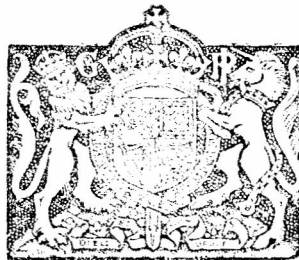


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 30th JANUARY, 1929.

Vol. I—No. 3

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 30th January, 1929.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROFITS MADE BY CERTAIN RAILWAYS FROM THE EXPORT OF WHEAT TO PORTS IN INDIA.

216. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the profits made on (a) the North Western Railway, (b) the East Indian Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway by the export of wheat to the different ports during the years 1925-26, 1926-27 and 1927-28?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I regret that the information desired by the Honourable Member cannot be derived from the statistics maintained by the Railways.

TIME TAKEN FOR DELIVERY OF GOODS BY RAILWAYS.

217. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Do the State Railways prescribe a time limit by which a goods wagon must pass a certain station, just as they have the time prescribed for each passenger train?

(b) Do the State Railways prescribe a maximum number of days within which goods booked from a certain station to another station will reach their destination, or does it wholly depend upon chance that a certain wagon reaches its destination early while another wagon destined to the same station, containing similar articles, may take double the amount of days that it took in the previous case?

(c) Do the State Railways give a guarantee for delivering goods within a certain period by extra payment to the railway authorities or are the merchants left to their own resources to arrange with the railway employees in the matter?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state their objections to fixing special rates for the delivery of goods within a certain period from one place to another?

(e) Have Government ever considered the difficulties with which the merchants are daily confronted on account of uncertainty of time during which goods will reach their destination? If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to enumerate the steps so far taken to obviate this difficulty?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) I presume the Honourable Member refers to goods trains running as do passenger trains on a scheduled timing. The reply is that generally goods trains do so run between engine changing stations; but goods trains, unlike passenger trains, need frequent

remarshalling, and delays also occur owing to attaching and detaching wagons *en route*.

(b) and (c). Railways publicly notify that they do not guarantee the delivery of goods within any specified time, but every endeavour is made to deliver as soon as possible.

(d) Consignments which require specially rapid transit are ordinarily booked at the parcels rate and are carried by passenger or parcel express trains. Some railways also have special fast trains conveying goods for long distances, but special rates are not charged for the conveyance of goods by these trains.

Owing to delays to which goods trains are necessarily subjected, it is not possible to guarantee the delivery of goods within a certain period or to introduce a system of special rates applicable to such delivery.

(e) The matter of delay to goods in transit has been engaging the special attention of the Railway Board and of railway administrations during the last few years.

Heavy expenditure has been incurred in the provision of more locomotives and goods wagons, in doubling certain sections of the line, and in providing more facilities in station and marshalling yards with a view to the quicker movement of goods stock; and I can assure the Honourable Member that the Railway Board and railway administrations are most anxious to achieve an increase in the speed with which goods consigned by the railways are carried to their destinations.

DELAY IN PROVIDING TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION TO AN APPLICANT FOR THE SAME.

218. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the maximum amount of time it takes to provide telephonic connections to applicants for the same?

(b) Is it a fact that a firm, Messrs. Madhusudan Dayal Rajendra Kripal of Hapur, District Meerut, applied in the month of September, 1928, for telephonic connection to be given from the month of November, 1928, and that the amount of demand was accepted from them on 1st October, 1928, but that no connection has yet been given, though the term for which they required the connection is expiring?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the causes of this exceptional delay?

(d) Is it an ordinary or an extraordinary case in the Department?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) It is not possible to say what time it takes to provide a telephone connection. It depends upon the extent of construction work involved and whether funds are available to meet the cost.

(b) Yes. Connexion has been given from the 23rd January, 1929.

(c) and (d). The cause of delay in giving the connection required by Messrs. Madhusudan Dayal Rajendra Kripal of Hapur, District Meerut, is being investigated and the result of the enquiry will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

219. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** What action have the Government of India taken on the proposals of the Sugar Committee's Report after the Report of the Royal Agricultural Commission has been received? Have the proposals been finally abandoned, or do Government propose to take any steps on the recommendations of the Sugar Committee's Report?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 219 and 220 together.

Except in a few comparatively minor respects, the Royal Commission on Agriculture made no specific recommendations regarding the sugar industry. The Government of India propose to commend the problems of this industry to the earnest consideration of the Council of Agricultural Research which it is hoped shortly to establish and trust that that body will take early steps to constitute a strong sub-committee to deal with these problems.

Mr. B. Das: Is it not a fact that the Government are taking no action on the Sugar Committee's Report?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That is not a fact, Sir.

Mr. B. Das: Did Government issue any communiqué or statement of any action taken by them to give effect to the recommendations of the Sugar Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Seeing, Sir, that the Report of the Sugar Committee covers no less than 880 recommendations and that under the existing constitutional position it is more for the Local Governments to carry them out rather than for the Government of India, the Government of India could not issue a comprehensive communiqué on the subject. But if my Honourable friend is interested in the subject and will look up the debate of the 20th March, 1928, he will get an idea of what the Government of India have done.

Mr. B. Das: Is it not the general practice of the Government merely to shelve the reports of important committees without taking any action on them whatever?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I did not quite follow my friend's question: but I think that if his suggestion is that the Government of India merely took note of the recommendations made in the Sugar Committee's Report but took no action on them, I would refer him to the answer I gave him earlier, namely, that that does not state the position correctly.

Mr. B. Das: That is my view, Sir.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

†220. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government of India to improve the condition of the sugar industry?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 219.

DISEASES IN SUGARCANE.

221. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh**: Are the Government of India aware that the new varieties of canes are showing signs of new diseases from which the Indian canes are immune? If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the steps taken to avoid any serious epidemic in the cane crop in future?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Government are not aware that the new varieties of cane are showing signs of any disease from which Indian canes are immune. If the Honourable Member has special information on the subject in his possession, Government will be glad to look into it with a view to determining what action, if any, is necessary.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA ON THE EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD.

222. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh**: (a) Will the Government of India be pleased to state since when the Empire Marketing Board has been in existence in England?

(b) Have the Government of India any voice in the proceedings of this Board?

(c) Is there any delegation from the Government of India on this Board?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The Empire Marketing Board was constituted in May 1926.

(b) and (c). India is represented on the Board by Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, Indian Trade Commissioner in London.

AGENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN OF PORT TRUSTS IN INDIA.

223. ***Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Agents in Great Britain for the Port Trusts of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the remuneration fixed, or percentage allowed, to these Agents, respectively, giving also the total amounts by way of remuneration drawn by each of these Agents during the last five years?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Office of the High Commissioner for India in London cannot undertake the work for the Port Trusts now entrusted to the Agents?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the work is not so entrusted, and if the answer is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the cost of organising a department in the High Commissioner's Office with a view to cope with such work?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

(c) and (d). The duties which the High Commissioner would assume in acting as Agent in the United Kingdom for a Port Trust would not be within the duties assigned to him by His Majesty's Order in Council dated the 18th August, 1920. But should the Port Trusts referred to by

the Honourable Member desire that the High Commissioner should act as their Agent in the United Kingdom, the Government of India would be prepared to consider whether it would be possible for the High Commissioner to undertake agency duties for the Port Trusts as a matter extraneous to his duties as High Commissioner.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN MARCONI'S COMPANY AND THE INDIAN BROADCAST COMPANY.

224. *Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is true that an agreement has been arrived at between the Marconi Company and the Indian Broadcast Company?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The answer is in the negative.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS

225. *Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) On what qualifications, the Controller of Indian Printing, Stationery and Stamps is appointed?
- (b) Has the transfer of the headquarters of this Department from Calcutta to Delhi caused any increase of cost? And if so, to what extent?
- (c) How appointments are made in this Department?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The Controller is required to possess a practical knowledge of printing work and to be acquainted with the manufacture, quality and prices of paper and other stationery and printing stores. In addition, he is required to possess administrative experience in a large printing establishment.

(b) As there are so many factors which have to be taken into account it is not possible to say now what extra expenditure, if any, was involved in the transfer of the headquarters of the Controller from Calcutta to Delhi, which took place in 1924.

(c) It is not clear to which appointments in the Stationery and Printing Department the Honourable Member refers. If he will kindly indicate the appointments, or class of appointments, I shall be glad to furnish him with the required information.

QUALIFICATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF CIRCLES IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

226. *Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) What new works have been undertaken by the Archæological Department during the last year?
- (b) On what qualifications Superintendents of Circles are appointed?
- (c) How many Superintendents are there at present and what are their qualifications?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

STATISTICS PUBLISHED IN THE INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL GAZETTES.

227. ***Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy**: How are the figures of statistics published in the Gazette of India and other provincial gazettes collected? How far are they accurate? Do Government propose to adopt more scientific measures for the purpose?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The statistics published in the Gazette of India and the provincial gazettes are extremely various in character and are compiled by many different authorities. I am afraid it is impossible to answer the Honourable Member's question unless he indicates more precisely the statistics to which he refers.

CREW SYSTEM OF CHECKING TICKETS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

228. ***Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy**: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of the "Crew System" of checking tickets on the East Indian Railway has been more efficient and less costly than the old one?

(b) what are the qualifications of the experts who have been drawn into the service?

(c) are promotions made on the principle of seniority?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Under the Crew System of checking tickets on the East Indian Railway the work has been done more efficiently, but the system is more costly than the old one.

(b) As the system is a new one, men on first being posted to this work cannot properly be termed experts. The qualifications of the men employed on this service may be summarized under the head of reliability, energy, and activity.

(c) Seniority is considered, but so is merit.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION ON THE INDIANISATION OF THE SERVICES.

229. ***Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy**: Will Government be pleased to state how far the recommendations of the Lee Commission regarding Indianisation of the Services have been given effect to?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I would refer the Honourable Member to the annual statements of Indianisation which are regularly placed in the Library of the House.

"INVASION" OF INDIA BY AMERICAN FILM COMPANIES.

230. ***Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy**: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is true that the American Film Companies are contemplating an invasion of India?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government have no precise information.

INDUSTRIAL STRIKES IN INDIA.

231. *Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy: Will Government be pleased to state how many industrial strikes took place during this current year, and what are the main causes of such outbreaks?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Statistics have so far been compiled only for the first three quarters of the year 1928, and a copy will be found in the Members' Library. These statistics give the number of disputes and the nature of the demands put forward by the men.

CARRIAGE OF PILGRIMS IN WAGONS AND TRUCKS.

232. *Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in November, 1928, on the occasion of the last Rashjatra festival, wagons and trucks were used for carrying pilgrims—men, women and children—to and from Navadwip in Bengal, and what steps do Government propose to take to put a stop to such methods in future?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I regret to say that in November, 1928, a few goods wagons were used for the carriage of festival pilgrims to and from Navadwip on the Krishnagar Light Railway, which is a narrow gauge line, 17½ miles in length, part of the Eastern Bengal Railway system. On a short narrow gauge line of this nature it is not always easy to provide sufficient spare coaching stock to meet unexpectedly large increases of passenger traffic, as stock from other portions of the system cannot be run on this branch. The Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway has been advised that it is the earnest desire of Government to avoid the carriage of passengers in goods wagons and, in connection with the Krishnagar Light Railway, the matter will be further enquired into.

LACK OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA AND GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAYS.

233. *Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy: Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that respectable middle class passengers invariably travel in intermediate class in all parts of India, and if so, why no arrangements have yet been made by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and Great Indian Peninsula Railways to run intermediate class compartments in every train meant for passengers?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply which I gave to Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's question No. 47 on the 6th February, 1928. Government are not prepared to press the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administrations to put on intermediate class accommodation where they do not think traffic justifies it.

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL INTERMEDIATE CLASS ACCOMMODATION FOR LADIES IN THE CHITTAGONG EXPRESS.

234. *Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the intermediate class compartments for ladies in the Chittagong Express of the Eastern Bengal Railway are

generally congested, as the accommodation is inadequate? Do Government propose to arrange for providing larger accommodation for ladies?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Honourable Member's question is the first intimation which Government have received that the intermediate class seats for ladies provided on this train are ordinarily insufficient to accommodate the lady passengers wishing to travel by it in that class. They will bring the Honourable Member's complaint to the notice of the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

235. ***Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if the life of the Indian Legislative Assembly is going to be extended?
- (b) if so, on what grounds and for how long?
- (c) if not, why not?

Mr. L. Graham: The power to extend the life of the Legislative Assembly, if in special circumstances he so thinks fit, is vested in the Governor General. Government are not in a position to make any statement.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN AS A MEMBER OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

236. ***Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that Mr. P. Sheridan, Member of the Railway Board, is retiring in April, 1929?
- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, when does the term of the said Mr. Sheridan expire?
- (c) if Government contemplate filling the next vacancy in the Membership of the Railway Board with an Indian drawn from among the Non-Official Members of the Indian Legislative Assembly?
- (d) if Government are aware that the late Lala Lajpat Rai made an observation in the Assembly to the effect that an Indian from the public of the country should be appointed as a Member of the Railway Board?
- (e) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, whether the Government propose to appoint any Indian at all, statutory or otherwise, for the said vacancy? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c), (d) and (e). The post which Mr. Sheridan fills in the Railway Board is one which can be filled only by a Railway officer of great traffic experience. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Railway Board the claims of all Indian officers possessing the necessary qualifications and experience are invariably considered, and the same course will be followed on this occasion. Mr. Sheridan's successor has not yet been selected.

Mr. B. Das: May I remind the Honourable Member of the promise given by Sir Basil Blackett on the floor of this House that steps would be taken to appoint an Indian as a Railway Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I was answering a question about the vacancy created by Mr. Sheridan's retirement. The promise given by Sir Basil Blackett, I think, referred to the post of Financial Commissioner.

Mr. B. Das: Does it not apply here equally, Sir?

INTERNMENT OF DETENUS AT KODAIKANAL.

237. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that Kodaikanal has been used by Government for the internment of detenus under Bengal Regulation III of 1818, or any other enactment?
- (b) how many detenus have been confined in Kodaikanal from 1888 to 1929 and under what law?
- (c) how many detenus are still interned in Kodaikanal, who they are, for how long they have been detained, under what law and on what grounds?
- (d) whether the Government propose to release the internees in Kodaikanal?
- (e) whether one of the internees there detained under Regulation III of 1818 has been suffering from continuous ill-health?
- (f) whether it is a fact that the Kodaikanal hills do not suit the internee referred to in (e)?
- (g) whether they would consider the advisability of giving passports to the said internee under Regulation III, to proceed to England or to some health resorts in France or Switzerland to recoup his health? If not, why not?
- (h) whether they would consider the advisability of his transfer to Mussoorie or Almora sanitarium or to Ootacamund? If not, why not? If yes, when?

Sir Denys Bray: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six; all under Regulation III of 1818.

(c) The *ex*-Maharaja of Nabha only, with regard to whose internment under Regulation III of 1818 I would refer the Honourable Member to the communiqué of the 19th February, 1928.

(d), (e) and (f). No, Sir.

(g) and (h). Not at present. But the question of a change would of course be considered, should the state of his health call for it. The last report of it, I am glad to say, was excellent.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: May I inquire why Kodaikanal of all hill stations was selected as the most anti-seditious place in India for the internment of these detenus?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Is the Honourable Member aware—as he has referred to a communiqué issued on the subject—that the detenu in Kodaikanal under Regulation III has repudiated the charge of disloyalty about him and that he has also stated that he is loyal to the Throne?

Sir Denys Bray: I have now heard that statement: I had not heard it before.

Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer: In view of this fact, will Government be pleased to consider the case of the detenu's release? Also in view of the fact that he has been under internment for over eleven months—on 19th February, he would have been under internment for a whole year—will they consider the question of his release?

Sir Denys Bray: The question of release or further detention of every detenu comes periodically under review.

RELEASE OF A DETENU INTERNED AT KODAIKANAL.

238. ***Mr. O. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a resolution passed by the Indian National Congress in December, 1928, at its Calcutta session regarding a detenu in Kodaikanal under Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

(b) Are Government aware that the said resolution was passed unanimously in the open session of the Congress?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they propose to consider the advisability of unconditional release of the said internee? If not, why not? If yes, when?

Sir Denys Bray: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No, Sir. I would refer the Honourable Member to the communiqué of the 19th February, 1928.

ENFORCEMENT OF PROVISIONS OF THE WASHINGTON HOURS CONVENTION AND GENEVA WEEKLY REST CONVENTION.

239. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state the date from which they incurred the obligation of enforcing the provisions of the Washington Hours Convention and Geneva Weekly Rest Convention, by ratifying them?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: 14th July, 1921, in the case of the Washington Hours of Work Convention, and 19th June, 1928 in the case of the Weekly Rest Day Convention.

CONSULTATION OF RAILWAY WORKS RE THE WASHINGTON HOURS CONVENTION AND THE GENEVA WEEKLY REST CONVENTION.

240. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state whether any consultation was made with the organisations of the railway workers before issuing any regulations excepting any railway staff from the benefit of the provisions of either the Washington Hours Convention or the Geneva Weekly Rest Convention, and are Government aware that such consultation is invariably prescribed in the said Conventions?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The provisions of the Washington Convention limiting the hours of work, and the Geneva Convention governing a weekly rest day, apply in British India only to such branches of railway work as may be specified for this purpose by the competent authority; and since no branches of railway work have so far been specified by com-

petent authority, no question has so far arisen of issuing any regulations making exceptions under the terms of the Conventions from the branches so specified. The Conventions do not prescribe consultation with organisations of employers and workers concerned as to the branches of railway work to be specified for the purpose of the Conventions by the competent authority, but only that these organisations should be consulted if, after branches of railway work have been specified, it is proposed to make permanent or temporary exceptions from them.

