

Wednesday, 7th March, 1934

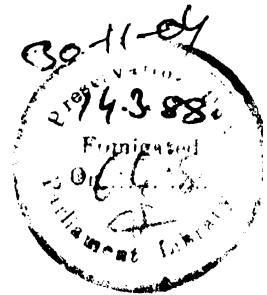
THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1934

*(8th February to 27th April, 1934)*

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SEVENTH SESSION  
OF THE  
THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1934



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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Wednesday, 7th March, 1934.*

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

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**PERCENTAGE OF LEAVE RESERVE IN THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE INCOME-TAX OFFICE, NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE AND THE POST OFFICE IN BOMBAY.**

**66. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) The percentage of leave reserve in the clerical establishments of the following offices in Bombay:

Income-tax Office, New Custom House, Accountant-General's Office and the Post Office?

(b) Whether there is a disparity in the percentage of leave reserve in the above-cited offices in the case of the ministerial establishment?

(c) The reasons for such disparity.

(d) Whether in the case of offices where there is a small percentage of leave reserve, the head of the office is authorized to take in substitutes in case the number of absentees on leave exceeds the number of allotted leave reservists?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS:** The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

**CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, BOMBAY.**

**67. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that in the New Custom House, Bombay, there is a department which consists of over 60 clerks and has only one superintendent and no deputy superintendent at all?

(b) Whether it is a fact that in all other departments of the above Custom House, which consist of about 30 to 40 clerks, there are both a superintendent and a deputy superintendent and in one case, two superintendents and one deputy superintendent?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS:** (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

## CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' UNION, BOMBAY.

68. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Union of the Clerical Establishment of the New Custom House, Bombay, had approached Government for a donation from the Customs Sunday and penalty fees, of Rs. 15,000 to enable that body to start schemes such as a library, death benefit, sickness benefit, athletic club, etc.?

(b) Whether Government in reply to the above request intimated to the Union that the want of funds precluded them from sanctioning donations to any new scheme or any new body?

(c) Whether it is a fact that Government has since donated a substantial sum to the newly started club of wharfingers of the New Custom House, Bombay?

(d) Whether Government propose to reconsider the request of the above-cited Union of clerical employees?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: (a) A letter asking for a donation was received from the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union, Bombay. No particular sum was specified.

(b) The Central Board of Revenue replied in the sense described.

(c) No. The institution referred to started without assistance, and such small sums as have been granted to it have been re-appropriated from the grant to another institution of which the wharfingers were beneficiaries.

(d) No.

## EXTENT TO WHICH THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, BOMBAY, PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS.

69. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT: Will Government be pleased to say:

(a) Whether it is a fact that out of the donations they annually give from the Sunday fees of the Customs Department to the Customs Athletic Club, Bombay, only a negligible percentage is devoted to sports, etc., in which the clerical staff of the Custom House take part?

(b) Whether it is a fact that almost all the money donated by Government is spent on sports, etc., in which mostly the preventive officers and wharfingers take part?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Union of the Clerical Employees of the New Custom House, Bombay, had approached Government for a donation to start an athletic club for the benefit of the clerical members and that their request has not so far been complied with?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: (a) Government have no information as to the extent to which the clerical staff participate in sports.

(b) The athletic institution which benefits from the fund is open to all employees of the Custom House.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in answer to part (a) of question No. 68.

**EMPLOYMENT OF SONS AND NEAR RELATIVES OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.**

70. THE HONOURABLE SAHDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT : Will Government be pleased to say :

(a) Whether it is a fact that orders requiring preference to be shown to candidates for employment who are sons or relatives of persons who are or have been employed in the department which the candidate desires to enter were passed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department some years ago ?

(b) Whether Government propose to issue similar orders in the case of other departments ?

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

(b) No.

**ISSUE OF GENERAL ORDERS THAT GRADUATES AND MATRICULATES SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED PAY HIGHER THAN THE PRESCRIBED MINIMA.**

71. THE HONOURABLE SAHDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that they have issued orders that in the Income-tax Office, Bombay, graduates and matriculates should be offered the same minimum of the time-scale of pay ?

(b) Whether Government desire to introduce the same principle in all their Bombay offices ?

(c) Whether their object in introducing the above principle is to limit the recruitment of highly qualified men in the offices concerned ?

(d) If the answer to (c) above is in the negative, whether the object of Government is to recruit as many highly qualified men as possible on very low salaries ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS : (a) and (b). General orders have been issued that graduates should not be granted initially rates of pay higher than the prescribed minima. These orders apply to all offices under the Central Government.

(c) and (d). No. The scales of pay have been so fixed as to attract men of the requisite qualifications and are considered to be a reasonable return for their services. Government do not therefore consider it necessary to offer more than the minima of the time scales to graduates and matriculates.

**RECRUITMENT OF OTHER PRESIDENCY MEN TO OFFICES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.**

72. THE HONOURABLE SAHDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that there are orders passed by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs directing the recruiting officers to recruit in the offices under their control, men from the places in the presidency in which the offices are situated and as far as possible not from other presidencies ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Local Government of Bombay have also issued orders to their officers not to recruit men who belong to presidencies other than Bombay so long as qualified Bombay men are available ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that there are now-a-days quite a large number of unemployed Bombay men duly qualified, available for employment in the Bombay offices of the Government of India ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that there are now-a-days a large number of Madras recruits entertained in the New Custom House, Bombay, who are in no way more qualified than available Bombay men ?

(e) Whether Government propose to discourage recruitment of other presidency men in the offices under their control in the Bombay Presidency ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT :** (a) The fact is substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) I have no definite information in the matter but I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member's statement.

(b), (d) and (e). I am making enquiries and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

**NUMBER OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT INCOME-TAX OFFICERS APPOINTED IN THE INCOME-TAX OFFICE, BOMBAY, DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.**

**73. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) The number of Income-tax Officers and Assistant Income-tax Officers, both permanent and temporary, appointed during the last three years in the Income-tax Office, Bombay ?

(b) How many of the above are Parsis, Hindus, Muslims and others ?

(c) Whether there is any standard of educational qualifications prescribed for recruitment to the above cadres ?

(d) Whether the persons referred to in (a) above are all in conformity with the prescribed standard ?

(e) If not, how many of them do not come up to the standard ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** (a) Thirty-five.

(b) Six Parsis, 23 Hindus, five Muslims and one Jew.

(c) No. The appointments are practically always filled by the promotion of Income-tax Inspectors and Examiners of Accounts. The remaining portions of the question consequently do not arise.

**NUMBER OF INSPECTORS AND EXAMINERS IN THE INCOME-TAX OFFICE, BOMBAY.**

**74. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) The number of inspectors and examiners, both permanent and temporary, in the Income-tax Office, Bombay ?

(b) The number of total recruits to the above cadres during the last three years together with the number of direct recruits and of persons recruited from the ministerial line ?



(c) How many of the above were Hindus, Muslims, Parsis and others ?

(d) Whether there are any principles governing the above recruitment, both direct and indirect ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** (a) Eighty-one.

(b) Forty-one. Twenty-two were direct recruits, eleven were promoted from the ministerial, six from non-ministerial staff and two were transferred from other Government departments.

(c) Twenty-three Hindus, nine Muslims, eight Parsis and one belonging to some other community.

(d) No one is appointed permanently to any of the above posts unless he passes the prescribed departmental test within the prescribed time. As regards selection of men who are to be allowed to appear for this test, in the case of direct recruits, educational qualifications, including accountancy qualifications, if any, aptitude to do the work to be done, status in life and all other factors likely to make the candidate a success in the department are taken into account. As regards men recruited by promotion, merit as shown by past service and educational qualifications are taken into account. Men who are Incorporated Accountants or Government Certified Auditors are exempted from passing the above test.

**GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES TO INCOME-TAX OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN BOMBAY CITY.**

**75. THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT :** Will Government be pleased to say :

(a) Whether it is a fact that a certain amount of compensatory allowance is granted every month to Income-tax Officers and Assistant Income-Tax Officers in Bombay City ?

(b) Whether the compensatory allowance is sanctioned to compensate them for the abnormal rate of house rent in Bombay ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that Government expect their employees to contribute to house-rent, up to ten per cent. of their pay and that the compensation is intended to cover any amount in excess of the above ten per cent. ?

(d) Whether the scale of accommodation of these two classes of officers is approved by any superior officer and whether any enquiries are conducted as to the veracity of the statements of these officers ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that there is a very large number of development blocks available where all the Government officers who draw compensatory allowances could be accommodated in Bombay City ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** (a) Yes.

(b) No. The Bombay Government rules which govern the grant of compensatory allowance do not state that the allowance is granted to compensate officers for the abnormal rate of house rent in Bombay City ; and this must be taken to be only one of the elements that has led to the grant of the allowance.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is, generally speaking, in the affirmative. As already stated, the compensatory allowance is only partially intended to cover excessive payments of house-rent.

(d) No. The Local Government's rules make no provision for such enquiries.

(e) The Government of India have received no information to this effect.

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RESOLUTION *RE* RECRUITMENT TO THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :

" This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that recruitment to the Indian Medical Service should in future be made by means of an open competitive examination to be held simultaneously in India and England."

Sir, as the House must have known from my interpellations on the subject yesterday, recruitment to the Indian Medical Service used to be made from 1855 by means of a competitive examination held in England until the system was discontinued in 1915 after having remained in vogue for over 60 years. The reasons given yesterday by the Government for the abolition of that system were lack of competition and because it was considered that the system of selection by interview gave better results. But formerly it was believed that the examination had been temporarily discontinued purely as a war measure because it was at that time necessary to obtain quick and rapid recruitment. Now, the existing method of recruitment to the Indian Medical Service is by selection committees held in England and in India who recommend candidates for appointment by the Secretary of State on the basis of 66½ and 33½ per cent. recruitment of British and Indians, respectively. Sir, the closeness with which the rights of the Committee which selects candidates in India have been reserved will be apparent to Honourable Members when I mention that, so far as my information goes, Government have refused to give to the Public Service Commission the right of making or suggesting recruits for these nominations. It is well known that the system so far followed for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service has caused intense dissatisfaction in India for reasons which I will presently give. The established policy of the selection committee and the Government of India seems to be, when dealing with candidates for this service, to accept mainly British qualifications. However high an Indian may have risen in the examination instituted by Indian Universities, he has got to go to England, not for the purpose of acquiring more expert or technical knowledge but for the purpose of getting a qualification registrable in the United Kingdom, without which he may not be able to compete for this examination. Now, the House can imagine the great hardships to which the middle class population of India are put. However intellectual and bright a young man may be, he has first of all to find money to go to England. Secondly, he has to go and compete in a foreign language, the difficulty of which only those can understand who for purposes of their bread and butter have to use that language from day to day. Thirdly, he has to compete with British candidates on their own ground—very often with a few months' preparation after arrival in England. Yet Indian candidates distinguished themselves creditably in spite of these handicaps of travelling expense and language. But then the ratio of recruitment of Indians and Europeans was fixed at 1 to 2. The result of this has naturally been that European candidates of poor qualifications have been introduced into the Service. In 1914, when one of the last examinations for recruitmen

to the Service was held in England I understand that Indians secured 50 per cent. of the places. This was the result of the competitive examination held in one of the last years. The examination was becoming increasingly popular in consequence of that and there was a good deal of hope created in the middle classes of India. Sir, it may interest Honourable Members to hear some figures which go to show how popular the examination was. I speak subject to correction.

Year.	No. of vacancies filled in.	No. of successful Indians.	Percentage.
1910 . . . . .	28	5	18
1911 . . . . .	26	5	19
1912 . . . . .	24	4	17
1913 . . . . .	24	9	37
1914 . . . . .	35	17	50
1915 . . . . .	7	(2 domiciled Europeans). 3	43

Thus the percentage secured by Indians which began with 18 and 19, rose up to 50, and in the last year of that period it was 43. Now, if we compare these figures with the percentage of Indians let in by the door of nomination, we find as follows :

Year.	Total No. of recruits.	Indians.	Europeans.	Percentage of Indians.
1923 . . . . .	19	..	19	..
1924 . . . . .	8	..	8	..
1925 . . . . .	18	8	10	42
1926 . . . . .	13	3	10	23
1927 . . . . .	20	8	12	40
1928 . . . . .	24	..	24	..

Totalling up these figures we find that out of 102 total recruits taken from 1923 to 1928, for which period I could get figures, only 18 per cent. Indians could get through. This is the result of the system of nomination.

Now, Sir, as the House is aware, recruitment to such an important service as the Indian Civil Service which is one of the most important of all-India services, is made these days by competitive examinations held simultaneously in India and in England supplemented by nominations, and on the basis of 50 : 50 per cent. recruitment of Europeans and Indians, respectively. It does not therefore stand to reason that recruitment to the Indian Medical Service should continue to be a sort of preserve, and there is absolutely no reason why it should not be made by means of similar open competitive examinations held simultaneously in England and India except perhaps that the Indian Medical Service is of a *quasi*-military character and partakes of the nature and characteristics of that hush-hush secrecy which obtains in the Military Department of this country.

One result of the present policy of recruitment to the Indian Medical Service has been that as compared to 403 Europeans with permanent commissions in the Service at the present day, only 214 are Indians : or in

[Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad.]

other words Indians form about one-third of the total cadre ; whereas in the case of the Indian Civil Service it is expected that in about five years hence Indians will form 50 per cent. of the total cadre. And the House will doubtless agree with me that the Indian Civil Service is by no means a less important all-India service than the Indian Medical Service.

Sir, when the Islington Commission visited India as far back as 1913, the Bombay Medical Union recommended to that body a thorough reorganization of the Indian Medical Service and urged that the time had arrived to split up that old and time-worn service into two distinct branches, military and civil, recruitment to both being made, as in the case of the Indian Civil Service, by competitive examinations held simultaneously in the United Kingdom and in India, and open to both British and Indian candidates, without distinction of caste or creed. Twenty long years have passed since this representation was made but we are still where we were.

