. As however that is a very important matter I hope that the Government when the Assembly is considering its reference to Select Committee will see that on that Select Committee this House is adequately represented. I hope the Government will kindly see their way to appointing a Joint Select Committee, so that this important measure may be put before the representatives of both Houses on that Committee.

The Motion was adopted.

STEEL AND WIRE INDUSTRIES PROTECTION (EXTENDING) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART (Commerce Secretary):
Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to continue for a further period the provisions made by certain Acts for the purpose of fostering and developing the Steel Industry and the Wire and Wire Nail Industry in British India, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

As Honourable Members are aware, the Tariff Board is now engaged in the Statutory enquiry into the further claim of the steel industry in India to further protection. The Board will find it impossible to report before, say, the middle of May, and in these circumstances it would be

[Mr. T. A. Stewart.]

impossible to consider the report of the Board and to introduce into the Legislature any proposals that may be necessary to implement their recommendations before the Simla session. It would be extremely unfortunate if between the end of March and the enactment of such fresh legislation as may be necessary there should be a hiatus in which the continuity of duties should be interrupted. For these reasons, Sir, it is proposed to extend for this period of six months the existing rates of duty.

Sir, I move.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support this measure, but with a note of warning. The protection that we have been giving to industries, as I pointed out, ought to be based on scientific methods, and there ought to be the ultimate end in view of freeing the general consumer from the burden of additional taxation. The reason why protection is given, as has been very adequately pointed out by the Fiscal Commission, is that ultimately the cost to the consumer should be brought down. I have before this complained that usually the Tariff Board does not look far ahead and does not give any period for which they think that protection should be given. As the Tariff Board has not submitted its report I wish to draw the attention of the Government, as well as of that body, to the requirement that there should be a specified period for which protection is asked. Protection should not be perpetual. And the second point to which the Tariff Board ought specially to look is what I might call the horizontal construction of the industry, by which I mean the ways in which the costs can be lowered. These are the two requirements which must be looked into. The cost of raw materials, overhead charges, the standing charges for debts, debentures—those are the items which go to make the company a successful undertaking—and they must be looked into if protection is to be of a temporary nature and is to be successful.

Sir, with these words, I support this Motion.

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. T. A. STEWART: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House): Sir, there will be no further official business either this week, or so far as we can see next week. As Honourable Members are aware the Council will meet for non-official business tomorrow and on the 12th, 14th and 19th March. The next official business will be the laying on the table of the Finance Bill and this will, it is hoped, take place towards the close of the week opening on Monday, the 19th March.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 7th March, 1934.

* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.