This is the position under the Conventions. Actually, as will be seen from my reply to Mr. Joshi's question No. 150 on the 23rd August, 1927, the Government of India have, by executive order to railway administrations, specified certain branches of railway work as those to which the limitation of hours of work to 60 per week should be applied; but the specification can only actually fulfil the terms of the Conventions when it is made by the competent authority, and, as was explained in the reply to Mr. Joshi's question, the Government of India are examining the question how a competent authority can be set up.

EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF WORKERS FROM THE BENEFIT OF A 60 HOURS' WEEK.

241. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Are Government aware that, by the modification of the order of 3rd September, 1921, by a later decision of 21st January, 1922, resulting in the exclusion of certain classes of Railway workers from the benefit of the 60 hours' week, without consulting the existing organisation of the workers, the provisions of the Washington and Geneva Conventions are violated?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: No. Since, as I have explained, no branches of railway work have so far been specified by the competent authority for the purpose of the Washington and Geneva Conventions, the obligation to consult organisations of employers and workers with regard to the permanent or temporary exceptions that may be allowed in certain circumstances from the branches so specified has not so far arisen. I should add that the order of the 23rd January, 1922, to which I understand the Honourable Member refers, was cancelled on the 18th September, 1922.

WEEKLY REST FOR RAILWAY SERVANTS.

242. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken so far to regulate the weekly rest of railway servants, even after the observation made by the Committee of Experts appointed to examine the annual reports under Article No. 408 of the Versailles Peace Treaty?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the observations of the Committee of Experts on the report for the year 1926. The branches of railway work to which the Weekly Rest Day Convention will apply have not as yet been specified in the manner contemplated in the Convention. The weekly rest day is, however, observed by railway administrations for practically all classes of employes except train staff, certain station staff, those engaged on light intermittent duties, and men employed on maintenance of way and bridges; but in all these cases periods of rest are arranged which go far to carry out the principle underlying the Convention.

REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE WASHINGTON HOURS CONVENTION.

243. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement regarding the railway staff who have been exempted from the benefit of Article No. 10 of the Hours Convention and a statement containing full information concerning regulations made under Article No. 6 of the Washington Hours Convention and their application?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: No branches of railway work have so far been specified by the competent authority, and consequently no exceptions have been made. No regulations have so far been made under Article No. 6 of the Washington Convention.

WEEKLY REST FOR RAILWAY SERVANTS.

244. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reason why the Resolution passed by the Indian Railway Conference in October, 1927, has not yet been given effect to, so as to regulate the weekly rest of railway servants and their working hours?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to give effect to the Resolution mentioned above?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Railways are proceeding to give effect to the Resolution passed by the Indian Railway Conference Association in October, 1927, but its enforcement will take time, as it requires in many cases the construction of additional quarters, the training of additional staff, and so on; in some cases also the re-arrangement of working hours has met with opposition from the staff concerned.

RETRENCHMENT OF WORKSHOPS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

245. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report of the Rogers and Jerrad Enquiry Committee on the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops Retrenchment, and a copy of the report of the Rogers and Tomilson Enquiry Committee regarding the South Indian Railway and East Indian Railway Workshops Retrenchment?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Copies of the reports have been placed in the Library.

CLASSIFICATION OF LABOUR ON THE DIFFERENT STATE RAILWAYS.

246. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to paragraph 161 in the report of the State Railway Workshops Committee regarding the difficulties experienced in the want of uniformity in the classification of labour, in the nomenclature of trades, unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, etc., and will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken and propose to take to bring about standardization and uniformity in the classification of labour on the different railway systems owned by the State, with a view to remove the difficulties complained of and enable proper comparison to be made?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The matter is now being considered by the Railway Board.

MINIMUM RATES OF PAY FOR SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOUR IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

247. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state the existing minimum rates of pay for skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled labour in each of the State-owned railway workshops?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The information is being collected for the Honourable Member.

CARD PASSES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR 1928 ON STATE RAILWAYS;

248. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of card passes issued during the year 1928, on each of the State-owned railways, excluding those issued to railway servants or employees working under contractors, carrying out railway work or those connected with railway labour associations?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government regret that they are not prepared to put railway administrations to the trouble of collecting this information.

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMPANY ADMINISTRATIONS OF STATE-OWNED RAILWAYS AND GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF PROVIDENT FUND RULES, ETC.

249. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state what are the exact relations between the company administrations of the State-owned railways and the Government in respect of the observance of State railway gratuity and provident fund rules, leave rules and other service regulations?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Each company administration has its own set of rules framed by its Board of Directors with the approval of Government and any substantial alterations require the approval of the latter.

APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL OFFICERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

250. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state on which State-owned railways, Personnel Officers are appointed, and the amount of expenditure annually incurred in this behalf?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: There are Personnel Officers on the North Western Railway, and officers called Staff Officers, who do the same work, on the East Indian Railway. The average annual cost of these posts is approximately Rs. 2,00,000. In addition, officers have been appointed on the North Western, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways specially for workshop labour, at an average annual cost of approximately Rs. 42,000.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF ANGLO-INDIANS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

251. ***Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolution passed at the recent Annual Convention of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation regarding the circular letter issued by the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway suggesting the appointment of Anglo-Indians on better scales of pay, in spite of inferior

qualifications, than Indians, and will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in respect of this racial discrimination, sought to be perpetuated by the Agent of a State Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Railway Board have not received a copy of the resolution mentioned by the Honourable Member, but I lay on the table a copy of the memorandum by the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway to whom the resolution presumably referred. The Honourable Member will see that the memorandum does not bear the interpretation suggested.

MEMORANDUM BY THE AGENT, EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

Recruitment.

As is well known to all Railway Officers the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Community have recently been much perturbed in connection with their future employment on Railways.

This Community has submitted two memorials to the Secretary of State to which considered replies have been issued. The present position may be summed up as follows :—

- (1) *Indianisation.*—The Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European has for this purpose the legal status of a Native of India and is eligible for appointments reserved for Natives of India (*vide* Home Department's Resolution No. 164-28-Esta., dated Simla 12th September, 1928).
- (2) The Railways may and will therefore continue to recruit such Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans of suitable education and other qualities as required; if necessary nominating such against the 33 per cent. reserved for minority communities where recruitment is by means of competitive examinations.
- (3) The Railway Board have received definite instructions from the Government of India that in the preparation of schemes for recruitment to the Subordinate Railway Services care must be taken not to impose conditions (of education, etc.) which would in effect seriously restrict the opportunities of employment on the Indian Railways which Anglo-Indians at present enjoy. These instructions must be duly observed.

Copy to all Heads of Departments for information and guidance. This Railway's policy is that the aptitude of Anglo-Indians for Railway work is recognised and there is no intention of ousting them from the position that they have won provided that they show themselves capable of retaining that position.

Sd. N. PEARCE,

Agent.

CALCUTTA :

The 7th November, 1928.

PIECE-WORK SYSTEM IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

252. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the piece system does not obtain in any other State railway press except the East Indian Railway Press?

(b) Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway Press workers are divided into three classes, permanent, time, and piece?

(c) If the reply to (a) and (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I propose, with your permission, Sir, to reply to questions Nos. 252 to 254 and 257 to 266 and 268 together. I am seeing if I can obtain for the Honourable Member the information for which he has

asked in questions Nos. 252, 253, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265 and 266, except with regard to the Bengal Government Press, which is under the control of the Provincial Government. Government regret they are not prepared to institute the very laborious enquiries which should be necessary to obtain the information in order to answer questions Nos. 254, 257, 258, 259, 260 and 268.

INADEQUATE PAY OF EMPLOYEES IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†253. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** Is it a fact that the workers in the East Indian Railway Press do not get the same pay as their brethren in the Government of India Press or the Bengal Government Press, though in the Handbook the rates are shown to be the same in all the three Presses?

RATES PAID FOR WORK IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS AND OTHER PRESSES.

†254. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Will Government kindly state the rate paid for a piece of work 44 x 72 Em non-pareil 15 column statement (open scheme matter), by the East Indian Railway Press, Government of India Press, and the Bengal Government Press, Calcutta, respectively?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to enquire into and enlighten the House on the matter?

NUMBER OF PIECE-WORKERS AND SALARIED HANDS DISMISSED FROM THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

255. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that when reductions are effected, it is the industrial and not the clerical hands that are affected?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, side by side, the number of piece-workers and salaried hands dismissed on account of reductions during the last 8 years?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No.

(b) The Government of India regret that they cannot undertake to compile the statement desired by the Honourable Member as it would involve an amount of time and labour disproportionate to the result.

INCREMENTS OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

256. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the supervising staff gets a yearly increment ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20?

(b) Is it a fact that of the compositors, only the permanent compositors get a yearly increment of Rs. 4 only?

(c) Is it a fact that the compositors under the piece-system do not get any yearly increment at all?

(d) If the replies to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: In the absence of any indication as to the particular press in respect of which the information is

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 252.

desired I regret I am not in a position to enlighten the Honourable Member. Generally speaking, it is however a fact that the rates of annual increment of pay of different classes of Government employees are different, while piece-workers are not allowed any regular rate of annual increment apart from what they can secure by improving their output. The reason for this arrangement is so obvious as hardly to require further elucidation.

RATES OF PAY OF COMPOSITORS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS AND OTHER PRESSES.

†257. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement of the class rates of the compositors in the Government of India Presses, Bengal Government Press, and the East Indian Railway Press?

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE INCOMES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT PRESSES.

†258. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, side by side, the income of overseers, head compositors, any three compositors, foreman, head clerk and any three clerks on the one hand and any five compositors, any five distributors and any five binders on the other, noting the name of each, in 1906 and 1927?

PROMOTIONS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†259. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway Press it is not infrequent that a raw junior with a few months' service to his credit is promoted over the heads of seniors who have grown grey in their service of the Government?

(b) Is it a fact that in the said Press it is always the few who regularly get promoted while others are left to vegetate for years in the same place?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of compositors in the East Indian Railway Presses at Calcutta and Howrah with:

- (i) Names,
- (ii) Dates of appointment, and
- (iii) Dates of promotions?

(d) If the replies to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action Government intend taking in the matter?

LOSSES ON LINOTYPE AND MONOTYPE MACHINES PURCHASED FOR THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†260. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that three lino and two mono machines have been purchased in the East Indian Railway Press immediately after the East Indian Railway became a State Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the mono machines cause to the Government a loss of 40 per cent. and the lino machines cause only 20 per cent. loss to the Government?

(c) Is it a fact that matters composed in mono or lino machines have to be melted away after printing, and that such melting can go on for five times only?

(d) Is it a fact that hand-composed matter last 90 lakhs of impressions?

(e) Is it a fact that hand-compositors are entitled to remuneration after the first reading, second reading, third reading, revised corrections and rule dress-up are finished?

(f) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the cost of composing by hand 44 x 72 Em non-pareil type 15 column statement, and that of having it in a mono-machine, noting specifically the charge of:

- (1) Operator,
- (2) Caster,
- (3) Arranging,
- (4) First reading corrections,
- (5) Second reading corrections,
- (6) Third reading corrections,
- (7) Revise corrections,
- (8) Rule Dress-up,
- (9) Gas,
- (10) Electricity,
- (11) Water, and
- (12) Metal?

(g) If the reply to (a) and (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why Government are replacing hand-composition by lino and mono machines?

PAYMENT OF "CALCUTTA ALLOWANCE" TO COMPOSITORS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†261. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that in May, 1920, the Agent, East Indian Railway, passed orders to the effect that the compositors would be placed on a par with the clerks?

(b) Is it a fact that they have been enjoying this privilege from that time up to 1926?

(c) If the reply to (a) and (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to explain the reasons thereof?

PAYMENT OF A FULL DAY'S PAY ON HALF-HOLIDAYS TO EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†262. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that in 1920 the Agent passed orders that the press people (compositors, distributors, pressmen, binders, etc.), would be allowed a full day's pay on half-holidays in general?

(b) Is it a fact that they have been enjoying this privilege from after that time up to 1926?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 252.

(c) Is it a fact that it has been stopped since the railway came under Government control?

(d) If the replies to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

GRANT OF CONCESSION RATES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS ON ALL RAILWAYS.

†263. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the Press employees are not allowed concession rates on railways other than the East Indian Railway, when even the day-labourers in the Lillooah workshop enjoy this privilege?

(b) Is it a fact that the Agent's Circular is to the effect that every employee of the East Indian Railway is entitled to these "concessions"?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government kindly inform the House why such discrimination is observed in the case of the Press employees?

RULES FOR RAILWAY PASSES FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†264. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rules applicable to the press employees and clerical staff in the East Indian Railway Press with regard to passes and the class of train in which they are entitled to travel?

(b) Is it a fact that since 1920, compositors drawing below Rs. 75 p. m. are not allowed intermediate class passes, and that this rule is not applicable to the clerks?

(c) Will Government kindly state why these discriminations, if any, are observed between the press employees and the clerical hands?

REVERSION TO A TEMPORARY BASIS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS OF PERMANENT COMPOSITORS TRANSFERRED FROM THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

†265. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that permanent hands cannot be reverted to temporary hands?

(b) Is there any rule to that effect?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state that rule?

(d) Is it a fact that permanent compositors of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Press on transfer from Lucknow to the East Indian Railway Press, Calcutta, have been made temporary?

(e) If the replies to (a) and (d) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

GRANT OF "CALCUTTA ALLOWANCE" TO PRESS EMPLOYEES OF THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY TRANSFERRED TO CALCUTTA.

†266. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the press employees of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Press, Lucknow, when transferred to Calcutta, were promised Rs. 5 as Calcutta allowance?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 252.

(b) Is it a fact that this promise has not been acted upon?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

PETITION TO THE SECRETARY, RAILWAY BOARD, OF COMPOSITORS TRANSFERRED FROM THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY PRESS.

267. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the compositors of the East Indian Railway Press transferred from the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Press, Lucknow, to Calcutta, sent a petition to the Secretary, Railway Board, Delhi, through the proper channels on the 25th February, 1928?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said petition?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any action was taken on the petition and, if so, what action?

(d) If the answer to the question be in the negative, will Government state the reason why no action was taken, and whether any action is going to be taken?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No such petition has come to the Railway Board.

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

NUMBER OF DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS, OVERSEERS, ETC., EMPLOYED IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†268. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing therein the number of:—

- (1) Deputy Superintendents;
- (2) Overseers;
- (3) Computers;
- (4) Checkers;
- (5) Clerks;
- (6) Compositors;
- (7) Distributors;
- (8) Pressmen;
- (9) Inkmen;
- (10) Machinememen; and
- (11) Binders;

employed in the East Indian Railway Presses, Howrah and Calcutta, from 1920 to 1927, year by year?

PROVISION OF A PROVIDENT FUND FOR EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

269. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the Resolution No. A.-31 of the Government of India, dated the 15th July, 1920, provides that the employees in the Government of India Press should have a provident fund similar to that in the State Railways?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 252.

(b) Is it a fact that nothing has yet been done to carry out that provision?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the causes of this delay of Government in executing their own orders,
- (ii) when they intend taking action on the matter?
- (iii) what they intend to do with regard to the men who have retired since the order was made in 1920, and for the families of those who have died since then either in service or after retirement?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes for all regular employees of the Government of India Presses recruited on and after the 15th July, 1920.

(b) and (c) (i) and (ii). The question of a provident fund for the press employees is part of the larger and complicated question of a State-aided provident fund for Government employees holding non-pensionable appointments generally, which is still under consideration.

(c) (iii). So far there has been no necessity to consider this point, as no such case has been submitted for the orders of Government. Enquiries will, however, be made from the Controller as to whether any such cases have arisen.

**MEMORIAL TO THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS
BY THE READERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS AT CALCUTTA.**

270. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the readers of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, sent a memorial to the Controller, Printing, Stationery and Stamps on the 5th May, 1928?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said memorial?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if Government contemplate taking any action on the said memorial, and if so, when and how?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The memorial was addressed to the Controller and has not, therefore, come before Government.

POSTS OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS.

271. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** Is it a fact that in the Government of India orders dated the 21st June with regard to the Government of India Press, Calcutta, only nine posts of readers have been sanctioned in the higher grade?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: In the orders referred to by the Honourable Member no additional post of reader was sanctioned, but nine posts out of 19 permanent in the lowest grade were converted into posts carrying higher rates of pay.

PAY OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS.

272. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that in the Bengal Government Press the pay of a reader is fixed at Rs. 110—8—150—10—250 whereas in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, it is fixed at Rs. 60—4—100?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons for this differential treatment when both the presses are situated in Calcutta, where the cost of living affects them equally?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The pay of readers in the Bengal Government Press is Rs. 110—8—150—10—250 (with efficiency bars at Rs. 150 and 200) while the rates of pay of readers in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are:

- (1) Rs. 60—4—100.
- (2) Rs. 110—8—150.
- (3) Rs. 160—10—200.
- (4) Rs. 200—10—250.

(b) The main difference is that in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, there is an additional grade on Rs. 60—4—100. The Government of India are satisfied that the pay of the various grades of readers in their Press at Calcutta is adequate.

TIME-SCALE OF PAY FOR READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS.

273. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the time-scale of pay does not obtain in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, so far as the readers are concerned?

(b) If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) It will be seen from my answer to the previous question that there are several time-scale rates of pay.

(b) Does not arise.

PAY OF READERS AND REVISERS IN THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT PRESS.

274. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the work of a reader entails a greater responsibility than that of a reviser?

(b) Is it a fact that in the Bengal Government Press the pay of the readers is higher than that of the revisers?

(c) If the reply to (a) and (b) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The responsibilities of a reader vary according to the grade in which he is employed. Generally speaking the duties of a reader are more responsible than those of a reviser.

(b) Yes.

(c) The rates of pay of readers and revisers in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, have been fixed with reference to their duties and responsibilities.