Then, Sir, a Resolution similar to the one just before the House, was adopted by the Legislative Assembly in 1930 and in replying to the Motion on that occasion the Army Secretary admitted that the present position was *prima facie* unsatisfactory and obviously required examination. But no action has so far been taken to improve on the present position although four years have since passed.

Indian public opinion has long been demanding that the civil and military sections of the Medical Service should be separated so that the medical requirements of the country may be better looked after which is impossible under the present arrangement under which the military has the first claim on the services of the Indian Medical Service, the civil population having to be content with the surplus of the army's requirements, whereas the needs of the civil population which number 350 millions require that its medical organization should be stable, that it should have continuity and uniformity of policy on problems which it has to face. But all protests and requests to put an end to the present combination of the two services, which exists in no other part of the world, have been unavailing. The other demand of public opinion has been that the competitive examination for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service should be reopened and held in India, and that the process of Indianization which is making very slow progress should be speeded up. In December last, the All-India Medical Conference in its session held at Bombay passed a resolution that the competitive examination should be held in India only. So, Sir, the least that can be acceptable to Indian public opinion as a compromise would be that recruitment to this Service should be by competitive examination held simultaneously in England and in India. And I am suggesting only this in my Resolution. I do not for a moment mean to suggest that the standard of efficiency should be lowered. It is open to the Government side by side with deciding to hold a competitive examination to fix a high standard for candidates seeking admission to the Service so that there may be no chance of any one but the most efficient men getting into the Service. Then, the Government can, if they so desire, also prescribe for the time being that a certain percentage of recruitment, say one-third, will be reserved for Europeans. But, Sir, the present ratio of two Europeans to one Indian is, I submit, totally unfair to Indians, for even in the case of recruitment to that important all-India service, I mean the Indian Civil Service, the ratio of European and Indian candidates is 50 : 50. Surely, a policy of speedy Indianization of the Indian Medical Service should be courageously pursued and the method of recruitment changed to that of competitive examinations

conducted simultaneously in both the countries, so that Indians may have a fair chance of competing with Europeans. This, Sir, is the minimum that can be acceptable to public opinion in this country. I think, Sir, that I am by no means making an unreasonable demand in bringing forward this Resolution, and I hope that the reasonableness of the proposal will commend itself to this Honourable House.

Sir, I move.

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIR NASARVANJI CHOKSY** (Bombay: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the Honourable mover has quoted the percentages in the present strength of the Indian Medical Service as given by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the other day. On looking over the Army List of last October, I find that it is divisible into two sections, namely, the pre-war officers now serving and the post-war officers who have been recruited by selection since 1915. It appears that the ratio in the former was 73·8 per cent. among Europeans as compared with 26·2 per cent. in Indians. Since the system of selection was introduced, we find that there are 246 Europeans and 154 Indians serving at present. This gives the ratio of 61·5 per cent. Europeans and 38·5 per cent. Indians. It is therefore slightly higher than the ratio of 2 to 1 adopted by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Lee Commission. Sir, Mr. Jayakar moved a similar Resolution in the other House some years ago, and as the Honourable mover has said, no action has been taken over the matter and it remains a dead letter up to this day. He has been good enough to refer to the work of the Bombay Medical Union in this connection. As one of the active members of that body I may inform the House that this subject of recruitment to the Indian Medical Service has been under its serious consideration for years now. In fact, its history extends to over a period of 40 years. This question was considered by the Welby Commission of 1896, when the Union sent a representative to give evidence on the subject of the reorganization of the Medical Service and the economy that would result therefrom; then by the Universities Commission of 1902, the Islington Commission of 1913-14, the Verney Lovett Committee of 1918 and the Lee Commission of 1920. Memoranda and oral evidence were tendered before these bodies. I had the honour to represent the Bombay Medical Union before the Verney Lovett Committee and to submit a fourth scheme which was a modification of the three schemes that had been sent to us for opinion by the Committee. I had so justly and fairly framed my scheme that, when I went up for oral examination, Sir Verney Lovett told me that my scheme was so complete that he had no questions to ask. (Applause.) Once again, when Lord Morley was Secretary of State for India, the Union approached him. He propounded several changes in the reorganization of the Service, but unfortunately the British Medical Association, as usual, which had and has the interests of the British officers at heart and not those of their Indian colleagues, intervened, with the result that when Lord Morley resigned, all that he had practically resolved upon and announced was set aside by his successors. Numerous representations from the Union and other medical and political bodies have been presented from time to time but with no result. The latest discussion on the subject was the examination of the Secretary of State for India before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Mr. Jayakar put several questions but Sir Samuel Hoare adhered firmly to the three sections in which he said that the Indian Medical Service has to be divided: *viz.*, the Army Service, the War Reserve and attendance upon the Civil Service and civil officers of Government and their families. The Army Service is no doubt essential and more and more Indian officers are now being

[Khan Bahadur Dr. Sir Nasarvanji Choksy.]

assigned to the branch. Sir, the War Reserve of the Indian Medical Service, whatever it was during the Great War, broke down, and were it not for the fact that between 1,100 and 1,200 Indian medical men volunteered for all spheres of activities, there would have been no Reserve to speak of. These officers with temporary Commissions rendered very good service. I am happy to say that I was one of the recruiting officers for Sir Pardey Lukis, the then Director General of the Indian Medical Service. I recruited a large number of men for the purpose. They did their work very well. The duties of the Indian Medical Service officers in civil employ who were released for the war were taken over by the civil assistant surgeons, who fulfilled the expectations that were held of them; Major-General Lyons, the then Surgeon-General at Bombay, reported that the work that had been done by them had been excellent.

Sir, with regard to attendance on officers and their families, may I say that the Indian officers of the Indian Medical Service are not savages; nor are they uncouth or ill-bred. By constant association with British officers they have become almost Anglicized; so much so that their own kith and kin look upon them with suspicion as being more English than Indian. I believe that the time has now come when this spirit of exclusiveness should be abandoned and the repugnance ceased. In the large cities, like Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, etc., any number of Government officers and their families freely consult Indian practitioners and consultants and do not consider it *infra dig.*

Then, Sir, reverting again to the War Reserve, I think that it should be created from the cadre of the medical section of the Army in India Reserve of Officers and that the number should be at least 2,000. Surely, any number of young and enthusiastic men will be willing to join. Is it not surprising, Sir, that all those men, who volunteered during the Great War were taken from civil life and had no idea of the army and yet they should have come out so well. In the early days Government had no time to devise a scheme for even preliminary training before drafting them for field service. The Lee Commission's quota is not like the laws of the Medes and Persians and the time has come when the Secretary of State should revise it. I do hope that the Joint Committee will do something to remedy the grievance created by the present system of selection. A competitive simultaneous examination is necessary, even though the quota may be kept up, in order to secure the best and most efficient men. May I add, Sir, that my views are not dictated by any racial antagonism. I had the most cordial relations with the officers of the Indian Medical Service with whom I have worked for a number of years, I base my views for the sake of economy and justice to India and India's sons who ask for a fair field and no favour.

There is no doubt that for years to come we shall require a good leaven of Europeans in India whether in the Indian Medical Service or in the Indian Civil Service. As we know, a little leaven leaveneth the whole mass. The only criterion should therefore be the highest qualifications of the officers, their competency. I do not believe that through the system of selection it is possible to judge their ability. This subject has been one of the main principles of my lifetime and I cannot throw it overboard. I therefore support the Resolution which has been moved by my Honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad. Sir, only yesterday, in the other House, this very question was raised. The Army Secretary said that they did not want to face another breakdown in medical arrangements as happened in the last war,

The whole question was under consideration. It might be that some re-organization of the medical services was required. I think, Sir, that if a large reserve is recruited as suggested above there will be no difficulty in getting the proper kind of men to serve in the war reserve.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to support the Resolution which has been moved by my Honourable friend.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI** (United Provinces: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the Resolution moved by the Honourable Lala Jagdish Prasad is concerned, as the terms of the Resolution show, with the method of recruitment rather than with the percentages assigned to Indians and Europeans in the Indian Medical Service. I was wondering whether he considered the question of the method of recruitment so very important that he prescribed a particular method for it. But listening to his speech patiently as I did, it now transpires that on the whole the method of recruitment is only, if I understood him correctly, a secondary object, his main object being the acceleration of Indianization in the Indian Medical Service. So far as the acceleration of Indianization is concerned, I may at once point out that though in the case of the Indian Civil Service efforts were made by political leaders in India from 1890 onwards for recruitment by examinations held simultaneously in India and in England, the object of the political leaders was that by that method it would be possible for more Indians to enter the imperial services. In fact, looking to the paucity of Indians in the imperial services in those days, it was expected that by holding examinations simultaneously in India and in England more Indians would be able to join the imperial services than was the case at that time. No doubt that was a very strong consideration which influenced the public men of those days. But may I put it to the House that conditions have changed very considerably since. Proportions for the two races, as was pointed out by the Honourable mover, have been laid down now, two-thirds of the recruitment going to Europeans and one-third to Indians. That being so, it would seem that the very object of holding an examination simultaneously in India and in England has been achieved by the fixation of these percentages and it is no longer necessary really, if those percentages are to be maintained, to have simultaneous examinations. As a matter of fact, simultaneous examinations for that purpose today would be an anachronism if the present percentages are to be adhered to.

Now, Sir, I will come to the main part of the Resolution, namely, that the mover seems to think that simultaneous examinations in India and in England are the be-all and end-all of Indian political aspirations and ambitions. May I just invite his attention to a few considerations which would make it quite clear that, however, laudable may be the object of my Honourable friend, it is impossible to have the same examination at the same time in both countries and to co-ordinate the results in such a manner as to introduce uniformity of standard. Let me make my point quite clear. I would invite the attention of my friend to the fact that in all likelihood these simultaneous examinations would consist of two parts, one of which would be theoretical and the other practical. It may be possible to have one list for candidates taking the theoretical examination in India and in England, though the examination of a very large number of candidates would not be free from difficulty. But when we come to the practical side of the examination we find that his scheme breaks down altogether. It would not bear scrutiny. As I have already hinted, it is of the utmost importance for a competitive examination to work successfully that

[Saiyid Raza Ali.]

you should inspire confidence in the candidates. You must have the entire confidence of the candidates. Now, separated as India is by 5,000 miles of sea from England, it follows that if you are to conduct your practical examination of the Indian Medical Service candidates you will have to employ two sets of examiners, one conducting the practical examination of your candidates in India and the other in England. Take the case of two candidates who are very nearly of about the same merit. Is it at all unlikely that one candidate whose paper is marked 60 by an examiner in India is not in any way superior to another candidate whose answer book is marked by an examiner in England at, we will say, 48 or 47, or it may be 57 or 58. It does not matter what figures you take. The point is, Sir, that in the case of a practical examination it would be absolutely impossible to attempt anything like uniformity of standard and unless you do that you cannot have your examination simultaneously in India and in England. Any suspicion in the mind of your candidates that the two standards differ would lead to disaster and would give a death blow to your simultaneous examinations even if the scheme is carried through. These, Sir, are practical difficulties.

I hope the House will excuse me if I refer to what I, along with my colleagues, did when I was a member of the Public Service Commission. In order to have uniformity of standard the Public Service Commission attached in my time—and I understand they still attach—the utmost importance to all the candidates in one subject being examined by one examiner, or by one committee. A committee of the Public Service Commission, as perhaps is known to Honourable Members, generally consists of three persons, two of whom usually are Members of the Commission and the third is either an expert or an outsider. That was so in my time and I believe it is the same at present. Candidates took certain examinations and their number at times exceeded 200; yet the Public Service Commission made it a point that the same Committee must interview all those 200 candidates and over so that the standard by which they judged the merits of these various candidates should be uniform and not dissimilar. As I have pointed out, this is supported by the experience of the Public Service Commission in the case of a theoretical examination for a service like the Indian Civil Service or the Indian Audit and Accounts Service. Much more important would be this consideration when you conduct the practical examination in two different countries. If my Honourable friend would consider the question, he would find that it is simply not possible to have one examination in two countries at the same time without doing very great injustice to your candidates. Now, Sir, my learned friend made a few remarks—

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: Then abolish the examination for the Indian Civil Service in this country.

THE HONOURABLE SIR KURMA VENKATA REDDI: By all means let it be done.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: My Honourable friend has consciously or unconsciously—I hope consciously—referred to a very important question, namely, the abolition of the Indian Civil Service examination in this country. I do not want really to make a digression, but I may be permitted to invite the attention of the House to the very important fact that the circumstances in which the Indian Civil Service examination is conducted are becoming more and more complicated. In fact the time is coming when Indian public



opinion itself might demand that the door of entry to Indian candidates in England should be closed and that the examination in England should be open to Englishmen alone and that in India open to Indians only. The time at my disposal will not allow me to dwell at any considerable length on this phase of the question. Anyway, my Honourable friend will find, if he studies the results of the Indian Civil Service examination carefully, that the position is becoming extremely difficult. Now, Sir, so much for the interjection of my Honourable friend.

Now, coming to some other considerations involved in the Resolution of my Honourable friend, he would see that if his scheme were accepted the door of entry in England would in all likelihood have to be closed to Indians. Indians would I suppose take the examination in India leaving Englishmen to compete at the examination in England. If really that came about, I should think that would be detrimental, most detrimental, to the best interests of the country, as that would discourage young men from proceeding to Europe and availing themselves of European education. On the other hand, if he wanted to have it both ways, namely, if he wanted to let Indian students take the examination in India as also in England, I am afraid that is a position which would arouse resentment in England and I doubt whether it would not be unfair that India should get advantages both ways.