PAY OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

275. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that in the Resolution No. 31 of the Government of India, dated the 15th July, 1920, the pay of the readers is fixed as follows?—

	Calcutta and Delhi Scale.		Simla Scale.
	Rs.		Rs.
Readers	300—10—350	—	—
	160—10—200	180—10—220	
	110—8—150	125—8—165	

(b) Is it a fact that, in spite of the above scales fixed by the Government of India in its orders dated the 15th July, 1920, a new scale of Rs. 60—4—100 was introduced by the management?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member in charge state under what rules did the management vary the definite orders of the Government of India, and what remedies do the Government of India propose to those who have been deprived of the benefits of the orders of the Government?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes, but there were other grades on lower rates of pay sanctioned in the Resolution of the 15th July, 1920?

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

PAY OF REVISERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

276. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that in Resolution No. A-31 of the Government of India, dated the 15th July, 1920, the pay of the revisers was fixed at Rs. 60—4—110?

(b) Is it a fact that, in spite of the said Resolution, they were getting Rs. 45—8—75?

(c) Is it a fact that, in the recent orders of the Government of India, dated the 21st June, 1928, their pay has been increased and fixed at Rs. 60—4—100?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons why the orders fixing the scale at Rs. 60—4—100 were less liberal than the previous order contained in Resolution No. A-31 of the 15th July, 1920, which fixed the scale at Rs. 60—4—110, and of which the benefit was not given to those for whom it was intended?

(e) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if Government intend giving the men the benefit of the latter order retrospectively from the 15th July, 1920?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The scale sanctioned was Rs. 60—4—100, but owing to a clerical error it was shown as Rs. 60—4—110. The latter scale was not brought into force.

(b) A special scale of Rs. 45—8—75 was sanctioned by Government for revisers after the issue of the Resolution of 1920.

(c) Yes.

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

PAY OF CLERKS AND COPYHOLDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS.

277. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that, previous to 15th July, 1920, the pay of the ordinary clerks and the copyholders began from Rs. 15?

(b) Is it a fact that they all had to work for six hours daily?

(c) Is it a fact that the copyholders now work for eight hours a day and their pay has been fixed at Rs. 40—2—60, whereas the said clerks still work for six hours per day and their pay has been fixed at Rs. 40—5—140?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement of the earnings of the copyholders as well as of the ordinary clerks before the 15th July, 1920, with overtime allowances and war allowances?

(e) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons for this discrimination?

(f) Is it a fact that permanent copyholders are made temporary before being promoted to the post of a reader?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No, the minimum pay of the ordinary clerks was Rs. 20 and that of copyholders Rs. 15 p. m.

(b) The working hours for both the clerical and industrial hands were nominally fixed at 36 weekly. But the copyholders who are industrial hands did extensive overtime work and the average hours for them were sometimes in excess of 60 per week.

(c) The pay of copyholders has now been fixed at Rs. 40—40—45—3—60 on the basis of 8 hours work per day. If they work in excess of the normal working hours they get overtime allowance.

The normal working hours for clerks are six per day and the pay of lower grade clerks has been fixed at Rs. 40—40—45—5/2—70—5/2—100. If they work beyond the normal working hours they receive no extra remuneration.

(d) Government do not propose to collect the information desired by the Honourable Member, as it would entail an amount of time and trouble disproportionate to the result.

(e) The duties of the two classes of employees mentioned by the Honourable Member are of an entirely different character and their conditions of service differ materially.

(f) No.

PROMOTION OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS.

278. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: Is it a fact that, in promoting a reader to the next higher grade, no notice is taken of the incumbent's regularity of attendance and other qualifications, and that the decision is based simply on the remarks of the Accounts Branch?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government understand that in making promotions all relevant facts are taken into consideration by the Manager.

BUDGET GRANT FOR CERTAIN SALARIED INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES.

279. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the Budget of 1928-29 sanctioned Rs. 10,100 on account of salaried industrial employees?

(b) Is it a fact that the benefit of the same has been given to those for whom it was intended from the last week of June, 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that it should have been given from the 1st week of April, 1928?

(d) If the replies to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) to (d). The provision of Rs. 10,100 was made in the budget estimates of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, to meet the additional expenditure on the revision of the pay of the salaried industrial employees of that Press. Orders sanctioning the revision could not however be issued before the 21st June 1928, as it was considered desirable that all orders in connection with the memorials of both the salaried employees and piece-workers of the Calcutta Press should be issued simultaneously. Effect to the revised rates was accordingly given from the 1st July 1928.

HOURS OF WORK OF SECTION HOLDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AT CALCUTTA AND DELHI.

280. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the Section-holders in the Government of India Presses, Calcutta and Delhi, are not allowed payment for the interval for tiffin?

(b) Is it a fact that, according to Resolution No. A. 81 of the Government of India, dated 15th July, 1920, their hours of work have been fixed at 10 hours per day?

(c) Is it a fact that in practice they have to remain in office for 11 hours per day while they are paid for only 10 hours per day?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Section-holders being salaried hands, the question of payment for the meal interval does not arise in their case.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The scales of pay for the section-holders were fixed on a 10 hour basis. They are entitled to special overtime allowance after 10 hours work on any day.

INCREMENTS OF PAY OF SECTION HOLDERS AND READERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

281. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the section-holders, whose pay ranges from Rs. 125 to 175, get a yearly increment of Rs. 5 only, while the readers, whose pay ranges from Rs. 110 to 150, get a yearly increment of Rs. 8 and the readers, whose pay ranges from Rs. 160 to Rs. 200, get an increment of Rs. 10 per year?

(b) Is it a fact that the section-holders have to work for 10 hours per day, whereas the readers work for only eight hours daily?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to explain the reasons thereof?

(d) Is it a fact that the section-holders sent a memorial to the Government in August last with reference to this matter?

(e) Will the Honourable Member kindly lay on the table a copy of the said memorial?

(f) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if the Government contemplate taking any action on the said memorial, and if so, when and what?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: On the assumption that the Honourable Member desires information in respect of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, the replies are:

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, except that the hours work of the head reader and some of the senior readers are the same as those of section-holders.

(c) The pay and increments of section-holders and readers have been fixed with reference to their duties and responsibilities.

(d) The memorial has been withheld by the Controller under the rules regarding the submission of petitions to the Government of India.

(e) and (f). No.

LAND ATTACHED TO THE OLD KACHERI MUSJID AT PESHAWAR.

282. *Haji Chaudhury Mohammed Ismail Khan: (a) Are Government aware that a mali's hut was allowed to be constructed by the Cantonment Authority at Peshawar in the mosque known as old Kacheri Musjid, and that a part of the same was used for collecting manure?

(b) Is it a fact that after the matter was brought to the notice of the Government, a sub-committee was appointed by the Cantonment Board for inquiry, and that as a result of this inquiry, the mosque land was leased to Muslims in perpetuity without rent for religious purposes?

(c) Is it a fact that subsequently the District Headquarters took possession of this land by force and included it in the garden attached to its office?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India, Army Department, on the representation of the "Awqaf Committee" of Peshawar asked the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, after consulting with local civil authority, to report whether the land should be made over to the said Committee?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of this report?

(f) If that is not possible, will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any objection to the land being leased to the Committee; if so, what?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given on the 23rd March 1927 to Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan's starred question No. 1132.

(c) The land in question adjoins the Musjid, but has always been Government land. Steps have been taken to clear the site and to regularise its tenure in accordance with the wishes of the Muslim community. It is not the case that the Military authorities have taken possession of the Musjid.

(d) and (e). Government do not propose to lay on the table a copy of the official correspondence about this site.

(f) The objection to leasing the land to a committee is merely that there is no one committee in Peshawar which represents the wishes and views of the Muslim community as a whole, and would be acceptable to the whole community as the tenant of the site.

HANDING OVER TO THE AWQAF COMMITTEE, PESHAWAR, OF THE GRAVE YARD AREA OUTSIDE THE DABGARI GATE, PESHAWAR CANTONMENT.

283. *Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence which has taken place between the local civil authority and the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, at the instance of the Government of India, Army Department on the subject of handing over the grave-yard area outside Dabgari gate, Peshawar Cantonment, to the Awqaf Committee, Peshawar?

(b) Are Government aware that an Awqaf Committee of Peshawar, holds charge of several 'waqfs' properties attached to various mosques under the authority of law courts?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of handing over this grave-yard to the said Committee?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Government are not aware of the facts stated.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given to part (f) of his question No. 282.

HEARING OF CASES BY THE REVENUE AND JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE AT NATHIAGALI.

284. *Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Is it a fact that in former years the Revenue and Judicial Commissioners of the North-West Frontier Province were in the habit of holding their Courts at Nathiagali, the Summer Headquarters of the Local Government?

(b) Is it also a fact that in recent years the Government of India ordered the Courts to be held at Abbottabad in the Summer to obviate the unnecessary trouble caused to appellants in attending the Courts at Nathiagali, where there was no arrangement for the public to secure conveyance, accommodation, etc.?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list of cases which the present Revenue Commissioner had fixed for hearing at Nathiagali in the last Summer, giving reasons for deviating from the Government orders and involving great inconvenience to appellants?

Str Denys Bray: Enquiry is being made from the local administration and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member in due course.

SALE OF ADULTERATED GHEE IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

285. *Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have been numerous cases about the sale of adulterated ghee and other foodstuffs in the five districts of the North West Frontier Province recently?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of dealing strictly with such offences?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Enquiries are being made and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member later.

NUMBER OF PUNJABI AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE MUSLIMS EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS IN HAZARA.

286. *Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: Will Government please place on the table a statement showing:

(a) the number of Punjabi Muslims and Non-Muslims, and

(b) North-West Frontier Province Muslims and Non-Muslims,

serving in the clerical and executive establishments in the five Divisions of the Forest Sub Circle, and in the Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests in Hazara, in the North-West Frontier Province?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be supplied to him in due course.

NUMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE RECRUITED TO THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

287. *Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will Government please state whether the policy of the Government of India, adopted

generally in almost all Departments for redressing communal inequalities is in force in the Forest Department also?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government please state the numbers of members of minority communities belonging to the North-West Frontier Province, recruited in the establishment during the past two years?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) As regards the Indian Forest Service for which the Government of India make recruitment, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) It is not clear whether the Honourable Member is referring to recruitment for the forest establishment in the North-West Frontier Province or to recruitment for the Indian Forest Service. If the latter, attention is invited to the answer given by me to his question No. 291. If the former, as appears likely from the following question to be asked by him, I shall have to ask for information from the local administrations.

DISREGARD OF THE CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE TO EMPLOYMENT IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

288. ***Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that notice of temporary vacancies is not advertised by the Deputy Conservator of Forests in Hazara in any of the leading Muslim, English or Urdu newspapers, nor is the assistance of the Associations availed of, as is being done by the Military Accounts and other Departments, and that only the applications received at random by that Officer for employment are considered in filling up vacancies?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to have the system already adopted rectified?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being obtained and will be supplied to him in due course.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN MILITARY GRASS AND DAIRY FARMS IN INDIA.

289. ***Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan:** (1) Will Government please place on the table a statement showing the total strength of:

- (a) Ministerial establishments,
- (b) Assistant Supervisors, and Supervisors, and
- (c) Overseers,

serving in the Military Grass and Dairy Farms in India at present, and the number of Muslims among (a), (b) and (c)?

(2) Will Government please state what steps, if any, have so far been taken by the Department to prevent (a) the preponderance of one community, and (b) how many members of the Muslim community have been recruited in each branch of the above mentioned services for redressing the communal inequalities since the receipt of Army Department Circular Memorandum No. 39346/1 (A. D.), dated the 19th November, 1926, from the Establishment Officer to all Heads of Military Departments in India?

Mr. G. M. Young: (1) and (2). I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

(1)	Total number of Indians.	Number of Muslims.
(a)	207	41
(b)	62	4
(c)	100	41

(2). (a) Orders have recently been issued by the Director of Farms, to regulate future recruitment in the department in such a way as to arrive at the desired proportion between Muslims and Non-Muslims as soon as possible.

(b) No Muslims have been recruited in Dairy Farms since the issue of the Army Department letter, but one Muslim in the ministerial establishment and six as Overseers have been recruited in Grass Farms.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

290. ***Haji Chaudhry Mohammad Ismail Khan:** (1) Will Government please place on the table a statement showing the present clerical establishments in the following Offices in the North-West Frontier Province, and the number of Muslims among them:

- (a) General Officers Commanding the Districts, including Subordinate Offices,
- (b) Military Engineering Service,
- (c) Executive Officers, and
- (d) Royal Air Force Units?

(2) Will Government please state what action, if any, has been taken by the District Headquarters of Peshawar on the demi-official note dated the 2nd March, 1925, from Field Marshal Sir Claud William Jacob, then General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, on the subject of non-Muslim cliques capturing clerical appointments in military offices, allowing no footing to Muslims of the North-West Frontier Province?

(3) Will Government please state the number of members of the Muslim community recruited in the offices mentioned above for redressing communal inequalities since the receipt of Government of India, Army Department, letter No. 88846/1 (A. D.), dated the 19th November, 1926, addressed to all Heads of Military Departments in India?

Mr. G. M. Young: (1) and (3). The information will be collected and supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

(2) As a result of Sir Claud Jacob's letter the Government of India examined the whole question of communal representation in command and district headquarter offices of the Army and orders were issued in January 1926, to the effect that the claims of the minority communities should be borne in mind when appointments are made in the clerical establishments of Commands, Districts and Brigades and in other offices the cost of which is met from the Army Estimates.

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS EMPLOYED IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT OF THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

291. ***Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan**: With reference to the statement showing the Muslim Imperial Forest Service Officers serving in various Provinces in the Forest Department in India, furnished by Government in reply to starred question No. 450 (volume 8, Number 6, page 537) asked by Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah on the 11th September, 1928, do Government propose to give effect to the general policy in connection with redressing communal inequalities, and take steps to bring about a due proportion of increase in the number of Muslim Officers in the Forest Department in the Punjab, which includes the North-West Frontier Province?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: In recruiting for the Indian Forest Service, Government already resort to nomination, when necessary, in order to redress communal inequalities. A member of the Muslim community was nominated last year as an Indian Forest Service probationer and has recently been posted to the Punjab on completion of his training at Dehra Dun. The principle of redressing communal inequalities is, however, applied to an all-India Service as a whole, and not to individual provinces.

CASE OF MR. MUNIRUDDIN, A SUB-ENGINEER ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

292. ***Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury**: (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Muniruddin, Sub-Engineer, Construction Branch, North-Western Railway, was appointed as Inspector of Works and posted to Delhi Division on the 18th February, 1928, subject to his passing the usual Health Examination in Class B?

(b) Is it a fact that on April 30th, 1928, without assigning any reason, the Agent, North-Western Railway, informed Mr. Muniruddin that they were not prepared to employ him on the open line as Inspector of Works?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why after sending the appointment letter to Mr. Muniruddin, the Agent, North-Western Railway, refused to employ him?

Mr. A. A. I. Parsons: I am addressing the Agent and will communicate his reply to the Honourable Member on its receipt.

SUBSTITUTION OF CHARCOAL FOR FIREWOOD SUPPLIED TO PILGRIMS IN SHIPS.

293. ***Haji Abdoola Haroon**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not substituting charcoal for firewood supplied to the pilgrims in ships?

(b) Are Government aware that in the past there have been many complaints from pilgrims regarding wood supplied to them?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Government have not considered this question before, but will do so.

(b) Government have received no complaints on the subject.

CONCESSION FARES FOR PILGRIMS.

294. *Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Indian Merchant Shipping Act allows two persons of the age of one year or upwards and under the age of twelve years to be reckoned as one passenger?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, do Government propose to allow the concession referred to above in the case of pilgrims?

(c) If the Government are prepared to allow the concession, do they propose to issue a notification in the Gazette of India directing that the above concession be allowed to pilgrims during the ensuing Haj Season?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether any of the shipping companies have approached Government in the past to allow the above concession to pilgrims? If so, what was the Government's reply?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes, for certain purposes.

(b) and (c). No; because the change will be opposed to the provisions of the International Sanitary Convention.

(d) One shipping company approached the Government of India in the matter in 1916; but for the reason given in answering parts (b) and (c) of the present question, the suggestion of the shipping company was not accepted.

ARTICLE IN THE *MUSLIM OUTLOOK* REGARDING THE GRIEVANCES OF HAJIS.

295. *Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to an article under the caption of "Haji's grievances" published in the *Muslim Outlook* of Lahore, dated 18th December, 1928, as well as the *Inkilab* of Lahore, dated 16th November, 1928?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken in that direction?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Government hope that the Committee to enquire into pilgrims' grievances, which they have decided to appoint, will be able to assess the truth and the extent of the hardships complained of and will suggest remedies.

CASES OF RIOTS IN THE PESHAWAR DISTRICT JAIL.

296. *Haji Chaudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: Will Government be pleased to state how many cases of riots have occurred in the Peshawar District Jail during the past five years, in which razors and poisons have been used by convicts, and on whom does the responsibility lie in these cases, and what action, if any, have Government taken against the officers and staff of the Jail?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The information has been called for from the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

DACOITIES AND HIGHWAY ROBBERIES IN THE DISTRICT OF PESHAWAR.

297. *Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi: (1) With reference to the reply given by Government to parts (a) to (d) of Question No. 510, asked by me on the 12th September, 1928 (page 616, Volume III, No. 7), will the Government be pleased to state whether the dacoities and highway robberies in the District of Peshawar have been committed during recent years generally by:

(a) persons living in the Tribal Territories administered by the Chief Commissioner, or

(b) people living in British Territory who have no ostensible means of livelihood?

(2) In the former case will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not possible for the Political Officers in charge of Tribal Areas on the border of Peshawar District to bring pressure to bear on the tribes in receipt of subsidies from Government to prevent their members from committing offences in British Territory?

(3) In the latter case, will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any reason why proceedings under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code should not be enforced in the District, as had been done by the Commissioner of Peshawar Division in 1886-86?

(4) Is it a fact that recently three Magistrates of Mardan sub-District were stripped of their clothes on the road a few miles away from Mardan by badmashes? If so, is the road situated in Tribal or British Territory?

Sir Denys Bray: (1) Very few of the dacoities and highway robberies of recent years have been committed by persons living in Tribal Territories. Most of them have been traced to local bad characters, sometimes acting in conjunction with friends who are temporarily residing in Tribal Territory as outlaws. A number of such offences are also committed by cold weather immigrants from without India.

(2) Pressure is brought to bear in every case where an offence can be traced to a tribe under political control and in receipt of allowances.

(3) Section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, is used, wherever possible, but evidence is difficult to secure owing to fear of reprisals.

(4) It is true that three Magistrates were robbed by a gang on a road situated in British territory.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF SERVICES UNDER THE IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

298. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that ordinary and honours graduates of Indian universities are placed on the same footing with Senior Cambridge diplomates in competitive examinations for recruitment to services in both Provincial and Imperial Governments?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that the time and expense involved in undergoing a degree examination in any Indian university and the number of subjects studied therefor are far greater than those for a Senior Cambridge Examination?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) This is so in the case of certain services, if by being placed on the same footing the Honourable Member refers to the fact that there are often alternative minimum qualifications for admission to examinations.

(b) The provision about the Senior Cambridge examination has been introduced in order that candidates who take a different course of studies not leading up to the degree of an Indian university may not be entirely debarred from competing.

(c) The facts are probably as stated by the Honourable Member, save in respect of the number of subjects studied.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Honourable Member aware that graduates of the Roorkee college are not allowed to compete for the Indian Civil Service; in other words, they are placed in a different category from the graduates of other Indian Universities?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I would point out to the Honourable Member that the same remarks apply to persons holding the Senior Cambridge Certificate. That is not a qualification for entry to the competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Is it a fact that the examination is open to those who have passed at least B. A. or B. Sc. of an Indian University and that the Senior Cambridge Certificate is considered adequate for Europeans and Anglo-Indians to compete for the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: As the Honourable Member suggests, candidates holding the school certificate are largely domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: My point is whether graduates are equal to the Senior Cambridge men or other equivalent examination? Are they treated as equal to the Senior Cambridge men in point of education?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I should like to point out to the Honourable Member that so far as the competitive examination is concerned, there is no discrimination in favour of any class of persons who are admitted to it. They compete on equal terms; the ages prescribed are the same, and if graduates have, as might reasonably be suggested that they have, superior qualifications to those holding School Certificates, those advantages will naturally assist them in the competition.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: That is not my point, Sir. My point is this. Why should the qualifications be fixed so high for Indians and why should they be so low for Anglo-Indians and Europeans?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I have endeavoured to answer that in my reply to the Honourable Member, when I pointed out that the provision about the Senior Cambridge Examination has been introduced in order that candidates who take a different course of study not leading up to a degree may not be entirely debarred from competing.

STATUS OF SENIOR CAMBRIDGE STUDENTS AND OF MATRICULATES AND FIRST ART BOYS OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

299. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a Senior Cambridge Diplomat has to undergo a four years

college course if he chooses to go up for the Degree examination and if so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why such Diplomates are given higher status than that of the Matriculates or the First Art boys of the Indian Universities for purposes of recruitment to the Services?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With regard to the second part I have explained the position in my answer to the last question.

ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF ANGLO-INDIANS IN EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO SUBORDINATE RAILWAY SERVICES.

300. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, in the matter of subordinate railway examinations for recruitment to subordinate railway services, graduates alone in the case of Indian boys are admitted for the examinations; but these are freely open to Senior Cambridge Diplomates if they be Anglo-Indians and not Indians?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 300 and 301 together. I have found some difficulty in dealing with the Honourable Member's questions from my ignorance of the exact examinations to which he refers, and my inability to find in any rules, which I have examined, any such differentiation between different communities. If the Honourable Member will give me particulars of the examinations to which he refers, I will have the matter taken up. Government see no reason why there should be any such differentiation.

ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF ANGLO-INDIAN STUDENTS,

†301. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why an Indian Senior Cambridge diplomate is not regarded as equal in educational qualifications to an Anglo-Indian Senior Cambridge diplomate for the purposes of recruitment to the Services?

GRANT OF LICENCES TO NON-MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS FOR TARGET PRACTICE.

302. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: Will the Government be pleased to state if there are any bye-laws regulating the granting of licences to non-military associations for target practice, and if so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of these bye-laws on the table?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The conditions on which the licences are issued are printed on the form of licence, form XV of Schedule VIII to the Indian Arms Rules. The Government of India have issued no further instructions.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS OF THE INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS AND THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS.

303. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they are aware of the hardships caused to the graduates of the B. Commerce Examinations of the Indian universities who chose to appear for the competitive examinations of the Indian Audit and Accounts and the

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 300.

Military Accounts Department and of the Imperial Secretariat, in that the curricula of the B. Commerce Examinations do not tally with the syllabus of the Examinations of the Indian Audit and Accounts and the Military Accounts Department, and of the Imperial Secretariat?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the Article "Embargo on Commercial Education" published in the *Hindustan Times* of 12th June, 1928, and if so, will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) and (b). The attention of the Government was drawn to the article referred to, but it appeared after the Indian Audit and Accounts Service Examination syllabus for 1928 had been published. The syllabus comes under consideration every year and the representations made in the article will be considered in connection with the revision of the syllabus for 1929.

ESTABLISHMENT OF URBAN UNITS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.

304. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: Will the Government be pleased to supply information on the following points:

- (a) Names of places where urban units of the Territorial Forces have been established with the dates on which they were established?
- (b) Their present strength?
- (c) If they have reached the limits of their capacity for expansion?
- (d) If the Calcutta Corporation had passed a Resolution desiring the establishment of an urban corps for Calcutta, and if so, what action has been taken in the matter?
- (e) Will the Government be pleased to state if they propose to establish urban units in Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Amraoti and if so, when?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Two units have been established at Bombay, one at Madras and one at Allahabad and Lucknow.

(b) Enrolment is now proceeding. I do not know how many applications have been received so far.

(c) No.

(d) Yes. The Government of India are in correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject.

(e) Not at present, Sir.

PROCESSION OF EX-SEPOYS TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE, LAHORE.

305. *Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reports which appeared in the Press regarding the ex-sepoy's procession to the Government House, Lahore?

(b) Is it a fact that the ex-sepoy's camped on the road-side without food and spent the whole night in the winter-cold of Lahore in the open?

(c) Is this matter receiving the attention of the Government of India and the Indian Soldiers' Board?

(d) What steps are being taken to ameliorate the condition of the ex-soldiers?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes.

(b) They certainly remained on the roadside.

(c) and (d). The Local Government and the Provincial and District Soldiers Boards are primarily concerned, and the Government of India are informed that these authorities are taking all possible steps to deal with any genuine grievances of the ex-soldiers. The Indian Soldiers Board, at the headquarters of the Government of India, is concerned only with individual cases of distress reported to it through the provincial and district Boards. The Honourable Member has probably seen the communiqué issued by the Punjab Government, setting forth at length the various measures taken by the Government of India and the Local Government for the benefit of ex-service men, including rewards in land and cash, post war relief, facilities for civil employment and educational assistance for their children.

DEATH, WHILE ATTENDING TO HIS DUTIES, OF ABDUL MANNAN MULLA,
SUB-POSTMASTER, GOALUNDO GHAT.

306. ***Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that Abdul Mannan Mulla, Sub-Post Master, Goalundo Ghat, District Faridpur, Bengal, died while attending to his duties at the post office on July 21st, 1928?

(b) Is it a fact that in early July he had applied for leave and immediate relief?

(c) Is it a fact that on July 18th, he sent a telegram to the Superintendent of Post Offices, Faridpur Division, requesting immediate relief?

(d) Is it a fact that on July 20th, the day previous to his death, he sent another telegram "please relieve me, my life in danger" and yet was not relieved?

(e) Is it a fact that there is a standing order of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs that in all cases of officials reporting sick, immediate relief is to be sent, and in the event of no relief being available, a telegram to be sent to the Head of the Circle to send a relief?

(f) Was the instruction of the Director General followed in this particular case? If not, why not?

(g) Do the Government intend to make any special provision for the family of the deceased, who displayed such a conspicuous example of devotion to public duties?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) Not on 20th, but on the 21st July.

(e) Yes.

(f) A telegram ordering the immediate relief of Mr. Abdul Mannan Mulla was approved by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Faridpur Division, for issue, but was not issued owing to the carelessness of the Superintendent's head clerk. The head clerk has been reduced to the time-scale and the Director-General is investigating the share of the Superintendent in the case.

(g) The matter is under consideration.

URGENT NEED FOR STOPPING THE SIND MAIL AT DOKRI STATION.

307. ***Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to a letter published in the *Alwahid* of Karachi in its issue of 11th January, 1929, drawing the attention of the Railway Board to the urgent need of stopping the Express Train, i.e., the Sind Mail, at Dokri Station, which is a crossing Station?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No.

(b) I will send a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the North Western Railway in order that he may consider the matter; Government cannot themselves take any part in the arrangement of the time-tables. I should also point out to the Honourable Member that if express trains were halted at all crossing stations they would very quickly cease to be express.

GRANT OF EXTRA WAGES OR CREDIT LEAVE TO THE COMPOSITORS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS WHEN EMPLOYED ON HOLIDAYS.

308. ***Mr. Satyendra Ohandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the employees of the Government of India Press, Bengal Government Press, Bihar and Orissa Government Press and other provincial Government Presses get extra wages or credit leave when they work during a holiday?

(b) Is it a fact that the compositors of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press get no extra wages or credit leave when they work during the holidays?

(c) Is it a fact that the clerks of the Eastern Bengal Railway Office and the Eastern Bengal Railway Press get travelling allowance when they are employed in work during the holidays?

(d) If the reply to (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I propose, with your permission, Sir, to reply to questions Nos. 308 to 314 together. I am seeing if I can obtain for the Honourable Member the information for which he has asked in questions Nos. 308, 309, 310, 311 and 312 except in regard to those presses which are under the control of Provincial Governments. Government regret that they are not prepared to make the enquiries suggested in question No. 311, or to institute the laborious investigation which should be necessary in order to answer questions Nos. 313 and 314.

WAGES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS.]

†309. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the employees of the Government of India Press and of other State Railway Presses get extra wages if they work after 2 P.M. on half-holidays when the offices close?

(b) Is it a fact that the compositors of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press get no extra wages for their work from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. on Saturdays, when their office closes at 2 P.M., and their extra wages are allowed for their work after 5 P. M.?

(c) If the reply to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons thereof and does he propose to take proper steps for the payment of extra wages to the compositors for their work immediately after office hours?

(d) Is it a fact that the clerks of the Eastern Bengal Railway Office get increments in their salary every year according to a graded scale?

(e) Is it a fact that the Press employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press get no yearly increment and have no graded scale of pay?

(f) Is it a fact that the Press employees of the East Indian Railway Press get yearly increments and have also a graded scale of pay?

(g) If the reply to (d), (e) and (f) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

WAGES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS.

†310. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the Press employees of the East Indian Railway Press get their salary and their overtime wages at the same time?

(b) Is it a fact that the Press employees of the Government of India Press and other provincial Government Presses get their salary and other overtime wages at the same time?

(c) Is it a fact that the Press employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press do not get their salary with their overtime wages at the same time?

(d) If the reply to (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member in charge be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND OVERSEER OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS.

†311. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent in all the Government and State Railway Presses are recruited from home and they are all expert printers having passed the necessary examination?

(b) Is it a fact that the present Superintendent in the Eastern Bengal Railway Press does not possess the same qualifications as are possessed by the Superintendents in the Government and State Railway Presses, and that he was a clerk in a mercantile office?

(c) Will the Honourable Member in charge be pleased to enlighten the House as to the following matters:

- (i) Where the present Overseer and Superintendent in the Eastern Bengal Railway Press worked before they were appointed in their present posts?
- (ii) What was the amount of salary in their former posts?
- (iii) What are their qualifications?
- (iv) How were they selected for their present appointments?
- (v) What were their initial salaries and what are their salaries at present?

(d) If the reply to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

PROVISION OF A TIFFIN ROOM FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS.

†312. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that there is no tiffin room, and there is no arrangement for the supply of even drinking water, for the employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press, while there is such arrangement for such employees in the Government Presses and for the clerks of the Eastern Bengal Railway Presses?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

EXPENDITURE IN THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS.

†313. *Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra: Will the Honourable Member in charge be pleased to enlighten the House as regards the following matters:

- (i) What amount of money was spent over the salary and overtime wages for the workmen in the Eastern Bengal Railway Press during the last ten years, year by year and what was the number of workers under each department, viz., compositors, machine, press, linemen and binders for the corresponding period year by year?
- (ii) What amount of money was spent over the salary and overtime wages for the clerks, supervising staff and auxiliaries in the Eastern Bengal Railway Press during the last ten years, year by year, and the numerical strength of the clerical, supervising and auxiliary staff of the corresponding period, to be shewn year by year?
- (iii) What amount of money was spent for the purchase of printing machinery, metal, shooting, brush, type, coal, molasses, hammer, chase, printing ink, paper in the Eastern Bengal Railway Press during the last ten years?
- (iv) What amount was allowed as discount after purchasing the aforesaid articles for the Eastern Bengal Railway Press during the last ten years?
- (v) What amount of money was realised by selling old machinery, printing press, type, etc., of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press during the last ten years?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 308.

**AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED FOR SALE OF WASTE PAPER IN THE
EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS.**

†314. ***Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra**: Will the Honourable Member in charge be pleased to enlighten the House as to the following matters:

- (a) What amount of money was realised by selling waste paper in the Eastern Bengal Railway Press during the last ten years?
- (b) Was any tender invited for the sale of such waste papers?
- (c) How many persons applied for the tender and what were their names?
- (d) If the reply to (c) be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

**EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS IN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF
NATIONS AT GENEVA.**

815. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (on behalf of Munshi Iswar Saran):

(a) Will Government state what contribution India will be required to pay towards the expenses of the League of Nations during the next financial year?

(b) Will Government state the number of Indians employed in the Secretariat of the League?

(c) Are Government prepared to issue definite instructions to the next Indian delegation to the League to impress on the authorities the justice of increasing the representation of Indians in the Secretariat?

(d) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling in the country that Indian delegations to the League of Nations, Imperial Conferences and similar other bodies should always have Indians at the head?

(e) Are Government prepared to act in accordance with this feeling? If not, why not?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) The net contribution of India for 1929 is approximately Rs. 7,62,000.

(b) Two posts in the League Secretariat and three posts in the International Labour Office. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 4 of the Interim Report of the 1928 Delegation, from which it appears that a new post is being created for an Indian in the Information Section of the League Secretariat.

(c) The Government of India cannot at this stage determine precisely what instructions will be given to the delegates, but I would remind the Honourable Member that our delegates in the past have persistently raised this question.

(d) and (e). Government are aware of this feeling. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the speech of the late Law Member in the Council of State on the 9th March, 1927, following up the announcement made by him in that Chamber on the 24th August, 1926, and to the Honourable Mr. Haig's speech in the Council of State on the 18th March, 1928. Government have nothing to add to those pronouncements.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 308.

RUMOURED FORMATION OF A NEWSPAPER SYNDICATE IN INDIA UNDER HIGH OFFICIAL PATRONAGE.

316. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (on behalf of Munshi Iswar Saran): Will Government state if there is any truth in the rumour that, at the instance or suggestion of Lord Burnham, a Member of the Statutory Commission, a newspaper syndicate under high official patronage is proposed to be formed in India?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: Government have no information of the proposed formation of any such newspaper syndicate.

GRANT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE AERO CLUB IN INDIA AND EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS THEREIN.

317. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (on behalf of Munshi Iswar Saran): (a) Will Government state what amount is being paid, or is proposed to be paid, to the Aero Club in India?

(b) How many Indians are employed in this Club? What positions are they occupying? What are their salaries?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) A sum of Rs. 30,000 has been paid to the Aero Club of India and Burma as a grant-in-aid during the current financial year. It is proposed to contribute a similar amount in 1929-30.

(b) No Indians are employed in the Aero Club as officers or clerks.

REDUCTION OF ARMY EXPENDITURE IN INDIA.

318. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (on behalf of Munshi Iswar Saran): Will Government state when it is proposed to reduce the army expenditure in India to rupees fifty crores as recommended by the Incheape Committee?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: This is a matter on which a formal statement has been made by Government on more than one occasion, the most recent being Sir Basil Blackett's speech in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th March, 1927, and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's speech in the Assembly on the 8th March, 1928. For any further statement in regard to military expenditure, I must ask my Honourable friend to wait until the Budget for 1929-30 is presented.

TRAINING OF INDIANS FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

319. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (on behalf of Munshi Iswar Saran): Will Government state what steps are being taken to train Indians for the Royal Air Force?

Mr. G. M. Young: The Honourable Member is no doubt aware of the decision to form gradually an Indian air squadron, and to train Indian Officers at Cranwell. Steps have been taken in accordance with that decision. Six vacancies at Cranwell have been offered for competition to Indians this year. As soon as successful candidates begin going to Cranwell, the rank and file of a flight will be recruited and trained.

PAY OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN RAJPUTANA.

320. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda:** With reference to the Honourable Sir Denys Bray's reply to my supplementary question No. 888, asking for notice (*vide* Legislative Assembl. Debates, Volume III, No. 6, page 493), will Government please state why and when these sub-assistant surgeons of Rajputana were employed on the understanding that their pay would be regulated by the United Provinces scale, and has their initial pay been fixed after taking into consideration their past permanent services, as has been done in the United Provinces? Are Government prepared to reconsider the matter?