Sir, my Honourable friend in the course of his speech said something about—

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** The Honourable Member has already exceeded his time limit.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI:** I am sorry, Sir. I have perhaps spoken at very considerable length. I propose to bring my remarks to a close in four minutes' time. My Honourable friend pointed out that the selection committee that is charged with the selection of candidates mainly prefers British qualifications. May I point out to him that I was on that selection board which interviewed candidates for the Indian Medical Service for two years and I would refer him to the results for the years 1930 and 1931, from which he will see that the Selection Committee in India selected a fairly large number of candidates who possessed no British qualifications whatsoever and whose qualifications were purely Indian?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** It is an old story, Sir.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI:** The interruption is very timely. May I inform my learned friend that since the 1931 selection board on which I sat there has been, as far as I know, no recruitment made for the Indian Medical Service? Will that satisfy my Honourable friend? There was no recruitment in 1932 and 1933.

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIR NASARVANJI CHOKSY:** I am afraid he will find in the Army List of October, 1933 that there has been recruitment in 1932 and 1933.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** The Honourable Member must conclude his remarks.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI:** I will just bring my remarks to a close, and my submission is, Sir, that the selection board carries out its duties in a manner which, if the Honourable Members of this House knew, I believe

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would make them contented. It is not for me, Sir, to point out as to what is done, but very great care is taken to see that only competent candidates are appointed and at the interview important questions are put to these candidates. The number of candidates is very large, but very great discretion is used and sufficient time is devoted to each candidate at the interview in order to find out whether he is suitable for employment. In the end, Sir, I would say that there are certain branches of the public service where recruitment by open competitive examination will never do, one of which, Sir, I may be permitted to say, is the Indian Police Service, and the other and even more so is the Indian Medical Service.

THE HONOURABLE MAJOR-GENERAL C. A. SPRAWSON (Government of India : Nominated Official) : Sir, in asking that entry to the Indian Medical Service should be by an open competitive examination, the Honourable mover is making two distinct requests which I will deal with separately. He is asking that there should be a competitive examination and he asks that it should be open.

To deal with the latter part first : subject to certain restrictions of age and qualification, entry is open save only for the limitation of this 2 to 1 ratio that we have heard so much about. The army is compelled to insist on that proportion, has been compelled to insist on it for years and if His Excellency the Army Member were here he would tell you, as he has told me, that he sees at present no chance of recommending an alteration of that proportion. This 2 to 1 ratio was laid down by the Secretary of State. It is subject to reconsideration ; but there is no indication that the time has yet come for recommending a change in that proportion. Doubtless, as Indianization of the army proceeds, as the proportion of British officers in the Indian Army gets less, the Indian Medical Service must alter its ratio to suit the army. Similarly on the civil side there are reasons why this 2 to 1 ratio exists, reasons subsidiary to the army reasons. There are several Indian Medical Service officers under Local Governments. These form the Army Reserve. When the army recalls its officers on mobilization it recalls them in that proportion, two British to one Indian. Therefore, that 2 to 1 proportion is required for these officers in the civil, forming this Army Reserve. These British officers are used by Local Governments for attendance on British officers and families of the other civil services and so, as these other civil services become more Indianized, similarly the Indian Medical Service that is in civil will also become more Indianized in proportion. Also, as gradually the non-reserved posts, what we call technically the Schedule II posts, become vacated, as they gradually become vacated in course of time, because they are not reserved for the Indian Medical Service so also will the proportion of Indian officers in civil increase. I maintain also that Indianization of the Indian Medical Service has advanced *pari passu*, at least to an equal extent with those of the other superior services. The actual ratio in practice is not even this 2 to 1 ratio. I find on taking the total of all officers including those with temporary commissions, that the actual ratio now works out to 1·7 British to 1 Indian, and that, I submit, is about equal to the Indianization of other services. I have not been able to follow the Honourable mover through all the numerous figures he quoted. I am not prepared to say that they are wrong, but on the other hand I am not prepared to accept them, because my own figures show me something quite different. The Honourable Member quoted many figures of entry in recent years into the Indian Medical Service with the deduction that the percentage was not up to the proportion given. Now, in the last 14 years there have been 260 British and 167 Indians

entering the Indian Medical Service. A little arithmetic will show that the Indian figures there are above the 1 to 2 proportion. At any rate, the Honourable mover is surely mistaken in another statement when he says that it is necessary for officers to go to England in order to qualify for entry into the Indian Medical Service. That is not so. My figures show me that during the last 14 years no less than 55 Indian officers with purely Indian qualifications have entered the Indian Medical Service. It is obvious that if we have Indian candidates for the Indian Medical Service who have higher British qualifications, not necessarily additional qualifications from Great Britain, but higher qualifications such as a Fellowship of the College of Surgeons or a Membership of the College of Physicians, it is obvious that the possession of such a qualification gives them a prior claim and they are likely to be selected.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** May I ask what has been the percentage of these people during the last five years ?

**THE HONOURABLE MAJOR-GENERAL C. A. SPRAWSON :** I can give you the actual figures ; I cannot give you the percentage. In 1931, three officers of purely Indian qualifications, in 1932 one, in 1933 one.

Now, as regards the second part of the request, namely, that the entry be by competitive examination, I maintain that entry *is* by competitive examination. Not perhaps the type of examination the Honourable mover means. I presume he means an examination where the candidates sit down at a desk and write answers to professional questions, questions on professional matters. Now, the long and arduous career of a medical student (six years at least) is punctuated with examinations of that type. So much so, that it is now considered that he is in danger of becoming an examination-*wallah*. We do not wish to inflict another examination of that type. In fact, it is not necessary because the Board that considers the entry of these candidates can have before them—the facts are furnished to them—the marks the student obtained, the percentage he got at the various examinations, and his general record. It is not only not necessary, but not desirable that we should have another examination like those. Let me tell the House how this Selection Board works. The Selection Board interview all candidates for the Medical Service. I speak of Indian candidates—there is a similar Board in England of which I cannot speak with such direct knowledge—but here in India the Board consists of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, the Director of Medical Services of the Army, an Indian officer of the Indian Medical Service, usually a retired officer, and a member of the Public Services Commission. If the Indian Medical Service officer is a Hindu, it usually happens that the other gentleman is a Muhammadan. This Board meets, interviews the candidates, studies their professional record (it can have all their examination marks put before it), it sees the man's qualifications, what appointments he has held ; it can also have his record at college, with reports on his conduct from his principal during the whole time he has been at his college under observation for six years. It sees his examination marks that he has got throughout his career, and what is of great importance his athletic record. Occasionally also, my predecessor did submit candidates to a written examination. General Megaw told me he had done that on occasion when he thought it necessary. The Board notices the general appearance of the candidate,—of course he has to pass the physical examination—and from these facts and from his athletic record tries to form an estimate of his character ; in other words, tries to estimate whether he possesses the qualities that go to make an officer. I submit you cannot obtain

[Major-General C. A. Sprawson.]

all this information from a mere sit-down-and-write-at-a-desk type of examination. Well, perhaps, the best proof that this is the best method has been in our results. I claim that we are now getting a better Indian personnel into the Indian Medical Service than we had before. I have asked the Director of Medical Services about it and he tells me that the young Indian officers who are coming into the Service are exceptionally good and I agree with him. The Director of Medical Services is satisfied that they make good officers and I, as Director General of the Indian Medical Service, am satisfied that they are excellent doctors. They are as good as we can possibly hope to get. These young Indian officers that the Indian Medical Service are now getting, the Indian Medical Service is not only glad to receive them, but they are human material of which the country may well be proud. I do not say that there is an unlimited supply of this good and first class material, but there is enough to supply our demands and I would ask the House not to change the present form of selection or examination, whichever you choose to call it, by which we obtain such a good class of Indian officer.

One more point, Sir, and I have finished. I submit also that the present time for such a Motion as this is inopportune. I am sure the Honourable mover did not realize that when he spoke. The whole future of the Indian Medical Service is uncertain. It is a matter of discussion at the present moment. A study of the White Paper, the last public document that concerns the subject, will show that a purely military Indian Medical Service has been envisaged. Even assuming for the time that such a service is possible—it may be a matter of doubt, but assuming it—such a service would so change the nature of the present Service and would lessen its attractions that it might then be time, if that scheme is accepted, to consider different methods of recruitment. It is necessary to decide first what sort of service we are going to have before we try to settle how we are going to fill the ranks. I suggest, therefore, that this Motion may well be reserved until the future of the Indian Medical Service as a whole has been decided. Otherwise, I should be compelled to oppose any Motion that would tend to change the present method of entry into the Indian Medical Service.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, if I rise to support this Motion, it is more to ventilate some other grievances than those that have already been referred to. My first objection to the present method of selection of the Indian Medical Service officer is that although the selection is made in India, it is an irony of fate that the qualifications given by Indian Medical Universities now are not recognized. A man to be eligible for service in the Indian Medical Service must have a degree registrable in England—

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN : That is not correct.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : At least it was correct till the passage of your Medical Council Bill.

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

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : At the present moment the glowing picture which has been painted by the Director General of the Indian

Medical Service refers to those having temporary commissions. These are mostly officers of the assistant surgeon class who are taken into the superior service of the Indian Medical Service as in the case of the Indian Civil Service. These go to swell the number of Indian officers. It is not in the direct recruitment in which the numbers should have gone up. It will be remembered, Sir, that in the Indian Civil Service, the expression 50 : 50 recruitment is meant to refer to initial recruitment and not to the recruitment which is made from the existing service. Our objection is that even this proportion of 2 to 1 is not observed in the initial recruitment, and the best proof of this is the figures given by the Honourable the Director General and the figures of Indians recruited in the last two years. That shows how this order is not being observed in the spirit.

It has also been said that as this matter is under consideration, it is premature now to discuss it. In the White Paper, at the end of paragraph 72, it is said that the question of continued recruitment by the Secretary of State to the Indian Medical Service is under examination and His Majesty's Government hope to submit a recommendation on this matter later to the Joint Select Committee. The Joint Select Committee sat, and the Indian delegation went there. We had expected that this report would have seen the light of day, but it is still a secret document to this day, and it cannot, perhaps, stand the light of day. Sir, our complaint that Indianization in the Indian Medical Service is not going rapidly enough is based on the fact that if one principle is accepted by the Government for a security service like the Indian Civil Service, we think that the same should be carried out in all other public services, as the Indian Civil Service is the most important Service under the Crown. The objection of Europeans to being treated by Indians has already been referred to by the Gallant Knight from Bombay and I need not dilate upon it. My Honourable colleague, the ex-member of the Public Service Commission, was rather very vehement on the disadvantages of having simultaneous examinations in two places and he stated that it will be some sort of injustice, that people might get appointed if the examiners are lenient in one place, and other people with the same qualifications may not get in. That is strange, coming from an ex-member of the Public Service Commission. At the moment we are having simultaneous examinations for the Indian Civil Service—

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI :** No, we are not.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** My Honourable friend the mover meant by simultaneous examination the same type of examination as we are having for the Indian Civil Service.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI :** He should lend me his dictionary in that case !

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** At the moment, Sir, we have got practical and oral examination in the Indian Medical Service. It would not be hard if we had the examination in two places. If the quota of Indians is not available in India, then it will be filled up from England, and if the quota of Europeans is not available in England, then it can be filled up from India. This is exactly what my Honourable friend probably meant. On that understanding, Sir, I am ready to support his Resolution. There is no doubt that the idea of everything being done by competitive examination may

[Mr. Hossain Imam.]

not appeal to the entire public in India. There is a personal element which counts, and it is for this reason that even in the competitive examinations which we are now holding, a number of posts are reserved for nomination, so that people who may not have the academic qualifications may for other reasons be given preference. My Honourable friend has taken no objection to that method which is being at present followed in India, and therefore the argument that by competitive examination, only book worms will come in and people who are sportsmen will not find a place does not hold good. In the Indian Police Service too we might be tempted to suggest some modifications, but as we are dealing with the Indian Medical Service, I wholeheartedly support the Resolution and hope the House will look at it with favour.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Education, Health and Lands Member): I wish to intervene for a moment, Sir, just to explain to the House the reason why this Resolution is not being dealt with by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief who was to have dealt with it. He studied the subject very thoroughly; he takes keen interest in it, and as a matter of fact he had prepared this subject very thoroughly when it was put down for discussion once or twice before. But for some reason or other it was not taken up and therefore all that preparation by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for the time being went waste. Since the last two days His Excellency has been indisposed and it has been impossible for him to be present here today. He asked me, Sir, to express his regret to you and to the Council for this very unavoidable absence of his. Further he asked me to say that he had fully instructed General Sprawson himself so that he may place his points of view before the Council. The Council has no doubt already listened to the very carefully prepared speech of General Sprawson.

There is just one more point I wish to make and it is that two speakers have stated that medical men with purely Indian qualifications are not eligible for the Indian Medical Service. This I am afraid is a mistake, and so I have pointed it out. As to the rest, whether the Council should proceed with further discussion or withdraw the Resolution or do anything else, I have no doubt the Honourable mover of the Resolution will give very careful consideration to this matter. As has been stated by General Sprawson, he is not prepared to accept the Resolution. He can not. Whether any useful purpose is to be served by proceeding with the debate it is for the mover himself to decide. I, for one, can assure him of one thing, and it is that if it would meet his wishes I will see that the debate on his Resolution is definitely and expressly brought to the notice of the Secretary of State.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: Sir, my Honourable friend Saiyid Raza Ali criticized me for the demand that I made in my Resolution, namely, that simultaneous examinations for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service should be held in India and England, and he was pleased to observe that this was not practicable. I heard him with rapt attention, but could not understand how simultaneous examinations in the case of the Indian Medical Service would be impracticable when simultaneous examinations in the case of an equally important service, the Indian Civil Service, are already being held with success?

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: That is not a simultaneous examination.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD :** Well, Sir, it would have been better if my Honourable friend had made it clear in his speech what simultaneous examinations meant. An ex-member of the Public Service Commission as he is, I expected that he would point out any practical difficulties in the way of introducing simultaneous examinations in both the countries for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service. However, as my friend Mr. Hossain Imam has already replied to his criticisms I need not dilate on them.