Sir Denys Bray: When the sub-assistant surgeons entered service in Rajputana, the understanding was that their pay would be regulated according to the United Provinces scale, since the Medical Department of Rajputana originally formed part of that of the United Provinces. The United Provinces scale of pay was therefore generally applied to the sub-assistant surgeons in Rajputana. In 1925 the Government of India sanctioned with retrospective effect the adoption in the case of these sub-assistant surgeons of the revised time-scale introduced by the Government of the United Provinces. For the reasons given in my reply of August 1926 the initial pay on the new scale has been regulated in accordance with the rule in Fundamental Rules 22 and 23 and not with reference to past permanent service. As stated in my reply of September, 1928, Government are prepared to consider any proposals which the Local Administration may make in respect of individual officers with good records in whose cases the application of Fundamental Rules 22 and 23 has in its opinion resulted in undue hardship.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIANS ON MUNICIPALITIES IN KENYA.

321. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the manifesto issued by the Kenya Central Indian Association in November last and published in the *Kenya Daily Mail* of the 7th December, 1928?

(b) Is it a fact that, owing to the strong opposition of the Indian community to the recommendations of the Feetham Commission, a round table conference was convened by the Governor of Kenya to settle the question of the representation of the various communities on municipalities? If so, what are the recommendations of the conference?

(c) Were these recommendations published for public information? Is it a fact, as stated in the manifesto referred to above, that the Governor gave an undertaking that no action would be taken on the recommendations before the parties concerned were given an opportunity of considering them?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with questions Nos. 321 and 322 together. I regret that I am not in a position today to answer these questions, as some of the information required for answering them is not yet available. I would therefore request the Honourable Member to ask these questions on another date which, subject to your approval Sir, can be arranged to suit our mutual convenience.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIANS ON MUNICIPALITIES IN KENYA.

†322. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Did the legislation introduced into the Kenya Legislative Council with regard to the municipal question follow the recommendations of the round table conference? If not, in what respect did it depart from them?

(b) Is it a fact that, contrary to the expressed wishes of the Indian community, provision was made for Indian representation by means of nomination?

(c) Are Government aware that, as a protest against the action of the Kenya Government, the Indian community have withdrawn their members from the interim committees formed under the Municipal Ordinance of November, 1928, in Nairobi and Mombassa to make arrangements for bringing the municipal councils into existence?

(d) What steps have the Government of India taken to represent the Indian case to the authorities concerned?

PAYMENT BY INDIANS OF AN EDUCATION TAX IN KENYA.

323. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Are Indians required to pay an education tax in Kenya?

(b) Is it a fact, as stated in the manifesto of the Kenya Central Indian Association, that only a portion of the income from this tax is devoted to education, the rest of the proceeds being diverted to other purposes? If so, what action have Government taken in the matter?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have made enquiries.

PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN RHODESIA.

324. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Are Government aware that the Indians in Rhodesia are desirous that the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa should look after their interests also; and assist them in removing the disabilities they suffer from?

(b) Do Government propose to give effect to this suggestion? If not, what steps do they propose to take to protect the interests of Indians in Rhodesia?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Government understand that such a desire has been expressed.

(b) The Indian community in Rhodesia have not approached the Government of India direct on the subject so far. If they do, their views will certainly be considered.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 321.

STATUS OF THE AGENT FOR INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA.

325. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunsru:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following remarks of the *Cape Times* regarding the status of the Indian Agent in South Africa:

"Mr. Sastri has been so much bigger than his post that few have noticed how small in itself the post is The Government of India will probably find it desirable on general grounds to enlarge the post and to match it somewhat more equally with the man":

(b) Will Government consider the desirability of suitably raising the status of the post?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Government propose to defer consideration of this suggestion until they have acquired more experience of the post, which was created only in June 1927.

GRIEVANCES OF POST OFFICE SORTERS STATIONED IN THE MUFASSIL IN BURMA.

326. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the result of the memorial submitted by the sorters stationed beyond Rangoon regarding their grievances caused by (1) the introduction of two scales of pay and thereby blocking the transfer of sorters from the mofussil to Rangoon?

(b) If the reply given to the memorialists is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not the fact that service in the mofussil is most difficult and the sanitary conditions are worse and living dearer?

(c) Did the memorialists furnish any agreement before or after entering the Department that they will throughout service serve in the mofussil and not in Rangoon? If not, under what circumstances were they deprived of the advantage enjoyed so long?

(d) Do the Government propose to amalgamate both the scales into one under the above circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The memorials were rejected by the Government of India in August last.

(b) The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) No. With the introduction from the 1st March, 1927, of two scales of pay for the Railway Mail Service sorters, one for Rangoon and another for the mofussil, transfers between the two cadres are not permissible except under special circumstances. This cannot be considered a grievance by the mofussil sorters as the difference in the two scales of pay represents chiefly the difference between the two localities in the cost of living.

(d) Government are not prepared to re-open the question.

HELP RENDERED BY GOVERNMENT TO POST OFFICE SORTERS INJURED IN A RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN BURMA.

327. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that there was a collision of 1 Up Express with 845 Up Goods Train at Thawatti Railway Station in Burma, in which R. 9 In Sec. was working on the 22nd May, 1928? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the total number of sorters who sustained injuries and the help rendered to them?

(b) Are any of the injured sorters still on leave? If so, what kind of leave have they been granted and what other help has been rendered to them by the Department?

(c) Is it a fact that the injured sorters are unfit for night duty, and do the Government propose to allow them light and day duty? If not, why?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Yes: two sorters were injured and were granted hospital leave on average pay for 3 and 4 months respectively. A third sustained shock.

(b) Both the injured sorters are on regular leave on medical certificate in extension of the hospital leave. No other help has been rendered to them by the Department.

(c) Until the sorters return to duty, it is impossible to say whether they will be unfit for any particular class of duty.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POST MASTER, SILCHAR.

328. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** With reference to the Government reply to question No. 70, in last Simla Session, regarding responsibilities of the Post Master, Silchar, Telegraph Master, Silchar and Head Record Clerk, Silchar, do the Government still, after compiling the statistics, consider that the responsibilities of the Post Master, Silchar, are not greater? If so, how? If not, why the pay of the Post Master, Silchar, is less than that of the Telegraph Master and Head Record Clerk, Silchar?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Government are still of opinion that the responsibilities of the Postmaster, Silchar, are not greater than those of either the Telegraph Master or the Head Record Clerk at that place. Apart from monetary and administrative responsibilities the pay of the Telegraph Masters is fixed in regard to special technical qualifications which are not possessed by the Postmasters, while the Head Record Clerk controls a larger staff than does the Postmaster.

The concluding part of the question does not arise.

RAISING OF THE PAY OF THE POST MASTER, SILCHAR.

329. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** Is it a fact that the Post Master, Silchar, is in the grade in which the Deputy Post Master, Silchar, who is subordinate to the former, is? If so, do the Government propose to raise the

grade of the Post Master, Silchar, and such other officers to Rs. 250 to 350? If not, why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Yes. But the pay of the Postmaster is higher than that of the Deputy Postmaster, a junior in the same scale.

Government do not propose to raise the grade of the Postmaster, Silchar, and other Postmasters to the grade of Rs. 250—350 simply on the ground that the Deputy Postmasters also are in the same grade of Rs. 160—250 with the Postmasters. The higher selection grade pay of Rs. 250—350 applies to those Postmasterships whose duties and responsibilities justify this rate of pay.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSSALMANS IN THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS.

330. ***Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim:** With reference to Government reply to questions Nos. 72, 73, 75, 78 and 201, during the last Simla session, will the Government be pleased to state the steps to be taken to give the Mussalmans their legitimate share in all services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government consider that the rights of minority communities, including Mussalmans, to a legitimate share in all services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department are already sufficiently protected by the orders of Government, to the effect that, in making appointments to these services every third vacancy shall be utilized for the adjustment of communal inequalities, and they do not therefore intend to take any further steps in the matter.

FREE CONCESSION OF LUGGAGE FOR THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS.

331. ***Haji Abdooli Haroon:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to a letter from a correspondent of the *Daily Gazette*, Karachi, published in its issue dated 11th January, 1929, regarding a free concession of luggage from 15 seers to 25 seers in the case of third class passengers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, what step do the Government wish to take in the matter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) It is proposed to discuss the question with the Central Advisory Council for Railways at an early meeting.

IDENTITY OF COLONEL LAWRENCE OF ARABIA.

332. ***Mr. Abdul Hays:** (a) Are Government aware of the identity of Colonel Lawrence of Arabia, about whom there have been so many references in the Press recently?

(b) Was that gallant Colonel ever in the service or pay of the Government of India?

(c) After the conclusion of the Great War, did Colonel Lawrence ever come to India? If so, did he come in an official or in his private capacity?

(d) Was he ever employed in the Royal Air Force? Is it a fact that, for some time, he performed the duties of an ordinary clerk at Miranshah?

(e) Are Government aware of the present whereabouts of Colonel Lawrence?

(f) Is it true that Colonel Lawrence took service in the Royal Air Force under the false and assumed name of Aircraftsman Shaw?

(g) If so, will the Government please state the date on which he came to India and took service under the Government, and whether the Government at the time of employing him were aware of his identity?

(h) To what post or posts was he appointed since then and what salaries were paid to him and at what different places did he serve?

(i) Were his emoluments paid by the Political Department or any other department of the Government of India?

(j) Why was he permitted to conceal his identity in India?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, while serving as an aircraftsman with the Royal Air Force in India.

(c) and (d). Some time after the war, Colonel Lawrence enlisted in the Royal Air Force as an aircraftsman. He served in England for several years, and, in the beginning of 1927, was drafted in the ordinary course to the establishment of the Royal Air Force in India. So far as the Government of India are aware, he had not previously been in India.

(e) Yes. He is now in the United Kingdom.

(f) He was, and is still, serving in the Royal Air Force under the name of Shaw. The Government of India are not aware whether he assumed the name formally or informally; but so far as they know there was no falsity or attempt at concealment in the proceeding. It has been a matter of common knowledge for some years that he is serving in the Royal Air Force as an aircraftsman under the name of Shaw.

(g) He arrived in a Royal Air Force draft at Karachi on January 7th, 1927. The Government of India did not know of this fact until it was shortly afterwards disclosed in the Press.

(h) He was employed and paid as an airman on the ordinary establishment, at the rate of Rs. 2-11-0 a day. While in India, he served successively at Karachi, Peshawar and Miranshah.

(i) While serving in India he was paid from Indian military estimates.

(j) As I have indicated, the identity of Colonel Lawrence with aircraftsman Shaw was already a matter of common knowledge before he came to India.

RESOLUTION *RE* RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN CINEMATOGRAPH COMMITTEE.

Kumar Ranajaya Singh (Fyzabad Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, with a view to fostering the growth of the Indian film industry and the protection of the Indian cinema trade from exploitation by non-Indians, immediate effect be given to the recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Committee by the imposition of the 'quota system' and the introduction of legislative measures requiring compulsory registration of persons and companies engaged in producing, exhibiting, distributing and importing films, or owning or controlling cinema houses, the predominance of Indian element being assured in all such concerns."

Sir, I have tried to lay before the House the following three points in my Resolution:

- (1) That the Government of India should take proper and immediate steps to encourage the Indian film industry.
- (2) That in order to procure a market for Indian produced films, the quota system, as recommended by the Indian Cinematograph Committee, should be imposed upon exhibitors in India.
- (3) That necessary legislation be introduced to control the producing and exhibiting concerns in such a way that Indian capital, labour, art and culture should have a predominant position in them.

I consider, Sir, that in the presence of this enlightened House it is not necessary to go into details of the effects that are being produced by cinematograph exhibitions. Every country in the world has realised the real value of these exhibitions. Cinemas, no doubt, are primarily opened for recreation purposes, but no recreation can remain without producing its effects upon the minds of spectators. As games, along with the development of the body, develop also the mind of the player, similarly recreations, while providing pleasure for the time being, produce vast effects upon the morals and habits of the people. Cinema films, on account of their vast circulation, have proportionately greater effects. It has, therefore, become necessary to check the production of undesirable films by controlling their exhibition. This is done by Boards of Censors.

Boards of Censors are working in nearly all the countries of the world. In India, also, several Boards of Censors have been constituted under the Indian Cinematograph Act, 1918. But I submit, Sir, that the peculiar conditions of India require something more than these Boards. Boards of Censors can only check the showing of exceptionally bad films. Moreover, these Boards have to fix their standard of goodness or badness from the films that are submitted to them for passing. If in a year no good film is coming forth, they have no choice but to lower their standard of passing. Hence the necessity of some measure to foster the production of good films, not only from the moral and educational point of view, but also from the artistical and cultural points of view.

This question of developing and controlling the cinema industry assumes an immensely greater importance when its effects are considered upon Indian culture. I do not mean to say that there is nothing in Western

civilisation and culture which the Indians should not see, judge and adopt, but I do mean to point out to the House that there is a good deal in Indian civilisation and culture that the Indians must not lose.

Over and above all this, the denationalisation that is being brought about by the exhibition of foreign films has to be put a stop to. Cinemas are proving very powerful mediums in other countries for spreading national ideas among the people. It is the duty of the Government at once to take steps to encourage the production of Indian films in Indian sceneries, produced by Indian actors, conducive to the growth of Indian national ideas and preserving the good things of Indian civilisation and culture.

The Indian Cinematograph Committee has suggested three main methods to help this industry in India; financial aid to the producers, building of more cinema houses, and a compulsory quota for Indian films. I do not intend to go into the details of these recommendations and thus take unnecessary time of the House. A clear and powerful case for these recommendations has been made out by the Committee itself.

I would like to submit, Sir, a few words as regards the assurance of the predominance of the Indian element in the production and exhibition of films in India. It is no doubt a financial question, and I, being an Indian, cannot tolerate the exploitation of the wealth and resources of India by foreigners. The case of the film 'Shiraz,' cited by the Cinematograph Committee, can well explain the importance of this part of my Resolution. I expect at least all Indian Members of this House to support my Resolution.

With these words, I move my Resolution.

Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal: European): I rise to move the following amendment:

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that with a view to fostering the growth of the Indian film industry steps be taken immediately to give effect to those recommendations upon which the Committee were unanimous."

It is difficult, in the short time at the disposal of a Member speaking on a Resolution, to cover the vast ground which the Committee covered in the course of its examination of the conditions of the film industry in India, and if I for once exceed the time limit, I trust, Sir, you will extend to me some measures of indulgence, as I am the only member of the Committee in the House to-day who will be able to take part in this discussion. There is a general idea that the cinema is not a subject of any very great importance. During our tour, we found that there was only one province which showed any imagination at all on the subject of the cinema, whereas if you have imagination you will realise that the cinema is one of the most effective mediums of mass education, and that it has a tremendous influence over the life of every nation. The Committee early found that the cinema in India is to-day having a very considerable influence on the people of India. I was one of those who joined the committee under the impression that the Western films displayed in India were generally bad and I looked forward to a closer method of censorship in order to remove from the pictures shown in

[Colonel J. D. Crawford.]

India those items which I believed were detrimental, as showing an incorrect picture of Western civilisation. But during my work on that Committee, I very rapidly found out that my misgivings on this subject were entirely unjustified. Far from the fact that Western films were giving to Indians a wrong idea of Western civilisation, we found that their influence was generally beneficial. The faults which we had in mind were faults which had existed previous to the introduction of a *pucca* system of censorship in this country. We were thinking of ten years ago and not of the films which are shown to-day. Generally we found the system of censorship to be sound, the canons of censorship laid down by the Boards to be entirely satisfactory, with one or two minor alterations. We had only one real difficulty on the question of censorship. We did not believe it to be the duty of the police to be in charge of censorship of films. We admitted that the police should co-operate in such censorship, but it should certainly not be the chief task of the police to control the censorship. I will not go any further at this stage into the details of censorship. My object to-day in moving my amendment is to place a more reasonable Resolution before the Government than the original Resolution. The difference between my Resolution and that of the original Mover is that I have suggested that Government should take steps to put into effect those recommendations of the Committee upon which the Committee were unanimous, whereas the Mover of the original Resolution has indicated certain directions in which he believes that Government should take action, namely, by the imposition of the quota system and the introduction of legislative measures requiring compulsory registration of persons and companies engaged in producing, exhibiting, distributing and importing films, or owning or controlling cinema houses, the predominance of Indian element being assured in all such concerns. The whole Committee, including the European members, were unanimous in thinking that the Indian film industry should be preserved for Indians. That is agreed but we were not unanimous that the quota system was the best method of doing it. The quota system deals with a different aspect of the problem, the question rather of markets than protection of the film industry. In this matter I think the Mover of the Resolution is under some misapprehension. We found that the film industry in India, although in the hands of small men, is on its present basis a profitable business. If you turn to the figures in our minority report, you will find a statement which we took from the tax returns of three leading cinemas in Bombay showing Indian films, and three showing Western films (page 162). We arrived at our figures by examining the entertainment tax returns, though these only referred to the higher class seats. The return in the case of cinemas showing Indian films was Rs. 2,88,581 and the return in the case of the cinemas showing Western films was only Rs. 2,42,061. That excluded all seats under four annas, which are not taxable, and from which a large proportion of the profit comes, as the four-anna seats in cinemas showing Western films are seldom full and in Indian cinemas always full. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that it is a paying proposition to show Indian films. On that point I think the whole Committee were thoroughly convinced. We found there is a great opportunity for Indian films. We further found that the existing producers cannot to-day supply the demand for Indian films—I mean the existing demand. Now, the quota introduced in England was for the

purpose of providing a market for British films. To-day in India we have a market for Indian films and a market which the producer cannot yet supply. Now one of the difficulties arising from that position has been that the producer is reducing the quality of his film in order to meet this demand. If you increase that demand by means of this quota system, you will only encourage him further to reduce the quality of his films. Now, one of the difficulties with which the Indian film producer is faced is the fact that his public are already becoming dissatisfied with the quality of his films, with the technique of his pictures, and if you do not check that deterioration, the result may be that the Indian public will get a growing distaste for the Indian film and be more and more inclined to go to the European film. I can give one little example of that. Up in Assam one of the tea planters, who is a labour member there, has introduced film exhibitions for the entertainment of his coolies. For a long time he gave them nothing but pictures of the life of the coolie, his weddings and his *melas* and that type of thing, till at last the coolies came to him and said "Sahib, we have had enough of these Indian pictures; we want to see some European pictures". That is one of the difficulties hampering the development of the film industry to-day. They lack technique and the technical experience which will enable them to provide their Indian public with what the Indian public is every day more and more demanding—a better class of picture and a better film. It is on those grounds that the minority and the three European members felt that it would be disadvantageous at present to the industry itself, if not an actual danger, to introduce the quota system. There are of course other difficulties and complexities in the introduction of any quota system and we were not enamoured of the scheme drawn up by our Indian Colleagues. For instance, we discovered that a film in India has a provincial limitation. That is a film made in Bombay, where the characters are dressed in Bombay dress, was not popular in Bengal and also not popular in Madras. We found that Muhammadans wanted to see a Muhammadan story. They were not willing or anxious to go and see a Hindu story. Similarly, you have your European audiences who are accustomed to the high technique of European or American films, who would not see a film produced by Indian producers. If, therefore, you were to force the quota system on any of these theatres who serve different types of audiences, you would be doing very serious harm to a large portion of the cinema industry, namely, the exhibiting portion. We were not, as you will see in the last paragraph of the minute of dissent, in opposition to the imposition of the quota on principle. We say there:

"If any unforeseen development occurs, or if our anticipations are belied, we shall have no objection to the Bureau investigating further the possibilities of a quota scheme, or any other scheme for the benefit of the industry. In fact we shall welcome such an investigation."

Now I trust that the House will remove from its mind any suspicion in regard to our attitude towards the quota system. We say there is no necessity for the quota system, since the demand exceeds the supply. Our difficulty is that harm would be done to a large portion of the industry, namely, the exhibiting portion. This should be taken up at a later date, if necessary, by a central body, which we proposed should be brought into existence.

[Colonel J. D. Crawford.]

I would like to say a word here on that question of a central body. We found that Indian producers were more or less limited to a cost for the production of a film somewhere round about twenty thousand rupees. Were they to exceed that sum on production of a film, it was difficult for them to get a profitable return. That is due to the fact that you have only some 350 cinemas at present in India, and you cannot show your film in everyone of those cinemas, because many are located in the same town. You can only show it in two or three cinemas in the same town, and there was not as yet a requisite market to enable them to spend very large sums on production. Unless they could spend far more than twenty thousand rupees on a picture, they were not in a position to employ the advisers or experts that are undoubtedly required to improve the technique of their pictures. It was on this ground that we suggested that here Government might come in and give very valuable assistance to the cinema industry by instituting a central bureau which would employ such experts who would be in a position to advise the Indian producer, who would be in a position to train the necessary Indian staff that would assist the producers themselves. We also contemplated that it might take an active interest in the very important subject of production of Government films for propaganda work in the nation-building department. That was an aspect of the matter that struck us very forcibly. The cinema habit is growing in India, and were Government to use this means of propaganda in regard to agriculture, sanitation and health throughout the country, they would undoubtedly be assisting the growth of the cinema sense and the desire for cinemas, which would enable producers to find an ever increasing field for entertainment.

I cannot emphasize too strongly our feeling that the cinema as a means of mass education is of the utmost value, and I will give you one instance of it. Last Christmas, when I was out at a shooting camp, I happened to see the Deputy Commissioner or rather one of his Agricultural assistants, lecturing to his villagers, on the question of ploughs. He was supplied with a magic lantern which threw a very small picture. I found difficulty in making out what the picture was, and I was quite certain that the villagers had not the slightest idea as to what the picture meant. But if he had been able to impart motion to the picture, it would have been brought within the mental sphere of everyone. I believe the cinema is going to prove of very great assistance to us in all matters of national development throughout India. The only province which appears to have taken the matter up seriously—and I am told with tremendous success—is the Punjab, who are getting crowds of people to attend their instructional cinema performances.

I trust Government will note that in both the Resolution and in my amendment we press for immediate effect to be given to these recommendations. I can quite understand that, in a matter of this nature, where the subject is largely a provincial transferred subject, Government must consult the provinces. In fact our scheme would not be workable unless the whole-hearted co-operation of the provinces is obtained. But the point is that to-day in India the very report which we have written has shown that the Indian Cinema Industry is a profitable industry, and it has drawn the attention of all those who are concerned throughout the

world. We have not yet got any vested interests in this country of any appreciable importance but if you are dilatory in handling this matter, you will find that vested interests have grown up, and that you will be dealing with a problem which will thereby be made more complex and more difficult. That is why I urge that Government should deal with this matter with the least possible delay. If the Honourable Member in charge will give me that assurance that he will speed up the whole of his enquiry with a view to taking action, I myself should be satisfied, and I daresay the original Mover of the Resolution will also be satisfied.

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): But your amendment is beyond the scope of the Resolution, it seems?

Colonel J. D. Crawford: My amendment is beyond the scope of the Resolution? I cannot quite follow your point.

There is one other question which I think is of importance, namely, the question of our agreeing to enter into an Imperial arrangement with the Dominions for the exchange of films. I am frankly in favour of Imperial Preference, but in this case, had we thought of entering into any agreement on that subject and imposing a quota for Imperial films, naturally the whole of that quota in India would be taken up by Indian films. We found that British films had to-day a very big footing in the Indian market and needed no assistance whatsoever, and further, I think all of us felt that if necessary, it would be our duty to state plainly that a proposal of that kind might help the industry. We did not consider it necessary, and in any case we realised that the matter was one that must be left under present circumstances for the Assembly to deal with.

Some of our Indian members were very dubious as to whether Indian films would ever have the opportunity of finding a footing in the international market. In fact their mental attitude was one of entire suspicion. They said: 'Oh, everybody dislikes the Indian, therefore nobody will go and see the Indian films'. We, Britishers on the Committee had far greater faith than they. To the Indian members, we said that we believed that there was scope in the international field for Indian films and great rewards awaited them in that field. The funds which would thus be available in the international field would enable them to employ their technical experts. We are all aware of the film "Light of Asia" and that it did not have any great success in the international market and has not yet had any success in the international market. But the result of our enquiries led us to believe that the difficulty with regard to that film was not the public distaste to it in so much as the producers did not know how to approach the international market in the correct manner. We saw an Indian film by name "Sacrifice" and it struck us as a film of exceptional quality. The European members said: "Here is an Indian film that may be suitable for the international market". That film was shown in Bombay. I do not think I am giving away any secret when I say that its production cost about Rs. 50,000, and in the few weeks that it was shown in Bombay in second run theatres, not in first run theatres, it earned about Rs. 18,000 to the producer; not a bad return. We were so much impressed with the quality of the film that we suggested to the gentlemen who produced it that they should take it Home and put it on the international market. We, the European members in the Committee, did what we could to assist them to get into touch with people of influence in Europe who could help them in making the film a success.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Why did the European members act in contravention of the terms of reference to the Committee?

Colonel J. D. Crawford: The result was that they managed to get that film placed in the international market and it received a very considerable amount of praise at the trade display. I am convinced that you can, therefore, make films of international value in India and there is no reason why that wider market should not be exploited by the Indian film producer. If they can send their films abroad to the many thousands of cinemas in the world, they can earn the profits necessary for the employment of better staff and the improvement of the technique of their films. I suggest to the House that, in accepting my amendment, they are giving a wider field to the Government than by limiting Government action to the two directions mentioned in the original Resolution. I am definitely against the introduction at present and under existing conditions, of the "quota system", on the ground that it is a danger to the Indian industry and not immediately necessary. I am entirely in favour of such action as may be necessary to ensure India's right to the first place in the Indian film industry. I am equally at one with the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution that steps to this end should be taken with the smallest possible delay. On these grounds, I ask the Assembly to support my amendment.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury (ASSAM: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution of my Honourable friend Kumar Rananjaya Singh. In supporting this Resolution, I do not think I need emphasise at any great length, the necessity for protection to the Indian cinema industry. That the industry is in an infant stage of development is admitted on all hands. The very fact that out of five million feet of film examined by the Board of Censors during 1927-28, barely eight lakhs were of Indian origin, shows that there is a great field for the expansion of cinema business in India. But quite apart from this economic consideration, there is another reason and a very weighty reason why it is of national importance that this indigenous film industry should be encouraged. As Colonel Crawford has pointed out in the beginning of his speech, and as the Cinema Committee also has pointed out in their Report, the cinema is not merely an instrument of recreation, it is a very powerful medium through which national ideas can be spread and it is on this ground, Sir, that the Indian members of the Committee very strongly recommended that steps should be taken to remove from the screen what they described as the "foreign grip", and to create a "national atmosphere". While talking of national atmosphere, it may not be quite inappropriate for me to quote a remark of Lord Peel, made in the House of Lords, on the influence of American films on English life. This is what Lord Peel says:

"We have our own typical civilisation and have our own standards and it surely is unfortunate that this vast range of influence should shower on our people through foreign rather than through domestic sources."

Now, Sir, if Lord Peel could complain of the 'shower of American influence', we can complain with still greater force and with greater propriety, of the infliction of American civilisation and standards on our people, whose civilisation is essentially different from that of America. The need for this protection to the industry is felt not only by the Indians, but, I am glad to notice that the Government as well share the same feeling. While moving:

the Resolution on the appointment of the Indian Cinema Committee, the Honourable the Home Member made certain observations which I am sure will find ready support in this House. This is what the Honourable Mr. Czerar said:

"I think the question of the Indian film industry is one which ought to engage the sympathy of this House and is a matter which ought to be enquired into. At the present moment the manufacture of films in India has hardly got beyond the initial stage. There is no reason why it should not become a large and a thriving indigenous industry. Personally, I should welcome a large extension of the manufacture of films in India because I consider that Indian films, if properly contrived and properly treated, would in many respects be more attractive to the average Indian audience than foreign films, the attractions of which often are of a very doubtful character. I think that films of that character, if we could get them, would not only be more instructive and more interesting to the Indian public, but would do a great deal to squeeze out from the market those films which we all unitedly condemn. I think therefore that if a committee of enquiry could devise means by which this nascent Indian industry could be encouraged and put upon a sound footing, it would have rendered a very great service not only from an industrial point of view but from the point of view of instruction and healthy amusement."

This is a sentiment with which I am sure the House is in entire agreement.

Now, Sir, there is complete agreement between this side of the House and that as regards the necessity of protection to the industry. The question now arises, as to what is the best method of doing it. The majority members of the Committee, consisting of the President, Sir Haroon Jaffar and Mr. Neogy recommended the "quota system" as the best method of encouraging the Indian industry. By this "quota system" is meant that an obligation is to be put upon the exhibitors to show a certain percentage of Indian films in their weekly programme. This quota system, Sir, has

12 Noon, been found in every country to be the best means of combating foreign domination of the cinema trade and encouraging the indigenous industry. We find from the Report that Germany has adopted this system. Austria has adopted it. Hungary has adopted it. Czechoslovakia has adopted it. Portugal, Spain, France and Great Britain have all introduced this system; and the majority of the members of the Committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of this quota system in India also, in the best interests of the cinema trade in this country.

Now, Sir, as against the opinion of the Indian members of the Committee, the minority members of the Committee consisting of Mr. Green, Mr. Coatman and Colonel Crawford, object to the introduction of this quota system. They raised some objections, and I think it is necessary to consider them here, one by one. The first objection that they raise is that the quota system is unnecessary. They say that in spite of the trade depression, there has been a rapid growth of the Indian cinema industry and that there is no need for the introduction of the quota system. As regards the rapid growth, Sir, I think it may be sufficient to point out that in the year 1925-26, the Board of Censors examined 110 Indian feature films, the next year they examined 106 and in the year 1927-28, they examined only 81. As a matter of fact, instead of a rapid growth, there has been a rapid decline, and the Committee, therefore, very rightly remark that in Bombay and in Burma the "industry shows some signs of life", while in Madras and Bengal, it is languishing and in other provinces it is practically non-existent.

Another objection which they raise, to which Colonel Crawford has referred in his speech, is this: They say, that the demand for the Indian film is far in excess of the supply, and if we increase the demand by means

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of legislation, it will result in the production of inferior films. This objection, Sir, has been very effectively answered by the majority members of the Committee. I should like to read out to you their reply. They say :

"The fear expressed by the minority that it will lead to the growth of mushroom concerns and the production of inferior films is not a serious one. The same fear has been invariably mentioned whenever the quota system has been proposed in any country, and yet the quota system has survived and found acceptance, even in Great Britain, and is spreading. Far from having that effect which the minority apprehend, it will act as an incentive to every producer to improve his quality, so as, with the aid of the quota, to suit better tastes and audiences. On the whole, the majority are satisfied that it is the only sound basis on which we can develop the growth of the Indian film industry in this country. There will be a larger number of exhibitors ordering good films and competition will be kept up on account of the higher prices they will offer for better films."

Now, Sir, proceeding on this erroneous assumption that the introduction of the quota system will lead to the production of inferior films, the minority members argue that these films will alienate the Indian audience and that the exhibitors will lose money and there will also be a restricted market for the Indian film. The extract, I have just quoted from the Report of the majority members shows how in the experience of other countries, this fear about the production of inferior films is groundless. Even admitting for the sake of argument, that, just to begin with, the Indian films may not rival in "technique"—on which Colonel Crawford put great emphasis—and artistry, the best productions of America, this is no reason why the Indian theatres should not show a certain percentage of Indian films in preference to showing completely foreign ones.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: The cinemas showing Indian films show nothing else.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: The objection seems to be, Sir, that the Western cinemas, if they show Indian films, will lose their audience.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: I said existing Indian films.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: We know, Sir, that the Indian films of the existing quality are very popular with Indian audiences. We know that they attract greater audiences than the Western films do. That being the case, need we put very great emphasis on the opinion of that section of the audience—I shall call it a snobbish section—to whom an Indian film is hateful? We are not here to pander to their taste.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: I did not say the Indian films should not be shown. I said some of the Indian theatres showed Western pictures while some others did not.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: As the Committee has very rightly pointed out, this kind of audience has to be cured out of that prejudice against Indian films. Colonel Crawford has pointed out in his speech that the exhibitors would suffer if the quota system was introduced. Messrs. J. F. Madan and Company are one of the biggest exhibitors in India. In a recent interview given to the Press, Mr. Jehangir Madan, the Managing Director, has said :

"The Cinematograph Committee have recommended what they call a modified quota system. While, as would become clear from our evidence before the Committee, we were against a pure and simple quota system, we have no hesitation in

according our fullest support to the modified quota system as propounded by the majority members. In regard to the adoption of the quota, our difficulty was that in those theatres which are patronised predominantly by the European and Anglo-Indian public, it would be inadvisable to insist that Indian pictures of a certain length should be shown. By the arrangement for a transferable quota, the difficulty of compelling all cinemas to exhibit a quota of Indian films has been solved, but even should a full and complete quota system be inaugurated, it should prove an effective palliative in view of the present menace offered by several American film producing companies opening out in India."

Now, Sir, the biggest exhibitor in India accepts this quota system. The final argument which the minority members raise against the quota system is this: They say that if America retaliated by withdrawing from the Indian market, the Indian cinema trade would cease to exist. I confess, Sir, we are not very much terrified at this prospect. We would welcome it as a blessing rather than as a disaster, and I would reply to the minority members in the words of the late Lala Lajpat Rai at the time when the motion for the appointment of this Committee was made. He said: "I would rather urge that no films except those produced in India should be exhibited in India at all".

So much, Sir, as to the objections raised against the quota system. The minority members not only raise those objections, but they have also got a constructive proposal of theirs to make. Their solution is: "Co-ordination of efforts and co-operation between the East and the West". It sounds very nice, Sir, but is of little practical value. This co-operation between the East and the West is an admirable thing, but the co-operation is of many different varieties. The co-operation which the minority members think of, is the kind of co-operation that was exemplified in the production of the film "Shiraz". There, the actors were Indian, the scenes were Indian, the scenario-writer was Indian, the film was shot in India, but the profit of the business, the fat dividend, went to the European Capitalists.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: Why? -

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: That was because of the co-operation between East and West!

Colonel J. D. Crawford: Because Indian capital was not forthcoming.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: If it were, that would not be a case of co-operation between East and West; it would be purely Indian.

Now, Sir, it is not only necessary to encourage the Indian cinema industry by means of this quota system but it is also necessary to prevent foreign domination in the two other branches of the industry, the exhibition and the distribution side. Honourable Members are probably aware that very recently two very powerful companies, the Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Film Corporation, and the Paramount Famous Players' Lasky Corporation, have opened head offices at Bombay and they are going to open branches in other towns. There are already, Sir, two other American Companies in the field, the Universal Pictures Corporation and the First National Pictures Corporation. Now, the representative of this Metro-Goldwyn Corporation has been pleased to announce in the Press that they will confine their activities only to the distribution of film, and will not compete with the Indian producing industry. We are very grateful, Sir, for this assurance, but is there anything to prevent this company or any other company acquiring theatres in India and competing with the indigenous firms? As you know,

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Sir, already this Universal Pictures Corporation has acquired a picture theatre in Bombay and they are contemplating taking the lease of another theatre. Another Corporation is also trying to purchase land in Calcutta and open theatres there. This danger, Sir, of foreign invasion of the Indian cinema industry was anticipated by the Cinematograph Committee and they made this recommendation:

"When non-Indians threaten to acquire interests in any branch of this industry or trade to any large extent, otherwise than under the conditions and terms which are laid down for the purpose of sharing in the quota system and for getting the benefits of concessions from Government and other public bodies, the Government should arm themselves with legislative powers to exclude such concerns from operating in this country."