Now, the Honourable Major-General Sprawson has pointed out that Indianization of the Indian Medical Service has advanced and he gave figures to show that the ratio of Europeans to Indians so far as the total number of officers concerned was 1·7 to 1. I hope I am correctly quoting him? But, Sir, I put a question in this House some days ago and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief told us that there were at present 403 Europeans and 214 Indians with permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service. Of course, he added that in addition there were 30 Indians with temporary commissions. But I submit that these 30 Indians who are only temporary should not be counted in arriving at the correct ratio of Europeans and Indians holding permanent commissions. And I do not understand how Indianization can proceed further when it is expressly laid down that recruitment to the Indian Medical Service will continue to be in the ratio of two Europeans to one Indian. Therefore my object in bringing forward this Resolution is that this ratio of recruitment to the Indian Medical Service should be changed. I do not mean to suggest that British recruitment should stop altogether; but this high percentage of British recruitment should give place to a lower percentage—if not to the extent of two Indians to one European, then at least to the extent of the 50 : 50 ratio, as in the case of the Indian Civil Service. The Honourable Major-General Sprawson also said that candidates were not willing to come forward for examinations and so Government did not want to inflict the system of examinations on them. I think, Sir, when he made that statement he meant thereby that European candidates were not willing to come forward for examination. Because if it were true of Indian candidates, then I submit that I have already pointed out in my first speech that in spite of handicaps Indians secured 50 per cent. of the vacancies when the last examination was held in 1914. Therefore I think that he meant that European candidates were not forthcoming to sit for the examination—

**THE HONOURABLE MAJOR-GENERAL C. A. SPRAWSON :** On a point of explanation, Sir. I never said that; the Honourable Member must have misunderstood me. I said we do not want to inflict another table type of examination. I never said that candidates were not willing to come forward. My point was that we were already submitting them to an examination of a different type.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD :** I submit to this correction. I must have misunderstood my Honourable friend.

I am glad, Sir, that the Director General of the Indian Medical Service has acknowledged that Indian officers in the Indian Medical Service are of good intellectual calibre and such of whom the country could be proud. If that is the state of things, Sir, then I do not think that the Government should be afraid of admitting Indians in an increasing proportion to the Indian Medical Service.

I am very grateful to my Honourable friend Sir Fazl-i-Husain for his promise to forward the debate on this Resolution to the Secretary of State.

[Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad.]

What I meant by moving this Resolution was to press upon the attention of the Government the demand of Indian public opinion with regard to the policy of recruitment to the Indian Medical Service. And if the Honourable the Leader of the House is willing as he has already given an assurance, to forward this debate to the Secretary of State for India, then I think I need not press my Resolution to the vote. I therefore beg leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

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

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### RESOLUTION *RE* GOLD PASSES.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take early steps to provide the Members of the Council of State with gold passes permitting them to travel anywhere on Indian Railways in lieu of the present travelling allowance granted to them.”

Sir, in moving my Resolution I claim that the Members of this House should receive gold or metal passes for travelling from their constituencies or their homes to the headquarters of the Government of India in Simla or Delhi. No doubt Members, strictly speaking, represent their constituencies yet they are called upon frequently to express opinions on subjects dealing with other parts of India. As, for example, during the Railway budget, Members here have to take a review of the conditions prevailing all over Indian Railways and express their opinion and offer criticism, and in case of a railway strike or riot Members are expected to deal with the matter even if it does not affect their constituency directly. It is necessary for Members to have facilities for travelling in the country extensively if they are to discharge their duties conscientiously.

I understand, Sir, Members of the South African Legislature enjoy the privilege of travelling free on South African Railways. Even in the case of the Mother of Parliaments Members get railway passes from their place of residence to London for unrestricted travel. My Honourable friend, Mr. Spence, will bear me out in this. There is a book with the Clerk at the Table of the House which deals with the rights of Members and which will bear out my statement. One may modify this Resolution in some way but the principle of giving Members of this House facilities for travelling on Indian Railways free must be conceded. I want free railway passes for Members only to come from their homes to Simla or Delhi. In this connection it will not be out of place to mention that in making a comparison between the official and the non-official Members I do not desire to import heat and jealousy in this debate but only to show that if Government desires there is no difficulty in getting us the privileges asked for in this Resolution. Sir, a first class officer, when transferred from one place to another, is granted three fares for self and each additional full fare or half fare according to the number of adults and children accompanying him who are members of his family as well as 60 maunds of luggage free. The official Members of this House representing the Provincial Governments, in addition to the large salaries

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\* *Vide* page 382, *ante*.



ranging from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 4,000, are not deprived of their daily allowances of Rs. 20 a day allowed to non-official Members. That being so in our case our migration to the headquarters of the Government of India should have been treated as a transfer and we should have been paid the same concessions for ourselves and our families. As we are expected to remain in Delhi and Simla so far away from our homes for about three months in a year Government cannot expect us to leave our homes and hearths for such a long period. Every one would have brought their families if certain concessions would have been given to us. I do not press my Resolution in any spirit of jealousy against the official, whether he belongs to the heaven-born services or is an Executive Member in the Government of India, but on a matter of principle. My esteemed friend the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain will agree that what is sauce for the gander is also sauce for the goose too. It is not so much a question of a few rupees being deducted from the travelling bill of non-official Members if the wives of Members accompany them in the reserved compartment. Non-official Members are partners of the officials only in sharing disadvantages and not sharing those privileges which the officials enjoy exclusively. In this connection, with your permission, Sir, I quote the railway privileges that are enjoyed by the Members of Parliaments of the different parts of the British Empire. I will begin with Westminster, the Mother of Parliaments, and, with your permission, Sir, I will read an extract from the journal of the Clerk of the Table of the House.

"In fact, owing no doubt to the absence of leisured classes in the Dominions, free facilities granted to M. Ps. have tended in recent years to increase rather than diminish and especially in those Dominions having State-owned railway systems, do these facilities include free passes over their lines".

In Canada, Members, with their baggage, also receive free transportation over railways in the Dominion, which include both State and private-owned systems. During session, Members are given the privilege of free postage upon all mailable matter sent to or from Parliament Buildings and are allowed a reasonable amount of stationery. In Canadian Provincial Parliaments Members receive free railway transit in the province.

In Australia, each Member of either House is also granted a free pass over all railways in the Commonwealth, and the wives of Members are entitled to free railway passes from their home towns in order to visit Canberra during a session.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN :  
Not over the rest of the country.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY : Well, this is for the wives of the Members and not for the Members themselves. Members are allowed to travel in other places without restriction on duty. Suppose, for instance, there is a riot or strike or trouble on some railway, the representatives of the public are allowed to travel free on duty and not for the sake of pleasure.

Overseas postage stamps are allowed to each such Member to the value of £4 per mensem. Lady typists are allotted to each Party to assist Members with official correspondence. In New South Wales an allowance of £705 per annum stamps to the value of £30 per annum are also allowed, and free railway and tramway passes. In South Australia, Members of the Upper House receive £400 per annum with Commonwealth free railway privileges and free passes over the Adelaide and Suburban Tramways, as well as for the motor-buses run by such railway and tramway companies. Two free passes

[Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy.]

annually are granted for a Member's wife or relative over the railways in the Commonwealth. In Tasmania, Members also receive free passes over the railways of the Island as well as over those on the Continent of Australia. In Western Australia, Members receive a free pass over the State railways and the tramways. In addition, Members receive a free pass over the Dominion Railways for themselves and their wives. If a Member lives in a district not served by a railway, he is granted free travelling facilities between his home and Wellington, the seat of Parliament, whether by service-car or steamer; his wife receives limited facilities in this respect. A Member is also granted a free pass over the State Railways and free conveyance to and from Cape Town, the seat of Parliament, once in respect of every session for members of his household who are living with, and are dependent upon, him with free transport for this baggage and one servant travelling with them, a free pass over the State Railways in their province and free telephone service during session are also allowed to them.

In the Irish Free State each Member is provided with travelling warrants exchangeable for railway tickets upon presentation by Members at railway stations. These warrants are issued by the Clerk of each House to the Members. Travelling facilities on duty in the case of a Senator apply between Dublin and his usual place of residence in the Irish Free State, and in the case of a deputy between that city and any place in the constituency he represents.

Sir, with these remarks, I commend my Resolutions for the acceptance of this House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce) :  
 Sir, when I saw the Honourable the mover of this Resolution rise with that well known twinkle in his eye I felt sure that we should be favoured with a humorous discourse and I have not been disappointed. My Honourable friend has pleaded the cause of free travel for Members of the Council of State with his usual passionate eloquence, but alas, Sir, I must confess that this has left me unmoved and so far as I am concerned, I am still quite unconvinced that the Members of this Honourable House should be singled out for this special concession. My Honourable friend may not be aware that not even His Excellency the Viceroy nor the Members of his Executive Council enjoy the privilege of free travel when travelling on other than Government business. I believe I am right in saying, and if not no doubt the Honourable Sir Guthrie Russell will correct me, that the only persons in India who are in possession of gold passes are the Members of the Railway Board and the Agents of State Railways, who by the nature of their duties must undertake very long and frequent journeys. My Honourable friend has quoted precedents from other countries. I would point out, however, that in Great Britain, Members of the House of Commons only get free travel between their constituencies and London and get this by means of vouchers which they exchange for first class tickets, the railways being credited by Government with the value of these tickets at the public rates. I do not know if the Honourable Members of this Council would prefer some such system as this to the system at present in force, if so, perhaps the Chief Commissioner for Railways will tell us if the railways would have any objection to this system? It would appear from the wording of the Resolution that the concession of gold passes is only to be granted to Members of the Upper House; if this is the intention then the Honourable the mover is asking for something which I believe is not enjoyed by the House of Lords in Great Britain. At any rate they certainly do not

get free travel from the South of England to say, the North of Scotland if they wish to go on a shooting expedition ; whereas the issue of a gold pass to Members of this Council would allow them to travel free of all cost from Tuticorin to Peshawar. I am informed that even in the United States of America, probably the most democratic country in the world, free transportation is not supplied to Members of the Senate or of the Congress. Admittedly free transportation is given to Members of the Legislature in Canada ; but if the Honourable Member will read the Report of the Royal Commission which sat in 1931-32 to enquire into railways and transportation in Canada, I think he will find that this free travel was not looked upon with favour by the members of the Commission. I, Sir, in the course of my business activities probably travel to a greater extent than the majority of the Members of this Council—I did over 20,000 miles in 1932 and will probably do as much this year—and I can see no reason whatsoever why in the course of my business I should be allowed free travel. Only a few days ago another Honourable Member objected to concessional rates being given to officers and other ranks of the army when travelling by rail, an objection which, I think, Sir, is unreasonable, but if this Honourable Member still maintains that view, I hope he will now rise and support me in opposing this Resolution as it is one which I feel does not become the dignity of this Honourable House.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) :** Sir, we have listened with great attention to the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Suhrawardy. When the country is in such a state of depression, when everybody is clamouring for economy, when the Finance Member is introducing proposals for more taxation, my worthy friend asks for a concession which will lead the country into more debt. The Finance Member will have to come here again and ask for more grants.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY :** In lieu of the money given I want this concession.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA :** Government will have to compensate the Railway Companies. The Railway Companies are not run on charity. What surprises me most is that the Honourable Member does not ask for a free pass from his constituency to Delhi or Simla. He says that he must have a free pass between Tuticorin to Peshawar so that he can study the conditions of the country and give an opinion to this House.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY** Once in a year when the budget comes round.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. E. MILLER :** You do not say so !

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA :** It will be very difficult for the Government to find out whether that particular Member is travelling for his own pleasure or work or for the purpose of finding out whether a riot has taken place or a big fire has broken out or an earthquake has happened.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY :** I have expressed my opinion.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA :** Then the Honourable Member says that official Members who travel on the train are allowed the handsome concession of travelling with 60 maunds of luggage free. Sixty maunds are equivalent to 4,800 lbs., if I am correct. I do not know if any man travels with that amount of luggage—

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY:** Go to the Railway Board and enquire.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA** — and if he does carry that luggage, I should have no opinion of him.

**THE HONOURABLE NAWAB KHWAJA HABIBULLAH** (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): But it is a fact that 60 maunds are allowed.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA:** I do not think anybody carries it all the same.

**THE HONOURABLE NAWAB KHWAJA HABIBULLAH:** The Honourable Member is not an official; he does not know what the officials have to carry.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA:** Sir, it is an open secret to almost everybody that some of the Honourable Members in the Legislature, who get 1½ first class as compensation for coming to attend the session, do not actually travel first class but travel second or even intermediate. They pocket the money which is left over in their hands by travelling in a lower class than first class. If these are the things that are going on, I cannot understand how my Honourable friend can bring in a Resolution of this character and ask for more. I think the Honourable Sir Guthrie Russell and the Railway Board will do a great service to the Government of India and enable them to save a few rupees if instead of allowing 1½ first class fares to be paid to every Councillor, they issue a warrant to be turned into a ticket at the station when the Members have to travel.

With these remarks, Sir, I oppose the Resolution.

**THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI** (Madras: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, we have all listened with very great interest to the concessions given to Members of the Houses of Parliament in England and other places. When I was listening to the remarks of the Honourable mover, I, at one stage, thought why should we not get these concessions, but when I reflected a little more I realized that it will not be confined to Members of the Council of State only, but that Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Councils will also come in for these concessions. There is nothing to prevent them asking for them tomorrow. As my Honourable friend the previous speaker has said, it is a very inopportune time now. When we want money for other things and when we have got to retrench, it is not proper that we, Members of the Upper House, should clamour for this concession. As a matter of fact, even members of the Local Railway Advisory Councils are not given this concession. If any Member wishes to visit any particular area or any important railway work, he is given a free pass for that particular object alone. I have been on the Local Advisory Council for a long number of years and for about three years on the Central Advisory Council. I do not think even those members of the Board get any gold pass or silver pass or diamond pass as the Honourable Member has mentioned.

Sir, this request is inopportune and I am strongly opposed to it.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS** (Finance Secretary): Sir, the Honourable Member in putting forward his Resolution mentioned particularly that he wished for a gold or metal pass but I do not understand that he was meticulous as to the form which the concession which he asks for should

take. I therefore think I can deal quite briefly with the question as to whether it should take the form of a gold pass. Gold passes, as has been explained by the Honourable Mr. Miller—who incidentally I am sorry to say stole a lot of my thunder—are not suitable except for persons like railway officers who have to travel on duty all over the country. They are not suitable where, at any rate, the cost of journeys has to be brought into separate account and where the document on which any individual travels should therefore be available for use as an accounting document. I do not, however, assume for a moment that my Honourable friend lays any particular stress on receiving a gold pass. I do not understand that he particularly wishes to have a gold pass, except perhaps as a souvenir when he ceases to be an Honourable Member of this House, but that he would be prepared to accept a pass in any other form—

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY:** That is what I want to know, whether any pass is possible, any metal?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS:** I think my Honourable friend would not wish even to specify the particular metal. He supported his argument by reference to what is done in a good many other Parliaments of the Empire. I am not sure, however, that he mentioned what was done in the Mother of Parliaments. There, as far as I am aware, no Member of the Upper House gets any concession at all, and all that Members of the House of Commons receive is a voucher which entitles them to get at the expense, not of the railway but of Government revenues, a first class ticket to and from their constituencies and London on the occasions when they go backwards and forwards to London and to their constituencies in order to attend meetings of the House of Commons. I admit that in Australia, for instance, and I think in Canada, Members of the Legislatures are treated more liberally. On the other hand, I am not sure that we should be grateful to Sir Guthrie Russell if the financial condition of Indian Railways was in any way similar to that of the railways in Australia and in Canada; and, as I think Mr. Miller remarked, the concessions given in Canada have been the subject of criticism even in that country. In effect, what does my Honourable friend ask for? He asks that Members of this House should be allowed while they are Members of this House free first class travel over the whole of India. He justifies that request on the ground that Members have often public duties, not actually connected with their visits to Delhi or Simla, to attend to. I yield to no one in my belief that there is a great deal of public work which Honourable Members of this House perform outside their actual attendance here, but I do hope that occasionally they allow themselves a certain amount of relaxation. My Honourable friend, for instance, when he is not examining the condition of the country from Tuticorin to Peshawar, sometimes I suspect to the benefit of Sir Guthrie Russell's revenue pays a private visit to a friend somewhere else and possibly takes members of his family with him. Is this the time or is it really proper that when he pays those private visits he should do so at the expense of the general taxpayer, for it must be either at the expense of the general taxpayer, or of the railways, if the railways—I am afraid though that Sir Guthrie Russell is almost as hard-hearted as I am—were prepared to bear the cost of carrying Members of this House free. If they do not do so, it will mean an increased charge on general revenues, a charge that we shall have to provide in our budget and it will mean ultimately that more money will have to be raised from the taxpayer. I would ask my Honourable friend if he really thinks the present is a convenient time for a demand of that kind? I am afraid on those grounds, if my Honourable friend wishes to press his Resolution, I shall have to oppose.

[Sir Alan Parsons.]

it. I can, however, say that there is shortly I understand, Sir, to be a discussion between certain Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, yourself, Sir, and the President of the Legislative Assembly on the whole question of the allowances to be given to Members of the Legislature, and I understand that the question of their travelling allowances will also then come under review. I would suggest to my Honourable friend that he might very well await the result of that discussion.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I understand that some of the railways used to give gold and silver complimentary passes. Is that practice still continued?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL** (Chief Commissioner of Railways): I do not know whether they were ever given in the past. As far as I know the only silver passes given were given to Government Inspectors on Consulting Engineers to Governments.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY:** Sir, I have listened with patience to the arguments given by my Honourable friend Sir Alan Parsons who is a great financial representative in this House. I listened also with patience to the European Member Mr. Miller. I also listened to the criticism of a Madras gentleman who is fortunate enough to become a member of every Committee in the Railways and of the Railway Board. I am not so fortunate as to have a diamond ring in my ear. I also listened with patience to the criticism of the Knight of Bombay. Well, the object of bringing this Resolution forward was not to benefit myself, as Sir Alan Parsons has suggested. I am a layman and not a financier nor an expert like the Chief Commissioner of Railways, and therefore cannot appreciate the distinction between gold and metal passes. Sir Alan Parsons said that in the Resolution the word was "gold," but I said in my speech "or metal passes." Well, I do not understand the difference between gold and metal passes. Had I been a financier or a Chief Commissioner of Railways I would have been in their place and answered.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** You do not understand the difference between gold and other metals?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY:** There are technical differences. Metal may mean silver or copper or iron.  
 1 P.M. But what I want is a free pass for the Members of the Council of State travelling either as elected representatives on the Council of State or as nominated non-official Members. Sir Alan Parsons has opposed it on the question of economy. But where there is a will there is a way. There are approximately 33 elected and 12 nominated non-officials, and for these 45 Members the travelling allowance for coming to Delhi is about Rs. 9,000, and including the Simla session it amounts to about Rs. 18,000. I am taking a round figure and I speak subject to correction, because I am not a financier nor a mathematician but just a public man. As a layman, as a public man, I am saying this. To save this, I want a metal pass or a silver or a gold pass for Members of the Council of State. I do not claim it for myself or my wife as I said. Formerly, we had the privilege of travelling in a reserved compartment on a single ticket. Well, when the wife travels, she has to pay. In my argument I said that I was not bringing this forward

in a spirit of jealousy as my friend suggests. I admit, Sir, that times are very hard; but an official genius like Sir Alan Parsons, by his ability and adjustment and shuffling can easily manage to get us free passes over all railways.

With these remarks, Sir, I will conclude by saying that the reply to this modest Resolution has been unconvincing and disappointing. I, a helpless listener of the sonorous sounds of this Upper House, where we have no redress, but everything to endure, I stand by my Resolution and press it to a division.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Resolution moved:

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take early steps to provide the Members of the Council of State with gold passes permitting them to travel anywhere on Indian Railways in lieu of the present travelling allowance granted to them.”

The Question is:

“That that Resolution be adopted.”

The Motion was negatived.

The Council then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

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The Council re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Mr. Hossain Imam.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, in view of the talk which I had with the Honourable Member, I do not propose to move the Resolution\* which stands in my name.

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### RESOLUTION *RE* NEW SCALES OF PAY FOR THE IMPERIAL SERVICES AT REDUCED RATES.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE** (East Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move my Resolution which reads as follows:

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to recommend to the Secretary of State for India to introduce immediately new scales of pay for the Imperial Services at substantially reduced rates.”

In moving my Resolution the feeling that is uppermost in my mind is not political consideration but mainly economic consideration. There is no

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\*“That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to convey to the Secretary of State the desirability of introducing provincial autonomy as early as possible in the year 1935.”

[Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee.]

use in hoodwinking the fact that India at the present moment is groaning under the heaviest burden of taxation possible. It is, year after year, gradually becoming unbearable. The main reason for this burden is our top-heavy administration. There is no country in the world where her services are so highly paid as in India. It is now high time that the cost of administration is lowered by the reduction of the scales of pay of the superior highly paid services. The Retrenchment Committee appointed a few years ago recommended amongst other things the abolition of the Lee loot of the superior services. If I am permitted I would like to quote the very words which the Committee used. It reads as follows :

" We have no hesitation in recommending that in a financial crisis of this magnitude the costly 'concessions' known as the Lee concessions (excepting those in the form of increased salaries which, pending consideration of the general question relating to pay and allowances, would be subjected, as proposed by us, to percentage cuts) should be withdrawn ".

Then, again, in the second part of the report they once more reiterated the reduction of the Lee concessions of the superior services as a means of reduction in Government expenditure. I quote their words which are as follows :

" We were unable then to show the cost of these concessions but we are now informed that it amounts altogether to Rs. 52 lakhs, the share of the Central Government being Rs. 14 or Rs. 15 lakhs. We hold that having regard to the present state of the country's finances Government should retrench this item of expenditure whatever justification did or did not exist for it at the time the Lee Commission made their recommendations. This will mean a saving of Rs. 14 or Rs. 15 lakhs in the central budget ".

This is not all. The General Purposes Sub-Committee advised Government to collect certain materials and data through their Officer on Special Duty regarding scales of pay of different services but Government instead of placing the figures asked for by the said Sub-Committee, the said officer drew up a scheme of revised scales of pay for subordinate services and desired to place it before the Sub-Committee which disapproved the procedure and dissolved itself without making any recommendations. Sir, as far as I know and subject to correction, I state that it is the discriminatory attitude of the Government in regard to the reduction of scales of pay of services under the Government of India and those under the Secretary of State for which the Committee did not like to take the responsibility of suggesting reduced scales. The result was that the Government had a free hand and therefore brought into force only the reduced scales of pay for the subordinate services and practically shelved the question of the reduction of scales of pay for the superior services.

Now, Sir, I think I should give a small genesis regarding the increase in the pay of the services and the grant of the famous Lee loot. The scales of pay prevalent at the time the Lee Commission was appointed in 1924 was fixed on the recommendations of the Islington Commission appointed in 1912: This Commission submitted its report in 1915. Though the Islington Commission submitted its report in 1915 the recommendations could not be brought into force till 1919-20 owing to the war. Certain scales of pay was recommended by the Islington Commission in 1915, when the index number of the average prices of articles was about 185 taking the index number in 1902-03 to be 100. From the chart of the index numbers published in 1933 which is the latest, it appears that in 1919-20 when the pay was actually



fixed for the superior services recommended by the said Commission as far back as 1915 the Government of India and the Secretary of State endeavoured to give due weight to the changed condition of living since 1915. I may quote here the passage having a bearing on the question from the Lee Commission Report which reads as follows :

“ The Government of India, in their elaborate examination of the recommendations of the Islington Commission, and the Secretary of State in the orders which he passed clearly endeavoured to give due weight to the changed and changing conditions ”.

Then, in 1924, the Lee Commission took into consideration the rise in prices during the period of 1915 to 1920 and made recommendations for the grant of certain concessions to meet the higher cost of living. Sir, since 1925 the price level has shown a downward tendency and from the index number of 225 in 1925 it gradually fell till in 1931 it was 125. Unfortunately I could not get the index numbers for the years 1932-33, otherwise I think I would have been able to show that the index number of price levels went down still further than 125, the figure prevalent in 1931. That being the case, Sir, I do not see any justification for the continuance of the present scales of pay of the superior services and there is no justification for the continuance of the Lee loot as well. The case for the reduction of the scales of superior services has further been strengthened by the fact that the Government taking advantage of the lower level of existing prices have reduced the pay of all the subordinate services and have brought it into force as well. Sir, in England as far as I could gather the ratio between the pay of lower officers and the pay of higher officers is about 1 to 32 and whereas by the present reduction of scales of pay of the lower services in India it bears a ratio with the pay of higher services in the proportion of 1 to 133. In this connection I may state that a question on this subject was put by my friend Mr. S. C. Mitra in the other House on the 28th November, 1933, and in reply to that question and the volleys of supplementary questions it was brought out further that the Government of India consulted all the Local Governments on the subject and received their replies. It was further stated that the Government of India is in communication with the Secretary of State. I think it is now about four months since that reply was given and I hope the Government will be in a position now to tell us definitely as to when the reduced scales of pay for the superior services will be given effect to and also the scales of reduction proposed. As far as I could gather the Government of India reduced the scales of pay of all services under their control on a basis of 30 per cent. all round reduction including the minimum and the maximum of the scales and also the annual increments. I state this subject to correction. If that be the case I think Indians will be fully justified in demanding a higher percentage of reduction both in the minimum scales and the maximum scales together with the rates of annual increments of pay for all the posts in the superior services irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

Before I conclude I may state that the sooner the announcement on the subject is made the better will it be for the Government otherwise it will cause very great discontent among the subordinate services, which will affect the efficiency of the administration. Sir, in conclusion I appeal to the House to support my Resolution which only demands that the Government of India should recommend to the Secretary of State the revised scales of pay for the superior services and in this connection I think the House is fully entitled to know their recommendations if already made.

Sir, I move.

\*THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion of my Honourable colleague. The Government of India and the public are at one in their desire to reduce the pay and emoluments of all the future entrants to the services. The Government of India have given effect to this desire by reducing the pay and emoluments of the services which are under the control of the Governor General in Council. But as regards the services which are still under the control of the Secretary of State, the constitutional position is that we are debarred from touching them up till now. The reason why we have brought forward this Resolution is to strengthen the hands of the Government so that the Secretary of State might not delay the matter very long. In the present atmosphere which prevails in the Parliament it is feared that unless and until we go on hammering at the thing, it will not be effected. The Government of India have also weakened a little in the face of the strong action which the Government in England are taking at the present moment. The scales of pay of the superior services are far more generous than those of the gazetted officers of the Government of India. It is well known, Sir, that the imperial services are offered a higher pay in order to attract Englishmen. When the Lee concessions were given the general cry was that the right type of recruits were not available, and it was for this reason that Government went out of its way and gave more emoluments and concessions. But, Sir, times now have changed a little. We are not so very anxious to retain the European element in the same proportion in which we used to have to do in former days. Now, we want to have Indianization. It is the official policy of the Government of India to have Indianization in every part of its administration, so much so that even in the Executive Council, out of seven Members we have three Indians. This, Sir, reduces the necessity of having the same number of recruits in Europe. As far as I remember, after the Report of the Simon Commission was published, Local Governments were asked to submit their opinions. I distinctly remember that a number of Governments recommended that the central service as such should cease to exist and that there should be a central service only for the central departments of the Government of India. They recommended that the Indian Civil Service as such or the Indian Police Service as such or the Indian Medical Service as such should not exist. The reason was that the services which were not under the control of the Local Government would not carry out their orders. This is past history. The latest document before us is the report of the Joint Memorandum submitted by the British Indian delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reforms. In this all the Indian delegates have unanimously stated that the central services should not remain under the protection of the Secretary of State in the future. This, Sir, is beside the point we are now discussing. I simply brought it in to show the trend of public opinion as regards these services. Then, Sir, in the Memorandum the Indian delegation have taken strong objection to the provision whereby the Secretary of State wishes to defer reconsideration of the Indian Civil Service recruitment for a period of five years after the inauguration of the Federal Constitution. In the course of the debate last year on the Resolution which I moved in this House about the composition of the Indian Civil Service the Honourable Member assured us that Indianization was getting on so rapidly that it was thought that by 1935, 50 per cent. of the posts will be Indianized. These concessions were given when the proportion of Indians was very small. It was thought that there would be a great discrimination if the general rates of the European members were higher than those of the Indian members. But now, due to the fact that they are half and

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\* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

half it is necessary that there should be a lower rate, and if you wish to attract Europeans, you can, as Government are doing now, give the Europeans an overseas allowance. You can continue to give that. It will be an additional attraction for the European element. For these reasons, Sir, I support the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEH-ROTRA (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee. I think he has made a very modest demand in his Resolution and included only future entrants to the services and not the present incumbents. I am of opinion that it is also necessary to reduce the pay of the present superior staff if we want to get both ends of our budget to meet together.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That is not the Resolution before us.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD MEH-ROTRA: I was referring to it by the way.