I notice with pleasure, Sir, that to this recommendation the minority also agreed and they said:

"We desire as strongly as our colleagues that there should be no foreign domination and that truly Indian companies should control the Indian industry. Consequently we agree that Government should arm themselves with legislative powers if and when foreign domination becomes imminent or probable."

Now, Sir, as I have said, this foreign domination which is apprehended is not merely imminent, it is already in the field and it is, therefore, necessary for the Government to take steps for the protection of the Indian industry. Now, Sir, if we accept Colonel Crawford's amendment, in place of the original Resolution, we ignore the most important recommendation made in the Majority Report, that is the quota system. The quota system, as I have already said, is the one and only method for the encouragement of the Indian film industry.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: I disagree.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: The other recommendation made by the Minority Committee may be very useful for the distribution, and exhibition side of the industry, but no definite suggestion has been made by the Minority Committee to take the place of the quota system, for the development of the production side. Under these circumstances, Sir, I would urge the House to accept the original Resolution and not Colonel Crawford's amendment.

Mr. W. S. Lamb (Burna: European): Sir, I rise to support my Honourable friend Colonel Crawford. It is thirty years since I first saw the bioscope, and since then I have always taken pleasure and interest in the film. Now I am entirely with previous speakers about the value of the cinema. A recent writer about the future of the film said that in the history of Hell, when it comes to be written, a good many pages would have to be devoted to certain American producers and I am quite in agreement with that. Further, the same gentleman says that the power of the film for good or for evil is equal and opposite. Formerly, Sir, it was said, "Let me write the songs of a nation". Now it is: "Give me the control of the movies, and if I have that I can make your people mawkish, invertebrate or criminal, or, on the other hand, good, patriotic, clean-living citizens". Therefore, I am entirely with the desire of Indians to see the spirit of India kept in their films; but it is at the present moment, in my opinion, a much too ambitious desire. It can be said now that English producers, with all their technique and experience,

have not yet produced, they are not now producing, films that can be called truly English or British. There is an alien influence, and, in order to get something really national into their films, they have to uncreate. In India, fortunately, they have not to do that, but there are vast areas and many millions of population entirely ignorant and untouched by the film. It is agreed that it can be made an influence, and I suggest to the Mover of the Resolution and to others who are interested that, in approaching their task—it is not an easy one, although easier than the task before the people at Home—they cannot do without the Western technique and even possibly, the gold of the West. As Colonel Crawford pointed out to the previous speaker, one of the real reasons why the dividends went West was that Indian capital was not available. We read in the evidence of Mr. Rai, who was responsible for "The Light of Asia", that he could not find money in India. Whether, with the quota system, it would be possible to raise that money I do not know. Personally I think it is not possible. I would like to ask the previous speaker if India is so ready to put money into the film business, why is it that in those vast areas in many towns and villages, it is impossible to find cinemas? They cannot afford to have them. Twenty years ago, when I went Home from India, for my first leave, in the town where my people were—one of 10,000 inhabitants—even 20 years ago there were three cinemas running profitably. And the reason for that is this, that they had means of providing cheap entertainment in the shape of films from 1,000 feet upwards. The trouble in my opinion with the Indian film industry to-day—and I want to come down to some practical points—is the inordinate length of the films. Our friend the previous speaker fell upon Colonel Crawford for suggesting that the Western houses would not like Indian films, and he said they must be made to like them. In 1921, according to the figures given in the Report, the average length of the Indian feature films was just over 5,000 feet; that is, it took on the average one and a quarter hours to exhibit. The average film in 1927 had increased to 9,000 feet; and 9,000 feet in India takes exactly one hour more, or two and a quarter hours to exhibit. The consequence is that, if you force these Indian films upon the exhibitors in Western houses, the Indian film is the main film of the evening and the result is that Western movie fans, looking at the programme, seeing an Indian film say "nothing doing" and stay away and consequently, for the whole of that performance, the exhibitor has an absolutely empty house. It is all very well for Messrs. Madan, with their many halls, to say that they welcome this quota; but there are others also, and there is not the slightest doubt that they would suffer very much indeed if they were compelled to take Indian films. With regard to the remarks made by the previous speaker, I should like to quote a little from a speech made by Sir Oswald Stoll, who controls theatres, music halls and cinemas, and who has been connected with the latter for many years. He is also a producer of films, and he says, speaking at a general meeting of the Stoll Picture Theatre Company:

"Much money has been invested in the making of British films, under the encouragement of the Films Act. These pictures in the main have not sold well to the exhibitors because more have been made than the exhibitors wanted and more than the exhibitors, under the powers of the Films Act, are forced to take. Those that have been taken, British exhibitors claim, with exceptions, are injuring their business. All experience is against force as a remedy, and the forcing of unwanted pictures on the exhibitors is no solution of picture difficulties."

[Mr. W. S. Lamb.]

Now, Sir, in talking about the quota the previous speaker began by pointing out that, instead of the film industry progressing, it had actually retrograded, and he gave certain figures. I think he actually gave the numbers of films. But I would point out to him and to the House that, whereas in 1921-22 the footage of Indian feature films passed by the censor was 332,000 feet, in 1927-28 it was 726,441 feet, something like an increase of about 150 per cent. As I said before, in my opinion the trouble with the Indian film to-day is its inordinate length. I shall first of all make a comparison. Whereas the length of the average Indian film is 9,000 feet, the average length of foreign feature films is 6,750 feet; that is to say, the Indian films are 33 per cent. longer than the other. In the West, in America and the United Kingdom and on the Continent, as one could see from the Committee's Report, you have hundreds and thousands of cinemas, and there are many in very small towns and villages; and in these small towns, perhaps once a year they see a film of 9,000 feet, which is the average length of the Indian film; not much oftener than that, because it is more or less a super film and they cannot afford to pay for it. Even to-day you can find films of Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd of a thousand feet and upwards. In the early days I remember going to cinemas to see Bunnie in about thousand feet. It kept you amused for about fifteen minutes, and you were not sated, and looked forward eagerly to the next occasion. Another point is this, that if you had a short thousand feet, or two thousand feet in the programme, perhaps for a fourth of the evening, you were quite ready to put up with very ordinary, and indeed bad films for the rest of the time, provided this was a good one; and by means of these short films these small cinemas were enabled to open and keep going and still are open and keeping going. Now, Sir, if the Indian producers had the slightest knack for the business, they would have drawn from the experience of America. America could not possibly make these long super films unless they also produced, at the same time, these short films of one, two, three or four thousand feet. It is not the case that if you have made fifty thousand feet of film, say five films of ten thousand feet each, you make the same footage only of small films of varying footage. The law of increasing footage would operate. If the Indian producers undertook to introduce these up and down country, there is no question whatever that they would have an outlet for them without any question of a quota whatever. That is my main point.

Now, Sir, with regard to possible action by Government, it is said in the Report from the Director of the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau:

"We also take advantage of the new developments in the industry—the narrow-gauge films, 9 mm., 16 mm., and 28 mm., designed for personal use—which have been showing a most amazing expansion in the past year. It is expected that, in the near future, due to the exceptional growth of this field, to enter into the active production of at least one type of these types of films on our own."

Now, Sir, my wife and I have produced something like the equivalent of about 25,000 feet standard film of these smaller 16 mm. films and therefore I can speak with a certain amount of authority. In my opinion these small films offer a most excellent opportunity of propaganda, economically.

These films are by no means toys; they can be shown actually with a inexpensive projector, and the outfit does not cost very much. They can be exhibited on a screen as large as the ordinary bioscope, that is, at a distance of, from fourteen feet up to a long distance. These films, as I have said, with a not very expensive outfit, can be attached to travelling cinemas, could be taken down to schools, and could be exhibited in the open or anywhere with very little expense. The great value of these small films, however, in my opinion lies in the possibility of getting Indian films introduced in the West. In attempting to get a connection with the West, it is impossible to think in terms of films like *Shiraz* and *Sacrifice*. The spearhead of American and other films in India consisted of films of a thousand feet or so; and it seems to me that in those small films there is a most excellent opportunity for India to get the spirit of India into the very homes of people in America and the United Kingdom. Many thousands of visitors come to India every year; and, at least with the Americans, every second or third person has a cinema camera and in nearly all cases that means also a projector. So that if enterprising Indian producers can make small films, of any number of subjects—I took a film the other day which I called "a Morning in Chandni Chowk", and I am sure it will give pleasure to my friends—they could make positively hundreds and thousands of these films, and I have not the slightest doubt they could arrange with the Kodaks or other people to make a business of it. I can quite easily imagine with what pleasure and delight visitors coming to India would fall upon these and buy them and take them home to England and America or wherever their homes are. There will be no difficulty. Of course, there is no question of getting into circuits or cinema houses. These films go into the very homes of the people. In my opinion, it would form one of the best firms of broad-casting, much better than the wireless or anything else. Sir, I support the amendment.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I was one of those doubting Thomases who questioned the Government when the Honourable the Home Member brought a Resolution on the cinema film industry before this House in September, 1927. At the time various questions were being discussed in the Indian Press about the cinema industry, and the underlying policy of it was Imperial Preference. On the 7th of September, 1927, the *Leader* of Allahabad gave out the whole truth. There was a gentleman, a Captain Malins, who was touring at the time in India and writing various things against American films, and carrying on a vigorous propaganda against the Americans. So the *Leader* wrote thus:

"A Government official wrote to Captain Malins, that 'the classes of films which are being allowed to circulate in the cinemas of India are most damaging to English prestige' "

—that was the question—

"and that if the cinemas were in the hands of anti-British people they could not do much more harm to the Empire by propaganda films than by continuing to use the existing series of films. Captain Malins writes that the Director of Public Information, Government of India."

—I am sorry Mr. Contman is not here to contradict it if that is not true,—

"sent a letter to certain local authorities where his lecture was to be delivered urging that it was very desirable that he should have 'as good an audience as possible; it is good propaganda for us' "

[Mr. B. Das.]

—I think, he meant, it was good propaganda for the Government of India—
“and, therefore, to be encouraged”.

Well, Sir, this Captain Malins, at the time wrote in the *Cinema* of August 11 against these American films. I am sorry my Honourable friend Sir Denys Bray is not present, because he is very anxious that good relations should be maintained with foreign Governments, and I do not know if the Foreign Secretary approves of such propaganda against the American State, with which India wants to maintain good relations. Captain Malins wrote thus:

“I have visited cinemas of all types, from the cheapest native shack to the most modern theatre. By means of interpreters I have discussed the question of American films with natives of the jungle villages, with coolies, and with Indians of every class and religion—Hindus, Muhammadans, Parsis, Buddhists; with Indian Members of the Legislative Assembly, with principals and professors of universities and head-masters of schools and colleges; industrial magnates, editors and journalists; men of science and men of the Church—from the educated scholar down to the lowest Babu. I have talked over the problem with the highest British authorities in the Government of India, with European businessmen, with Army chiefs and men in the ranks, and the feelings of utter disgust and resentment, the wholesale denunciation of the average American film and its evil effect on the prestige of the European in India were so overwhelming that I should not be surprised if they took matters into their own hands”

The underlying reference everywhere is to *British prestige*. Then further on he says:

“White women in drunken brawls, tearing their gorgeous dresses to shreds while white men look on and applaud; these are a mere suggestion of some of the things which I have seen on the screens of India, the things which must be swept away before it is too late. American influence is permeating many spheres of Indian life”

—I wish it had, because then India would attain her liberty soon—

“and being backed up by the Americanisation of the cinemas, these world-builders and psychology quacks find the reaping comparatively easy.”

Let us hope in spite of such vituperations, it will still maintain good relations between India and America.

Then, Sir, I looked at this “unwanted child” of the Government of India, I mean the Indian Cinematograph Committee. This child probably came into existence by a command from that grand Moghul who sits in the India House in a dark room, the Secretary of State, and issues commands to his harem here, the Government of India. The child came into existence through a Resolution of the Home Secretary. When this Cinema Committee came to report, it recommended that the film industry would have to be supported by the Commerce Department. I find that no representative of the Commerce Department is present on the Government Benches, and I am inclined to think that this Report will probably be thrown on the shoulders of the Industries Department to consider it for a while and then give it a decent burial in the archives of the Government of India, where so many things which make recommendations for the betterment of the people of India are pigeonholed. It seems, the Report is an “unwanted child”.

Sir, I looked for the genesis of the cinema inquiry, and I find on page 116 of the Cinema Committee's Report that:

“early in 1926 the Federation of British Industries urged that American films are detrimental to British prestige and prejudicial to the interests of the Empire, especially in the Dominions which contain large coloured populations.”

I want the Indian section of the House to note the words "coloured populations"! But I am glad the *Times of India* condemned this at the time. The *Times of India's* comment on this was:

"American films should certainly be fought by business competition, but to try to suppress them by a hypocritical plea for Imperial welfare is ridiculous."

At the same time, while the Federation of British Industries was trying to urge this, another associate body from England was also visiting India. It was the British Social Hygiene Council, Incorporated. Whether it came to India to look into the hygienic conditions of the people of India or the Britishers that live here, I do not know. But one of the members of that Committee, Mrs. C. Neville Rolfe, went out of her way and remarked about the Indian people and the cinema shows deprecatingly. The most striking pronouncement of the Delegation's memorandum is its opening paragraph which runs as follows:—

"In every province and State visited by the Delegation the evil influence of the cinema was cited by educationists and the representative citizens as one of the major factors in lowering the standard of sex conduct and thereby tending to increase the dissemination of disease."

I should think Mrs. C. Neville Rolfe might have been a sister of Miss Katherine Mayo. So when we compare statistics and the dates as well as the origin of propaganda by the Federation of British Industries in 1926, by an associated sister Committee, the British Social Hygiene Council, as also the visit of Captain Malius, we can find where the shoe pinches, and we also know what was the Government's intention. We further know from this Committee's Report that there was a meeting of the Imperial Conference where it was decided that British films should have preference in the Dominions and India. Well, Sir, we have had instances on the floor of this House of Imperial Preference, of British Preference. Although we condemned British Preference, they have got British Preference in the steel industry and in certain other things. So, the Imperial Committee wanted also preferential treatment in the film industry. Probably that was the underlying motive why Government wanted this thing to be discussed. But they found that things had gone wrong. Instead of giving preference to British film industry, the Cinema Committee has reported that the Indian film industry should be protected by certain methods which I entirely approve, and I wholeheartedly support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Kumar Rananjaya Singh in his maiden speech to-day. I do not at all support the amendment moved by my gallant friend, Colonel Crawford and supported by my Honourable friend, Mr. Lamb. My Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, has ably replied to the remarks of Colonel Crawford, and I will only refer to one or two incidental points in the course of my speech. My gallant friend, Colonel Crawford, spoke so much against the quota system. I would only call the attention of this House to one part of the Chairman's note on the minute of dissent, which is added to this Report. At page 177, paragraph 5, it says:

"As regards paragraph 2, the facts are stated already. At the time the decisions were taken it was a majority decision. The fact that Colonel Crawford later on agrees with the two dissentients does not alter the fact, it is a majority decision—though it is a factor to be taken into account in weighing the value to be attached to the opinions. The Chairman is unable to understand or follow the complaint in paragraph 2 herein. Even in a body equally divided a majority decision is reached by the Chairman's casting vote and that occasion did not arise in this case."

[Mr. B. Das.]

Unfortunately, for us, we who wish to see India developed on national lines, there is here a clear racial cleavage between the Indian and the European elements of the Committee. That is a most unfortunate thing.

I will only draw the attention of my gallant friend, Colonel Crawford, to just a line of his speech which he delivered on the 14th September, 1927, in this House while he was speaking on the censorship of cinema films. He said:

"In our historic life, there are romantic and historical incidents which would make very admirable picture if the industry is controlled and guided on right lines, and altogether we have a great opportunity in India of producing films which will show to the other parts of the world what India really is, and that, to my mind, Sir, is a matter of very great importance."

I am sure in 1927 Colonel Crawford had the idea of developing the Indian film industry; and this morning the burden of his whole speech was to patronise the exhibiting part of the industry. That is no industry; that is a show. Exhibition is nowhere an industry.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: My point was that the quota system would, in my opinion, lead to certain definite disadvantages to the development of the film industry in India. It is on no other ground. I am quite willing to examine it at a later date.

Mr. B. Das: I am glad to hear that. Of course, my friend is entitled to have his own views and we are entitled to have our views. But I cannot understand why he should like to reserve his opinion for a future date. In my gallant friend's own country, in England the British Government have adopted the quota system. Even Germany has adopted it, and Japan also, which came later in the development of her film industry. I have just looked into the Japanese Year Book, 1929, and I find that Japan has completely overcome the foreign competition that she had before. I will just read a few lines on the development of the Japanese film industry:

"Though handicapped by imperfect equipment these studios are producing picture plays almost as good as in other countries, only they have not attained the exportable stage, chiefly because films of Japan produced abroad, despite their absurd representation of Japanese manner and custom, are acceptable to ignorant spectators."

What I wanted to show was that Japan was meeting her own requirements in film production.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: My point is that you do not necessarily give the same medicine to people suffering from different diseases. That is the point.

Mr. B. Das: It depends upon the doctor's diagnosis of the disease. We are the doctors and we diagnose. Our case is that it is in this way that the Indian film industry must be protected and the recommendations of the majority of this Committee we approve.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, has quoted Mr. Madan's view, and I know also that the various Indian Merchants' Chambers have approved of the quota system. They did not think of it before, but when they looked into the development of the industry they thought that that was the only way in which the industry could be developed.