Sir, we all know that this country is over-burdened with taxation and the time has come when we should call a halt and lower the burden by reducing the taxes. We cannot do so unless we get our expenses curtailed.

That is one of the most important ways of curtailing our expenses. My friend has already referred to the Lee Commission concessions. We admit that they may have been justified at that time, but now when unemployment is as acute in England as in India I do not think there will be any difficulty in obtaining incumbents at a reduced salary. People would like to get something to maintain themselves on rather than having nothing. In this country, Sir, if you advertise a post in the papers you will find thousands of highly qualified applicants for the job, so much so indeed that it is difficult to make a selection. When such is the condition I think there would be absolutely no difficulty in getting recruits on lower scales of pay. As far as I know there is no European country where men in the superior posts are paid such high salaries as in India, in spite of the fact that it is the poorest country with few industries. Most of us live on agriculture, the condition of which also is very deplorable. Considering all these facts it is in the fitness of things that my friend has moved this Resolution and I hope that Government will come forward and accept it and send the recommendation of this House to the Secretary of State for India.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerjee. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam has put in a very strong case in support of the Resolution. As far as I can see and as far as rumour goes, it seems to me that the recommendations of the special officer whom the Government of India appointed to go into the question of scales of salaries and allowances to future entrants to the superior services have been refused by the Secretary of State altogether. If the rumour is wrong I hope the Honourable Member on behalf of Government will correct me. When the Lee concessions were introduced they were introduced because the price of living had gone up, and the Retrenchment Committee which sat to effect economies in Government administration strongly recommended that the Lee concessions should

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be done away with owing to the heavy fall in prices of living. Those concessions still continue. It is a matter of great injustice and inequity that the Government has introduced and enforced a new scale of salaries and allowances for future entrants into the services under the control of the Government of India. This injustice should be put right at once. Those people who are paid very highly must also accept the lower salaries in the same manner as those working under the Government of India have done. This is a very important matter at a time when our economic position is unprecedentedly bad. I therefore request the Government very strongly to accept this Resolution and to act on its spirit.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, there is no doubt that the rise in the purchasing power of money owing to fall in prices should be reflected in the salaries drawn by all classes of public servants, and in this view I do not think there will be any very acute difference of opinion about the merits of the Resolution tabled by the Honourable Mr. Banerjee. In the course of the discussion this afternoon, however, it has been taken for granted, if I understood them correctly, by at least two of the speakers that the Indianization of the superior services, or what are called these days all-India services, will lead to substantial savings. Now, that is a very important proposition, but I am afraid that the conclusion drawn from the premises laid down by the two Honourable speakers does not seem to be justified. The position after all is this. Take the case of any imperial service, Indian Police, Indian Civil, or any other. Indianization fortunately has taken place in these services, but, unfortunately, the same scale of pay has been drawn by Indian officers as that drawn by European officers. Except for the office of Minister in some provinces, is there a single office in which an Indian incumbent is drawing less pay than that drawn by a European ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : There is a difference in allowances, which are not admissible to officers of non-Asiatic domicile.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : Sir, I advisedly used the word "salaries."

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Allowances are included in salaries.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : Well, this House will realize that salary does not include allowances.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : In the Retrenchment Committee I may tell you that it was said that "salary" now includes allowances and overseas pay, and the cut has been made on that.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI : Sir, I am afraid we are straying off the point. My point is this—I will deal with allowances later—if you take the substantive pay of any service you will find that whether the holders of the post are Indians or Europeans they are drawing exactly the same substantive pay. There is no difference in the scales of substantive pay. That being so, I put it to this House how is the taxpayer going to benefit if you

replace Peter by Paul? If really it is desired that Indianization should take place at a rapid pace, I suggest that the only method to do it and the only way to accomplish our object is to pay Indians at a lesser rate than that allowed to Europeans. The subject is a most important one. In fact in this very House a Resolution was tabled in the year 1925; unfortunately it did not proceed to discussion. My point, Sir, is this. If you really want to save the taxpayer, if you want to give him any appreciable relief, the only way to do it is this. Make a uniform cut on all the salaries which are at present being allowed to the all-India services. Whether that cut should be 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. or whatever that cut might be, leave it to the Secretary of State to determine it in consultation with the Government of India. Having done that, we get the substantive scales of pay. For instance, in the case of any particular service on the time scale of Rs. 400 rising to, we will say, Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 1,800, take of 33½ per cent. and pay Indians 33¼ per cent. less substantive pay than you pay Europeans. I will just explain the reason a minute later. Give Europeans the same pay as Indians, but give them that 33½ per cent. of the original pay in the form of overseas pay or allowance. The reason why I want to pay more to Europeans—and I repeat it I want to pay more to Europeans than to Indians—

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Nobody objects to that.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI:** If that is the position, Sir, taken up by the Opposition, I need not argue it any further. My submission is that the time has come when, if Indians want to make a success of democracy in this country, they ought to be contented with a less rate of pay than that which is allowed to Europeans. I know at one time just after the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms the objection taken by some Ministers in certain provinces was that if they show their willingness to accept less pay than that drawn by an Executive Councillor, their status will suffer in comparison with the Executive Councillor. That was the argument used. Time has shown, Sir, that that argument was fallacious. There are a number of provinces—and fortunately my own province, the United Provinces, is one of them.

**THE HONOURABLE SIE DAVID DEVADOSS:** Madras Ministers have given up Rs. 1,000 per month.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI:** There are several, as a matter of fact, I know—there are several provinces where the Ministers today are taking no more than Rs. 3,000 a month, though under the law their salary can go up to Rs. 64,000 a year; yet nobody can say that their position, their status, have in any way suffered as compared with the position and status of Members of the Executive Council. That, Sir, is an exploded argument and I do not think anybody will repeat the argument seriously today. My submission is that while I agree that the time has come when a reduction should be made in the salaries given to all classes of public servants, at the same time it is the duty of our countrymen to agree that Indians serving in the all-India services should be paid at a less rate than that which is allowed to Europeans.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT (Home Secretary):** Sir, I am grateful to you for pointing out during the speech of one of the Honourable Members that this Resolution only refers to the pay of new entrants to the services under the control of the Secretary of State. As drafted, it might

[Mr. M. G. Hallett.]

convey—the Resolution being somewhat possibly vague in its language—it might convey the impression that it was referring to the pay of the existing members of the services. In fact, the speech of the Honourable mover of the Resolution left me in some doubt as to what exactly his intention was, for he referred to the abolition of the Lee concessions and it must be recollected that the Lee concessions do form part of the emoluments and therefore of the pay of the existing members of the services. However, it has been made clear by other speakers and by your ruling, Sir, that we are not concerned with that point; if we were, I should merely have had to refer to the observations and arguments put forward by my friend Mr. Taylor in this House a few days ago, on the question of increasing the cut in pay, which were accepted by the House. Taking it at that, as referring only to the pay of new entrants to the services, I am in a difficulty, because my mouth is padlocked. The position is that the Government of India have taken up the question of revised scales of pay of future entrants with the Secretary of State. I can assure the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das that the matter has not been finally decided. It is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State and for that reason it is not permissible for me to reveal in any way the recommendations of the Government of India or to discuss in detail the question of what the future rates of pay will be.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: May I ask for how many months this question has been under the consideration of the Secretary of State for India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT: Sir, I can reply to that question by referring to certain questions which the Honourable Home Member answered in the Lower House a short time ago. At the end of November the Honourable the Home Member explained that he hoped that our proposals would go very shortly before the Secretary of State. Actually there was a certain unavoidable delay and in January he explained that his expectation that they would go home in December had not been fulfilled, but he added that the recommendations would go before the Secretary of State very shortly. Actually they went some time in the course of last month, in the course of February. I regret that there has been this delay, but the question was a far more difficult one than the question of the rates of pay of the central services and the services directly under the control of the Government of India. As the last speaker has pointed out, there is the very difficult question of the rates of pay for Indian and British officers who form members of the same service. It was necessary for the Government of India to consult Local Governments and it was necessary for them to give the whole matter their very careful consideration. That, Sir, is all I can say on the subject-matter of this Resolution; but I am quite prepared to give the undertaking which has been given in connection with another Resolution today, and that is to forward a copy of this debate to the Secretary of State in Council who will no doubt pay careful attention to it when he is deciding the matter. Various questions have been raised, all of which are important, though some are possibly outside the scope of the Resolution itself. Mr. Hossain Imam, as I understood him, went on to raise some further questions regarding the recruitment to the service in future, but his observations will no doubt be taken into account by the authorities with whom the decision on all these points lies. I trust that on that undertaking, to forward the debate to the Secretary of State, the Honourable mover will withdraw his Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, I am indeed grateful for the unanimous and unstinted support I have received from the Leader and the Deputy Leader of my Party for my Resolution. In reply to the Honourable Mr. Raza Ali's suggestion of different pay for Europeans and Indians, I think it does not arise. At present the overseas allowances are not admissible to Indians and we have not objected to the discrimination. As it has been said, Sir, that this matter is under the serious consideration of the Government of India and the Secretary of State, I do not wish to add anything further than what has already been said. There is a strong suspicion in the minds of the politically-minded people of India that no reduction in the pay of the superior services will be made and I hope Government will take this opportunity of removing that suspicion. I would only request the Government to forward today's proceedings of this House on this Resolution with a strong recommendation of the Government of India impressing upon the Secretary of State to announce at the earliest possible date about the future scales of pay for the superior services. I think a great many objections to the White Paper proposals would also be removed if the Secretary of State immediately reduces the scales of pay of superior services as that will go a great way to reduce the Government expenditure both in the centre and in the provinces. This will ultimately mean reduction of taxation. It is a well-known principle that reduction of taxation means a general contentment of those governed.

As I have been given an assurance by my Honourable friend the Home Secretary that the debate this afternoon on my Resolution under discussion will be sent to the Secretary of State for India with a strong recommendation, with that assurance to my credit I beg leave of this House to withdraw my Resolution.

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

#### RESOLUTION *RE* DONATION TO BIHAR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to move the Resolution which stands in my name and which runs as follows :

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to donate Rupees one crore to the Bihar Earthquake Relief Fund lately inaugurated by His Excellency the Viceroy."

Sir, before I begin my observations on this Resolution, I wish to sincerely thank His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India and the Railways for the help which they have so far given to the Bihar disaster. I also take this opportunity, Sir, to thank those big donors who, notwithstanding the greatest economic depression in the country that now exists, have donated large sums of money. But, Sir, if we look at the calamity that has taken place and for which, according to my estimate a great deal of money is required, we should move in this manner. Sir, I take this opportunity of thanking the Honourable the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga who has donated a lakh of rupees to the Viceroy's fund and has further promised a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs for the reconstruction of Darbhanga town. He has done this although he himself has suffered greatly and we can but sympathise with him. It is a matter of great gratification to find, Sir, that His Excellency has been kind enough to fly to Patna today to see the scene of the disaster and to console the people who

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have met with this great misfortune. His going there will be a matter of great relief to the people and I think by His Excellency being there more enthusiasm will be aroused in the donors who are likely to subscribe to his fund.

Sir, a similar disaster, although of less magnitude, took place in the Kangra Valley of the Punjab in the year 1905. I had the privilege then of serving as one of the secretaries of that fund and had to go there to distribute immediate relief and I realized from personal experience that such calamities require a great deal of help. At that time, Sir, our economic position was much better. We had a certain amount of reserve (I am talking of the masses), which reserve, I am sorry to say, is now practically gone. His Excellency Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy, opened the Kangra Earthquake Relief fund with a donation of Rs. 10,000 and his fund began to draw money for the disaster in the Punjab. For comparison sake, Sir, I would say that the then population of Kangra according to the 1901 Census, involved in the earthquake, including a small portion of the Bushahr State in the Simla Hills, was about 400,000. The population of North Bihar and Monghyr, according to the recent Census, is 13,187,254. In the Punjab, Sir, in the year 1905, His Honour Sir Charles Rivaz, the then Governor started a relief fund a few days after the earthquake. The earthquake took place on the 4th April, 1905, the fund was started on the 14th April when His Excellency the Viceroy inaugurated that fund, and was closed on the 20th December, 1905, when the total reached was Rs. 13,51,748-13-5. I am sure every body felt satisfied as to the way in which that money was distributed, and I am sure here too the money will be usefully employed. But, Sir, my point is that, taking the Kangra earthquake figures, when a population of about 400,000 got relief to the extent of about Rs. 1½ lakhs, a population thirty-three times as large will require nothing short of Rs. 5½ crores. I may be wrong, Sir, in my estimate, but I think that my figure is pretty near enough and even if we take a much lower figure, say a crore less, the effort required will be very considerable. What is our present position? We are grateful to the Government of India for giving the surplus of this year to Bihar but, Sir, to whom have they given it? I say it is not a generous action but a duty which they have performed. They have

3-5 P.M. given it all to the Local Government and to local bodies but to no body else. I will quote a portion of the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member in support of the statement that I have made. This is from page 28, paragraph 40, of the Finance Member's speech introducing the Budget :

"I have already mentioned one feature in this plan, namely, that we propose to transfer our estimated surplus of Rs. 1,29 lakhs in the current year (or whatever the final amount of that surplus may be) to a special fund which will be utilized in assisting the provinces, chiefly of course Bihar, which have suffered from the recent earthquake.

The problem of reconstruction with which the Government of Bihar and Orissa is confronted can conveniently be treated under four main heads.

(a) *Reconstruction of Provincial Government buildings, etc.*—There is first the reconstruction of Government property, chiefly buildings, though there has been some damage to canals. On such rough estimates as it has yet been possible to prepare, the cost of repairing this damage may be put at about Rs. 1 crore"—so out of this Rs. 1,29 lakhs, Rs. 1 crore goes to repair of Government buildings—"Our proposal is that the Government of India should, as capital expenditure on its own account, provide half the cost of reconstructing and repairing their damaged property, and should make a loan to the Provincial Government of the remaining half through the Provincial Loans fund".

Then, Sir, the other Rs. 75 lakhs goes to local authorities for their buildings.



**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** I am loth to interrupt the Honourable Member, but it is perfectly clear from the Finance Member's speech that that half crore goes to capital expenditure of the Government of India and has nothing whatever to do with expenditure from the fund which will be created out of this year's surplus.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Do I understand the Honourable Member to mean that out of this Rs. 1 crore only Rs. 50 lakhs will be given to the repair of Government and Local Government buildings in Bihar ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** The position, I think, is quite clear. There is a revenue surplus this year, which may be Rs. 1,29 lakhs, or which may be more. That will be devoted to various purposes, but amongst those purposes will not be any assistance to the rebuilding of Provincial Government buildings in Bihar. Half the cost of those Provincial Government buildings in Bihar, whatever that cost may be, will be borne by the Government of India as capital and not revenue expenditure on its own account.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** No doubt, Sir. But it is quite evident that not a pice out of this money will go to the private people who cannot reconstruct their buildings. Sir, what is the position at present ? The fund of His Excellency the Viceroy was, on the 5th March, about Rs. 28,00,983-7-0 and the relief fund of Babu Rajendra Prasad has reached about Rs. 19 lakhs, which makes a total of about Rs. 47 lakhs. I see, Sir, that the Viceroy's fund is increasing every day but I do not anticipate that that fund will reach anywhere near the estimate which the people have framed so far for the reconstruction of the buildings of those poor people who are not in a position to do it themselves.

Sir, I have already said that the economic position of the people now is far worse than what it was in 1905. In support of this statement, Sir, I will give you some idea of the subscriptions which were given in 1905 in response to the appeal of the then Viceroy. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab subscribed Rs. 2,000. I am not giving this list of subscriptions as a criticism. I am giving this in support of my statement that the spending power and the reserves of the masses being low, they have not been able to subscribe to the extent that they could have subscribed in case their condition was better.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** I am afraid such a comparison would be unreasonable.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA :** The public have subscribed Rs. 46 lakhs already. In 1905 it was not even Rs. 14 lakhs that was subscribed.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** I might inform my Honourable friend, Sir Homi, that the magnitude of the present Bihar disaster cannot be compared with that of Kangra in 1905. The disaster now is thirty-three times greater than the disaster of 1905.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA :** You are comparing the capacity of paying, and you have said that 1905 was a much happier time and that people cannot afford to pay more now, and I say the people have already paid Rs. 46 lakhs.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** I wanted to make a comparative statement and show that those people who subscribed much larger amounts in 1905 have subscribed only small amounts now, but as the Honourable the President has ruled that the comparison is unreasonable I cannot but otherwise convince you that the people have not come forward now with liberal subscriptions. Even the Ruling Princes who have not equally suffered have not subscribed on the scale on which they did in 1905.

Sir, my demand is a very modest one. It is also the duty of the Central Government to protect and keep their subjects in provinces happy and contented, particularly at a time when they are faced with such disasters. India, Sir, presented Rs. 100 crores in aid of the Great War. We did it because we thought it was our duty to do so. We did it as a mark of the loyalty and devotion that we had for the British Government. Sir, a small skirmish which now and then takes place on the North-West Frontier costs Government about a crore at least. We know, being neighbours of that province, how often that happens. I wish that the money for the proposed donation be found in a manner in which it is found for the skirmishes. The plight of the poor people of Bihar cannot be minimized. The area involved is very much bigger and the damage done even much more than the Kangra earthquake. The Honourable Mr. Hubback, while making his observations regarding the earthquake in his province, said that it will cost about Rs. 50 lakhs to remove the sand and other deposits with which the culturable land has been covered. The other day we were told that there was a Famine Relief fund in Bihar whose credit balance stood at about Rs. 25 lakhs. I should like the Honourable the Finance Secretary to inform the House how much money out of this fund will be utilized in putting the culturable land right by the removal of the deposits now covering it? I might also say that in the Kangra earthquake we got about Rs. 20,000 from Japan; we got a good deal of money from Ceylon and we got about a lakh and a half of rupees from London. But, Sir, we see this time that there is not much hope of our reaching a total of Rs. 5 crores. Therefore I make the modest request that a crore be found as a gift from the Government and the rest of the sum be found from the public funds which are now being run by His Excellency the Viceroy and Babu Rajendra Prasad.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS (Finance Secretary):** Sir, though for reasons which I will later give to the House, I consider the Honourable Rai Bahadur's Resolution singularly inopportune, I am glad of it because it enables me to correct a misapprehension which quite obviously exists in his own mind and possibly might exist in the mind of other Members of the House, though I had hoped the speeches Sir George Schuster made in another place and which I made here a few days ago would have made clear the plan which Government had adopted for dealing with the disaster in Bihar. I attempted at any rate to make it quite clear at that time that we had no estimates on which any reliance could be placed of the cost of the measures of reconstruction which I then described. That being the case, it was not possible for Government to make a plan based on any definite figures. What we did do was to say what particular liabilities should be taken over by particular authorities. I did not notice that my Honourable friend challenged that method of dealing with the problem, though as far as I can understand he has not followed the figures which we gave purely as illustrations.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Can you give reliable figures now?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: I can give my friend no better estimates now than I gave then. In fact I was actually hoping to hear from him on what estimates, either of receipts for the Viceroy's and other funds or of the money required for assistance by way of grants to individuals, he based his idea that a crore was the figure needed to supplement private funds, that a crore would be sufficient or that it would not be more than sufficient. I will deal with that point later for it is inherent in my objection to his Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: I have made a minimum demand.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: My Honourable friend says he made a minimum demand. He has given me no figures on which to say that it will be a minimum. He has given me no figures of what he anticipates will be available from the private funds or what sum will be required for grants to these poor individuals in Bihar.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: I have told the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons that the figure which I estimate is nearly Rs. 5 crores. I do not anticipate that the Viceroy's fund will exceed a crore of rupees.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: I can only say that I should like to know the details on which my Honourable friend estimates Rs. 5 crores. Neither the Provincial Government nor the Government of India have yet been able to form any estimate whatsoever. If I may continue with my speech, Sir —

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: My estimate is only a rough estimate.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: We attempted to distribute responsibility. The Government of India undertook, not a gift of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Provincial Government for their buildings, but half the cost of restoring Provincial Government buildings whatever that cost might be. They did not promise a gift of a crore and twenty-nine lakhs to local bodies, though they hoped to have that sum to put into a fund, for the reconstruction of local bodies' buildings; they promised to pay the whole cost of reconstruction of local bodies' buildings. Equally they suggested—I now turn to the subject of my Honourable friend's Resolution—that where loans for rebuilding were not the method by which the problem could properly be tackled, that is to say, as regards the poorest class of inhabitants of Bihar, that then, at any rate to begin with, the money should be found from the balance of the Viceroy's and other charitable funds which was not used for purposes of immediate relief. They were obviously unable then, and they are still unable to say, how much money will be required for that purpose. Equally, they are unable to say how much money will be obtained from the charitable public for that purpose, though I personally do not take such a pessimistic view of the sum as my Honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das. Until, however, the Government of India are aware of the sum that will be required for grants to these poor people in Bihar for rebuilding their houses, and until they know how much money will be available in the Viceroy's and other funds, it is impossible for them to say whether there is a problem with which they will have to deal. It is impossible for them to say whether an additional crore-

[Sir Alan Parsons.]

will be required over and above what is subscribed by private benefactors, whether a crore will be sufficient or whether it will not be too much. And I failed, I am afraid, entirely to gather from my Honourable friend's argument, which appeared to be based merely on a mathematical analogy with Kangra where an earthquake occurred, any reason for accepting his estimate of what might or might not be subscribed to these private funds. Until we know those figures it is impossible to say whether private charity will require supplementing at all. I hope myself that it will come forward so liberally both here and in Great Britain that it will be found to be sufficient to meet the purpose. If not, I return to what I hope Sir George Schuster and I made clear. We are determined that the position in Bihar shall be righted, and if private charity does not come forward in sufficient volume then steps will be taken. What those steps will be I am quite unable at present to say. In any case the Government of India could not say without careful consultation with the Provincial Government. But it is really in my opinion far too early to discuss what those steps should be until we know exactly what the demand will be for these private grants, and what we shall get towards that purpose from private funds. It is for that reason that I have described my Honourable friend's Resolution as inopportune and premature, and if he is not prepared to withdraw it I shall ask the House to defeat it.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDRI MUHAMMAD DIN (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, we are grateful that the Government of India and the Provincial Government have already done what is humanly possible to mitigate the sufferings of the stricken Bihar people. His Excellency the Viceroy in his after-dinner speech last night told us that he was flying this morning to visit Patna and the earthquake area. The assurance given by the Viceroy is a sufficient guarantee that the Government of India would take all necessary measures to alleviate distress. The matter of details may well be left to Government for decision in consultation with the Local Government according to local circumstances.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE (East Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, my Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition has made out a very strong case in support of his Resolution and brought forward very strong and convincing arguments which require no further explanation or elucidation on my part. That the sympathies of this House should go out to the earthquake-stricken areas of Bihar and its population is a matter over which none of the Members of the Honourable House have any reason to entertain any controversial opinion and in fact the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy last night, at the banquet given by you, Sir, His Excellency traversed at great length on this subject and so keen was his sympathy that in spite of his varied programme of public duties His Excellency has thought fit to fly by air today to view the affected areas personally and offer the afflicted population his personal consolation. It is therefore in the fitness of things, Sir, that my friend's Resolution is quite opportune and appropriate at this time when more help is needed. I have therefore no hesitation in extending my whole-hearted co-operation and support for the Motion just moved.

\*THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my friend

\* Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

and Leader. The Honourable the Finance Secretary has placed the House on the horns of a dilemma. If we support the Resolution of my Honourable Leader, it is feared that private charities might dry up ; if we do not and trust to private charities we might starve.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA :** When did he ever say that ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** I made no such statement, Sir.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** That was what I thought was the meaning of his suggestion. He said that as we do not know what private charity is going to do we cannot be sure what sums will be required to mitigate the sufferings of Bihar. From this I thought the meaning was clear, that it might have the effect of drying up private charities.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** The Honourable Member is not entitled to draw such inferences.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** The trouble with Bihar, as my Honourable Leader has shown, is that it is unfortunately greater than that of Kangra. The population involved as well as the area affected and, if I may say so, even the intensity of the earthquake was far greater in 1934 than it was in 1905. As regards the distribution of burden and the distribution of functions, we concede, Sir, that the Government of India has shown great consideration for the Government of Bihar. The fact that they are going to bear half the cost is no doubt a very sensible proposition. The fact that they are going to pay the entire cost of repairing the damage done to local bodies' buildings is also a very sound proposition and no Government could have done more. Then, there is the position of those who have some property on which they want to raise a loan ; Government has quite handsomely promised to help as far as their requirements are concerned. All these three actions of the Government are entirely commended and no one will find fault with them. But there are two classes of sufferers who are left out. One is the people who have lost their houses and who have got nothing to fall back upon and who will have to build their houses from charity. These have been asked to get support from the Viceroy's fund and other charitable funds that have been started. As far as this class of people are concerned these two funds may suffice if the present flow of money is maintained for at least four months. But if they are not sufficient, we do not find in the speech of the Finance Member any indication that Government will come to their rescue. This, Sir, is one of the items which we wish should go out of the crore which the Honourable the Leader of my Party wishes to ask the Government to donate. Should this money be insufficient, the Government of India should take the ultimate responsibility. Then, there is the bigger class. I refer to those whose lands have been rendered unfit for cultivation on account of the upheaval ; in some places it has become water-logged ; in other places there are sandy deposits and in still other places the land has become shallow. For all these purposes, Sir, the Government of India has asked us to go to the Famine Relief fund.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** Will the Honourable Member excuse my interrupting him ? With regard to agricultural damage, we have made no such suggestion at all. The suggestion has been of course that after the Provincial Government's Famine Relief fund has been utilized the Government of India should bear the cost.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** The speech is a little wide I am quoting from paragraph 43 of the Finance Member's speech :

"In addition we are undertaking the liability for the cost of any measures of assistance to agriculturists that may be decided upon, to the extent that it cannot be met from the Provincial Government's Famine Relief fund".

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS :** There is a misunderstanding, Sir. That is a purely Government fund and not the Viceroy's fund.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** The Famine Relief fund is a fund to which we contribute every year part of our income in the provinces until it reaches a certain maximum, after which contributions are stopped.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR HOMI MEHTA :** Out of the Rs. 17 lakhs that have been subscribed to the Rajendra Prasad fund, I am informed that not even Rs. 6 lakhs have been spent so far. If the necessity is so great, why has only Rs. 6 lakhs been spent? If my figures are incorrect, I shall be much obliged if my Honourable friend will correct me?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Sir, I shall deal with that point of the Honourable Sir Homi Mehta afterwards. I will, first of all, deal with the Provincial Famine Relief fund. The Famine Relief fund of a province is a sort of insurance. Provinces are liable to be faced with disasters of famine, floods, etc. Orissa is peculiarly liable to floods and north Bihar which is liable to this kind of disaster. It would be a little difficult for us, if we exhaust all the balance in the Famine Relief fund, when money is required for famine relief; we will then have nothing left on which to fall back upon. Our province has reduced the Famine Relief fund from Rs. 57 lakhs to Rs. 28 lakhs. I do not think it is safe to draw too much money from this fund. Our point, Sir, is that the ultimate liability for help in the reclamation of the lands should fall on the Government of India and if the Government of India is not prepared to accept this Resolution but if they accept this liability and are prepared to finance to the full any scheme of reconstruction undertaken for the purpose for which the Bihar Government or private generosity cannot make provision, we shall be quite satisfied. Our object is not to embarrass the Government. Our object is to just safeguard ourselves against starvation. At the present moment the condition of North Bihar as reported in the papers is that there is a likelihood of famine conditions prevailing on account of inundations and water-logging and some of the standing *rabi* crop is perishing. As regards the point raised by the Honourable Sir Homi Mehta about urgency, —urgency does not mean that everything must be done today and today only. Urgency means that the Local Legislature will not be in session and for that reason we have brought forward this Resolution now when we are in the midst of our budget discussions and when provision can be made. The work will not be accomplished in a month or two but will possibly take years. It may be that while one work can be postponed for a time there are others which will have to be taken up before the rains and some which will have to wait until the rains are over. The only point which we had in mind in bringing forward this Resolution at the present moment was to get an assurance from Government of their ultimate support and acceptance of responsibility.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER (Madras : Non-Muhammadian) :** Sir, in supporting this Resolution I should like to say a few words. It cannot be denied that the Bihar catastrophe was one the like

of which has never been seen in the past in this country, and though the catastrophe took place two months ago we have not yet been able to estimate the cost of reconstruction though a survey has been made, and we do not know what amount of money will be provided ultimately for the restoration of the damaged area. No doubt, it is a very difficult job in a disaster of this magnitude to make a definite estimate of the position but the Government have at all events got the accounts of the population and houses of all the big towns affected, and the reports on the areas surveyed so far as lands are concerned. All this can roughly be estimated and a rough estimate at least may be announced so that the public may know to what extent the country has to bear the loss of this calamity. Even though, as the Leader of the Opposition said, the estimate may not be a very accurate one and may only be a rough calculation, it would at least if announced by Government give us some indication of the amount of the loss. Then the country will be satisfied as to what provisions are being made by the Government to meet this catastrophe. No doubt, in these days of financial stringency it may not be very easy to find money but when we take into consideration that this is a vast stretch of country attacked and damaged by way of invasion by nature as if by a foreign enemy. If it is the latter, would the Government be keeping quiet appointing officers to survey, estimate, calling for reports and so on. I would submit, Sir, that we have experienced a very unusual phenomenon and for a calamity of this kind Government should take very urgent steps in whatever possible way. I would suggest, if there is any possibility of doing urgent restoration work as was the practice adopted in the old days to meet such calamities that we may employ the jail population and army people, who are able to do more manual labour and other works in those localities which require very speedy reconstruction work.

Sir, we who have experienced weather of unexpected severity during the last two days in Delhi, can well imagine what must be the state of the population in the afflicted parts of the country. Sir, we have experience of how crores of rupees have been spent by the Central Government on numerous projects in the country in the course of the last two decades. The Provincial Governments too have spent crores. In many instances we are not told that there are not sufficient amount of benefit to the country to justify the several crores spent in those areas. If we consider all these things, Sir, is it very difficult to give an encouraging answer as an assurance, as the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam said, and say that the Government is prepared in all possible ways to alleviate the distress that is prevailing as a result of the effects of the earthquake, so that the people will be in a position to be satisfied and the Government has realized and fully prepared to meet their responsibilities.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Sir, I am sorry to find that the Honourable the Finance Secretary has practically refused the request that I have made and which has been the subject of my Resolution.

Sir, all sorts of diplomatic sentences have been used in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Secretary which do not amount to anything definite. He has not even been good enough to say whether, in case the subscriptions fell short of the expectations and of the amount required, Government would give this relief of at least a crore of rupees or even less as the need may arise. He simply says that the case will be considered. What we want at this time, Sir, is not lip sympathy from Government but real sympathy. Sir, it is all right to say that the Government of India will contribute 50 per cent. of the cost of reconstruction of the bungalows owned by Government or by local bodies. Sir, in the Punjab, when the Kangra earthquake occurred, all

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

such expenditure was met by the Punjab Government. I have not taken it as a generosity, if it may be so called, as far as the Kangra earthquake was concerned. This is a duty which falls upon the Government equally with the duty which falls upon a private individual. In case a private individual loses his house, it is naturally his job to construct it if he has got funds enough to do so. Sir, in Bihar there is water-logging and a deposit of sand on cultivable lands. There are innumerable cracks as well. That was not the case in Kangra and so you cannot compare the Bihar earthquake with the Kangra earthquake. My estimate of the losses has not taken these additional calamities into account and is based only on misfortunes of the Kangra earthquake. Take the number of houses which have fallen in the Tirhut division. I can only give the total number of houses which are in the Tirhut division because my estimate of the houses may again be subject to question. Sir, I take this figure from the Census Report. According to that report, the number of houses in the Tirhut division is 2,007,595, and in Monghyr 426,591. Sir, if you take even a fair percentage of these houses as having fallen, and particularly those of the poor people who cannot afford to rebuild them, and the money needed for their reconstruction you will support my Resolution. When Government, with their great paraphernalia of officers and departments, have not been able to come even to any rough estimate of the cost of this reconstruction within the last few months, it is hardly fair for Government to expect it from a private individual like myself who has no officers of this sort or any data before him. It is unfair.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: May I point out that the earthquake only occurred about six weeks ago? I do not understand how the Honourable Member can blame the Provincial Government for not starting to make an estimate six weeks before the earthquake occurred.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: When you have been able to give us an estimate within six weeks for the repair of the buildings of the State and of the Local Government, why have you not given us a similar rough estimate for the reconstruction of the private buildings? If you had tried you would no doubt have got ready a rough estimate.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. HUBBACK (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official): May I ask the Honourable Member whether he would find it more easy to estimate the damage to his own house or the damage to the houses of all the Members of this Council?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Well, Sir, in case I have a host of engineers with me as the Government have, I would give a rough estimate of the reconstruction of all the houses referred to, which, God forbid, may have fallen down.

Also another point. As far as Kangra was concerned, only six towns were involved in the earthquake and the population of none of these towns exceeded 5,000—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think we have had enough of Kangra.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I am forced to refer to Kangra because I am asked how I base my estimate. I am basing my estimate on the basis and experience of the Kangra disaster. Sir, in case I am allowed to amend my Resolution to that extent



that in case the private funds do not reach a reasonable figure, Government will come forward with this relief, I am quite prepared to amend it that way.

**THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN** (Leader of the House) : Is this the stage for amending the Resolution ?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT** : This entirely changes the character of the Resolution and I cannot permit it.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS** : Sir, the only alternative which is left to me is to press for this Resolution. As far as private subscriptions are concerned, I can say, Sir, that when His Excellency the Viceroy has been there, and Mahatma Gandhi will be there very shortly, I think enough impetus will have been given to the subscribing public and we shall soon come to know what the subscriptions will amount to. The Resolution, even if it is accepted by Government, is only a recommendation, and in case Government do not like to accept even the spirit of the Resolution, I cannot but regret it.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the favourable consideration of the House.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT** : Resolution moved :

“ That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to donate Rupees one crore to the Bihar Earthquake Relief Fund lately inaugurated by His Excellency the Viceroy.”

The Question is :

“ That that Resolution be adopted.”

The Council divided :

AYES—8.

Banerjee, The Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra.	Mehrotra, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad.
Gounder, The Honourable Mr. V. C. Vellingiri.	Naidu, The Honourable Mr. Y. Ranganyakalu.
Hossain Imam, The Honourable Mr. Jagdish Prasad, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.	Ram Saran Das, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.
	Sinha, The Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan.

NOES—26.

Charanjit Singh, The Honourable Raja. Chetti, The Honourable Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami.	Noon, The Honourable Nawab Malik Mohammad Hayat Khan.
Choksy, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Dr. Sir Nasarvanji.	Pandit, The Honourable Sardar Shri Jagannath Maharaj.
Devadoss, The Honourable Sir David.	Parsons, The Honourable Sir Alan.
Fazl-i-Husain, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir.	Ray, The Honourable Maharaja Jagadish Nath, of Dinajpur.
Ghosal, The Honourable Mr. Jyotsnanath.	Raza Ali, The Honourable Saiyid.
Hafeez, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul.	Reddi, The Honourable Sir Kurma Venkata.
Hallett, The Honourable Mr. M. G.	Russell, The Honourable Sir Guthrie.
Henderson, The Honourable Mr. J. S.	Souter, The Honourable Mr. C. A.
Hubback, The Honourable Mr. J. A.	Spence, The Honourable Mr. G. H.
Johnson, The Honourable Mr. J. N. G.	Sprawson, The Honourable Major-General C. A.
Miller, The Honourable Mr. E.	Stewart, The Honourable Mr. T. A.
Mitchell, The Honourable Mr. D. G.	Ugra, The Honourable Rai Sahib Pandit Gokaran Nath.
Muhammad Din, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Chaudri.	

The Motion was negatived.

## KHADDAR (NAME PROTECTION) BILL.

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

"That the Bill to regulate the use of the words 'Khaddar' and 'Khadi' when applied as a trade description of woven materials, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee in the Assembly is quite simple and is reduced to only two clauses. It is the outcome of an agreement between officials and non-officials in the Select Committee and therefore I hope it will be accepted by this House. The object of the Bill is to give protection to the name "khaddar" and "khadi" as descriptive only of hand-woven, hand-spun cloth as distinct from mill cloth. I must clearly state here that it has no political significance at all. There is no doubt that the movement for the use of khaddar and khadi arose out of the first civil disobedience movement. But, Sir, it has served very well as a cottage industry and fills a great need in a country conditioned as India is. Since 1924-25, however, a large number of Indian as well as foreign mills, thinking that this material is very much liked and the sale being good, have begun to manufacture mill khaddar. The shopkeepers also, thinking that they cannot meet the demand for hand-woven and hand-spun khaddar, began to sell this mill khaddar as hand-woven and hand-spun khaddar. Thus, Sir, purchasers have found difficulty in differentiating hand-spun and hand-woven khaddar from the mill variety. The object of this Bill is to put a stop to that practice under the Merchandise Marks Act. That is the whole object of the Bill.

I personally, as well as the sponsor of the Bill in the other House, Babu Gaya Prasad Singh, did not like the Bill very much as it emerged from the Select Committee for two reasons. Firstly, Sir, if it is passed by this House it will not have the force of law throughout British India. It will be left to Local Governments to apply it in their provinces if they care to do so. From the opinions received on this Bill from Local Governments you are aware, Sir, that Madras and the Central Provinces have accepted it, while the Punjab was indifferent and other provinces were against it because they were afraid that it may have a political significance. So, Sir, this Bill will remain a dead letter unless those Provincial Governments care to apply it in their provinces. My second reason is that this Bill will apply to hand-woven and hand-spun cotton only and not to silk and woollen cloths. That is also a defect, but when a full loaf is not available it is better to have half. I think this measure if passed will have some effect, and also, considering that after the introduction of the reforms more power will devolve upon Ministers it is just possible that public opinion will compel them to enforce it in their provinces.

Finally, I would appeal to the Government kindly to draw the attention of Provincial Governments to what the Select Committee has said. They said:

"The majority of the Committee express the earnest hope that those Local Governments which have expressed no disapproval of the Bill will take early steps to apply the Act when passed to the areas under their jurisdiction, and that other Local Governments will avail themselves of its provisions should any necessity for its extension become apparent."

With this appeal to the Government I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House and hope it will be unanimously accepted.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I would inform Honourable Members that there is not going to be any Government opposition to this Bill and there is no necessity to discuss in detail the provisions of the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD : Sir, I shall be very brief in my remarks.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, the sponsor of this Bill in the Lower House, has rendered a public service by bringing forward this Bill before the Indian Legislature. It is necessary, Sir, that mill-made cloth is not passed on to the unsuspecting buyers as khadi, as it is a fact that with the growing popularity of khaddar among the poorer classes in India the situation is sometimes taken advantage of by manufacturers of spurious khaddar in India and abroad and purchasers have at times been misled to the detriment of what might easily become a great national industry. It is therefore essential that protection should be given to khaddar or khadi in so far that the word should only denote hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. The sponsor of the Bill in the Legislative Assembly, as well as my Honourable friend, Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra here in this House, have made it clear that they were not actuated by any political motive in bringing forward this Bill. The Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, leaves it to the Local Governments to bring it into force at their discretion. Of course it would have been better if this discretion had been vested in the Local Legislative Councils. Then, it would have been better if the scope of the Bill had been extended to other kinds of hand-made cloth also, as my Honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra has pointed out. But, Sir, the Bill as it has emerged from the Legislative Assembly is in the nature of a compromise, we should be satisfied with the restricted scope in which it stands before us. And, as you, Sir, have pointed out that the Government is not opposing the measure, I hope that the House will accord its unanimous support to it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Question is :

“ That the Bill to regulate the use of the words ‘ Khaddar ’ and ‘ Khadi ’ when applied as a trade description of woven materials, 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 RAI BAHADUR LALA MATHURA PRASAD  
MEHROTRA : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill to regulate the use of the words ‘ Khaddar ’ and ‘ Khadi ’ when applied as a trade description of woven materials, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed. ”

The Motion was adopted.

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The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 12th March, 1934.