I will again touch on the controversial topic of Imperial Preference in the light of the recommendations of the Report of the Imperial Committee. This is what the Cinema Committee observes in its Summary of Conclusions:

"The question of Imperial Preference is in fact bound up with issues political, racial, economic and otherwise."

I do not think that India at present can be any party to those Imperial Conferences where we have no status. When I have equal status, when I am an equal partner in the Empire, I am ready to discuss these questions—whether I give preference to South Africa, or England, or Canada. At present I am treated as an inferior and I am not going to consider whether I will take part in any of the economic discussions when I have no right to discuss political issues and have my own say.

As regards the recommendations which will help the development of the industry, I will say this. I am glad that my Honourable friend the Commerce Member is here. Whenever any recommendation is made to raise the customs tariff, he is always glad because that brings in extra revenue to his colleague the Finance Member. I will be glad if the duty on imported films is increased much more than it is at present. I also wholeheartedly approve of the recommendation that the duty on raw films should be abolished, and it happens to be a very small loss to Government. As regards the recommendation about educational films which the Cinema Committee has made, if it is proved that certain imported films come especially for the benefit of the educational institutions, the recommendations of this Committee should be adopted and they should be brought in without any duty. I would refer to one important aspect of the recommendations, not as regards the development of the film industry but as regards the sensitiveness of the Indian mind over the misrepresentation of the Indians in films produced abroad about Indian character and Indian honour. I think America was recently guilty in this matter. Last session I asked a question whether a certain misrepresentation of the character of Indian social life was staged on the American stage and whether the Government of India, through the British representative in America, represented that such unwarranted representation should not be tolerated. My Honourable friend Sir Denys Bray at the time assured me that the British Legation in America had been written to. One of the recommendations of the Cinema Committee is that when any other nation misrepresents Indian social life and Indian honour, the Indian Government should make representations through the British representatives in those countries where Indians are represented as crooks, villains and men of low character. I hope the Honourable the Home Member and the Political Secretary will look into that aspect of the thing. When I gave evidence before the Cinema Committee, I told them (I do not think my Honourable friend Colonel Crawford was there) that a poor country like India is being exploited by the exhibition of foreign films. India is already backward in every direction of national development owing to the present system of Government. I am not anxious that we should rapidly advance in the matter of the cinema industry and multiplication of cinema shows because that incites people to do violent acts and commit violent crimes. Although the Cinema Committee Report says that crime has not been encouraged in India, I think that the burglaries that took place when the Great Indian Peninsula Railway chest containing money was burgled from running trains

[Mr. B. Das.]

must have been the work of those who got that idea from the cinema. It was done by guards, railway and other employees who must have got the idea from the cinema films. I am not anxious that Indians should learn such methods of crime. The national income of the Indian *per capita* is not more than Rs. 80. I am subject to correction if the *per capita* income has gone up—and he cannot afford to spend this money on amusements. If a national government in India comes at any time and I participate in that government, I will see that heavy taxation is put on all films that are imported into India and all sorts of amusements. But that day is far off. I do not like that my money should go to foreign countries. So far as I am concerned, I do not get even sufficient time to go to these cinemas and theatres. Our objective should be to develop the national resources. My Honourable friend Mr. Lamb referred to the wireless, the radio and things of that kind for human amusement. I know my Honourable friend Mr. Lamb takes keen interest in private cinemas. If the Europeans are anxious in India to have their own films, let them start private shows on a co-operative basis. Do not try to bring expensive methods of luxury among our people by which most of our money goes. It depletes the national wealth.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: I said these were for export.

Mr. B. Das: That is my view. I do hope that when the Honourable Member on behalf of Government replies he will accept the majority recommendations fully and accept the Resolution which my friend Kumar Rananjaya Singh has so ably moved.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution that has been moved by my Honourable friend Kumar Rananjaya Singh. The Resolution, as the House will see, consists of three parts. In the first part, the Resolution recommends to the Governor General in Council to give effect generally to the Report of the Cinema Committee. The second part lays special emphasis on the recommendation of the majority of the Committee with regard to the quota system. In the third part, it recommends that effect be given to the unanimous recommendation about compulsory registration of persons and companies engaged in the cinema industry.

The House will remember that when the matter first came before it, in the shape of a Resolution, which was the genesis of the appointment of this Committee, doubts were expressed on this side of the House with regard to the intentions of the Government, and it was thought that that was an attempt to introduce British Preference or Imperial Preference in the matter of the cinema industry; but now when we have got the Report in our hands we find that the members of the Committee have disposed of that question and they do not think there is any reason for either British Preference or Imperial Preference.

If the members of this House will turn to page 99 of the Report, para. 210, they will see that the members of the Cinema Committee have said:

“We have carefully considered the Resolution passed at the Imperial Conference of 1926 together with the connected papers. We have read the proceedings of that Conference as also the recommendations of the General Economic Sub-Committee on

which the said Resolution was based. We may say at once that we are unanimously of the opinion that no recommendations in the directions indicated at the Conference are necessary."

Then a pointed reference is made with regard to British films in para. 217 of the Report, page 101:—

"Considering the questions on its economic merits also we are satisfied that there is no necessity for any preferential treatment for the admission of British films in this country."

I hope, Sir, that these important recommendations, on matters with regard to which doubts were expressed in this section of the House from the very beginning, will be accepted by the Government.

Now, Sir, when I speak about the Majority and Minority Reports, I think the words require some explanation. Indeed what is termed the Majority Report is the Indian Report, because in the Majority Report we find that we have got the Indian Chairman of the Committee, Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, but for whom I do not think the Majority Report would have been the Majority Report. We have Mr. K. C. Neogy, a distinguished Member of this House, and another distinguished Indian Member of the Committee, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffar. The Minority Report consists of all the non-Indian Members of the Committee, consisting of two officials and one non-official, a Colonel of the British Army, who is also a distinguished Member of this House, who are ranged on the other side. The majority has been made by the casting vote of the Indian Chairman. So, I would rather term the Majority Report the Indian Report, and the Minority Report the non-Indian Report.

With these remarks, Sir, I think the House owes it to the Members of the Committee to congratulate them on the mass of valuable information they have collected and the first attempt they have made in putting the facts about the cinema industry in this Report. I think the House will not disregard that attempt which they have made. The recommendations are too many to be dealt with in detail within the time at our disposal. I would, therefore, only refer to one or two main points in the Report. The bone of contention really is with regard to the quota system. I think that the case for the quota system detailed in para. 91 of the Report has been very emphatically put by the Indian Members of the Committee in para. 146. I need not detain the House by going through those paragraphs, but I must draw their attention to the fact that the objections that the minority or non-Indian section of the Committee have been very effectively answered by the Indian section of the Committee. If the House will turn to para. 149, page 72, they will see that:

"The fear expressed by the minority that it will lead to the growth of mushroom concerns and the production of inferior films is not a serious one. The same fear has been invariably mentioned whenever the quota system has been proposed in any country, and yet the quota system has survived and found acceptance, even in Great Britain, and is spreading. Far from having that effect which the minority apprehend, it will act as an incentive to every producer to improve his quality so as, with the aid of the quota, to suit better tastes and audiences. On the whole, the majority are satisfied that it is the only sound basis on which we can develop the growth of the Indian film industry in this country. There will be a larger number of exhibitors ordering good films and competition will be kept up on account of the higher prices they will offer for better films."

Now, Sir, I think the Indian section of the Committee have got the Indian interests at heart much more than the non-Indian section. I do

[Kumar Ganganand Sinha.]

not mean any disrespect to the signatories of the Minority Report, nor have I doubted their good intentions, but I claim that the views of the Indian Members, especially the Chairman, who was referred to so highly by the Honourable the Home Member when the question of appointing a committee was taken into consideration, should have the greater weight. If the Government do not do that, its *bond fides* will be doubted.

We have got an extract from the speech of Sir P. Cunliffe Lister in the House of Commons on the 12th June, 1928, in the Supply Committee, which is very significant in view of the fact that it shows how in Great Britain the quota system has enabled the film industry to progress.

He says :

"I want to add one word about one other Act designed to assist British production and British trade, namely, the Films Act. That Act is undoubtedly already showing itself to be a signal success. Of 932 films registered up to date, 104 are British. Of the total length registered, over 12 per cent. is British. Take long films alone which are most important; over 13½ per cent. of the films registered are British films, and that means that we have more than doubled the number already required for the quota in the first year. There are more than 20 British makers, studios are being built and enlarged, and American distributors are buying for distribution here. But what is most important and what is the real test is not how far we are carrying the distribution of British films in this country where we are far exceeding the quota, but how far we are carrying the distribution of British films and where they are only going to take them on their merits. I venture to say that I am sure it is the only way of getting quality and of spreading British films outside. Distributing agencies have been started for distributing British films in Australia and New Zealand. A block of British pictures has been sold to one of the largest American distributing houses for distribution in America. Arrangements have been made between British and German distributing companies for mutual distribution and the distribution of British films in Germany. Arrangements have been made for distribution in France, other European countries, Asia Minor and South America. There is no quota in those countries and British films are making their way into those countries, and are being distributed on their merits, because this House was wise enough to see that they had merits."

The advantages which accrued to the British films in Great Britain in spite of the "quota system", which the signatories to the Minority Report dislike, would, I think, accrue to India if the quota system is adopted in India and encouragement is given to the film industry. These extracts show that the quota system has helped in improving the quality of the films and I do not think there is any substance in the apprehension that the quality of the film will suffer by this system.

With regard to compulsory registration, I see there is no divergence of opinion and I hope the House will have no objection to agreeing to that part of the recommendation.

Before I sit down, I would refer emphatically to one of the recommendations of the Committee, namely, the recommendation with regard to the grant of scholarships to Indian students who go abroad to qualify themselves in the technique of the industry. The Honourable Mr. Lamb has just referred to two facts which are, according to him, responsible for the inferiority of the Indian films. He thinks that even in India we require Western technique and capital from the West. In these respects, he thinks that we have now to depend on the West. In this respect, I think, he is right; but what is the remedy? How long will this dependence continue? It should be our earnest desire to be able to stand on our own legs as soon as possible, and for this we ask the Government to come to our

help. The first thing that the Government can do is to grant scholarships to Indians going abroad; the second thing that the Government can do is to grant us capital and thus finance the industry. With regard to financial difficulties the Committee say on page 86:

"The real difficulty is that in India there is no regular system for financing the producer. This is largely due to the absence of an organised distribution system. The producer cannot get advances from Banks, because he has not sufficient security to offer. Similarly he cannot get loans from Government under the Industrial Loans Act, in those provinces in which such an Act exists, for the same reason. These Industrial Loans Act are useless to the producer, because their requirements in regard to security are very drastic; and if he possessed such security as is demanded by these Acts he would have no difficulty in obtaining advances from Banks. Again capitalists are very shy of investing their money in this industry. It is at first sight, difficult to understand why capitalists should be reluctant to invest in an industry which is distinctly profitable. The reason generally given to us is that there is a certain stigma attached to film production owing to the necessity for the employment of women of the "dancing girl" class. We are inclined to think however that the explanation, apart from the general apathy in this country towards industrial enterprises and the general ignorance regarding the trade is rather that the status and business methods of the present producers do not command confidence. We are not suggesting any aspersion on the character of the producers; our suggestion is that they are untrained in business methods."

I, therefore, think that the Government can profitably come to our aid and the dependence on Western capital should be obviated as soon as possible with that expedient. When we have got our capital, and our young men, who have got technical knowledge from the Western countries, we shall have laid a sure foundation for the stability of the industry in India and for giving an impetus to the development of the trade. Our young men who will specialise in the trade, with the capital for their use, will be helpful in improving the quality of the film for which we are all anxious.

I trust that the Indian Assembly will support the Indian Report of the Committee.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I must congratulate my Honourable friend Kumar Rananjaya Singh on his maiden speech in this House and I am obliged to him for having, by starting this discussion, given me an opportunity of listening to some very interesting speeches, including the one delivered by my Honourable friend Mr. B. Das, who was perhaps dreaming that he was addressing his electorate for a future election. Sir, I shall not take any great portion of the time of the House on the present occasion. The position of the Government of India in this matter is very simple. The pivot on which the recommendations of the Indian Cinema Committee, whether unanimous or subject to a difference of opinion among the members, turn is the creation of a cinema department under the Central Government. In paragraph 282 of their Report the Committee admit that "this will no doubt involve some radical changes requiring re-arrangement of provincial and central subjects, amendment of the Devolution Rules, etc., etc." They recognise that the development of industries is now a provincial transferred subject, and that if their main recommendation to which I have referred is to be accepted, the principle underlying item 20 of Part I of Schedule I of the Devolution Rules will have to be invoked. When I turn to that particular rule, I find that the development of industries may be made a central subject in cases where such development by central authority is declared by order of the Governor General in Council, made after consultation with the Local Governments concerned, expedient in the public interest. Therefore, Sir, it is not possible for the Government of India to take

[The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

any action in the matter until they have consulted the various Local Governments and obtained their views on the subject. That consultation is in progress, and until it has been completed, it is not possible for me, on behalf of the Government of India, to commit them in any way on the particular questions brought forward in the Resolution or in the amendment of Colonel Crawford. I can, at the same time, assure the House that the various views—and some of them are undoubtedly conflicting—which have been expressed by Members in connection with this debate, will receive the fullest consideration from the Government of India when they are in a position to go into the merits of these recommendations. I can also assure Colonel Crawford that the Government of India will do their best to expedite matters, and we hope that, before this House meets again in Simla, we shall arrive at some settlement with the Provincial Governments concerned and shall be in a position to take action in regard to the various recommendations. With this assurance, I hope that both the amendment and the Resolution will be withdrawn. But if they are pressed to a division, the only attitude which the Government of India can take in regard to them will be one of opposition, as they cannot obviously, by supporting either the Resolution or the amendment, commit themselves at this stage to any particular course of action.

Kumar Rananjaya Singh: Sir, I am not in a position to accept the amendment of my Honourable friend Colonel Crawford as it is against the very interests of the Indian film industry. The Indian film industry needs some sort of encouragement at this stage for its proper development. I am surprised the Honourable Member for Industries brought in the implications of Devolution Rule 20. I cannot understand why the Committee was appointed at all. I find my Honourable friend Mr. B. Das is entirely right in his criticism of the Cinema Committee. I am glad to find that on this side of the House, we are all of one mind, and every speaker has supported me. I regret I cannot accept the suggestion of the Honourable Member for Industries, and I therefore commend my Resolution to the Members of the House.

Mr. President: The original Resolution was :

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, with a view to fostering the growth of the Indian film industry and the protection of the Indian cinema trade from exploitation by non-Indians, immediate effect be given to the recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Committee by the imposition of the 'quota system' and the introduction of legislative measures requiring compulsory registration of persons and companies engaged in producing, exhibiting, distributing and importing films, or owning or controlling cinema houses, the predominance of Indian element being assured in all such concerns."

Since which the following amendment has been moved :

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted :

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, with a view to fostering the growth of the Indian film industry, steps be taken immediately to give effect to those recommendations upon which the Committee were unanimous."

Colonel J. D. Crawford: In view of what the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour has said, I shall, with your permission and with the permission of the House, withdraw my amendment.

Mr. President: The question is that Colonel Crawford be given leave to withdraw his amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is that the original Resolution be adopted.

The House divided:

AYES—39.

Abdoola Haroon, Haji.
 Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Maulvi.
 Acharya, Mr. M. K.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. S. Sesha.
 Belvi, Mr. D. V.
 Bhargava, Pandit Thakur Das.
 Birla, Mr. Ghanshyam Das.
 Chetty, Mr. E. K. Shanmukham.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Gulab Singh, Sardar.
 Haji, Mr. S. N.
 Hans Raj, Lala.
 Jayakar, Mr. M. R.
 Jogiah, Mr. V. V.
 Kelkar, Mr. N. C.
 Kidwai, Mr. Rafi Ahmad.
 Kunzru, Pandit Hirday Nath.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Misra, Mr. Dwarka Prasad.
 Mohammad Ismail Khan, Haji
 Chaudhury.

Moonje, Dr. B. S.
 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Sardar.
 Murtuza, Saheb Bahadur, Maulvi
 Sayyid.
 Naidu, Mr. B. P.
 Pandya, Mr. Vidya Sagar.
 Rafique, Mr. Muhammad.
 Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur
 Makhdum Syed.
 Rang Behari Lal, Lala.
 Rao, Mr. G. Sarvotham.
 Roy, Mr. B. C.
 Sarda, Rai Sahib Harbilas.
 Siddiqi, Mr. Abdul Qadir.
 Singh, Kumar Rananjaya.
 Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
 Singh, Mr. Narayan Prasad.
 Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
 Sinha, Kumar Ganganand.
 Tirloki Nath, Lala.

NOES—39.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.
 Alexander, Mr. William.
 Allison, Mr. F. W.
 Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr.
 Ashrafuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur
 Nawabzada Sayid.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bower, Mr. E. H. M.
 Coatman, Mr. J. H. V.
 Cocke, Mr. H. G.
 Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.
 Crawford, Colonel J. D.
 Crerar, The Honourable Mr. J.
 French, Mr. J. C.
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Mr.
 Graham, Mr. L.
 Hira Singh, Brar, Sardar Bahadur,
 Honorary Captain.
 Jowafir Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar.
 Keane, Mr. M.

Lall, Mr. S.
 Lamb, Mr. W. S.
 Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
 Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra
 Nath.
 Moore, Mr. Arthur.
 Mukharji, Rai Bahadur A. K.
 Mukherjee, Mr. S. C.
 Parsons, Mr. A. A. L.
 Rainy, The Honourable Sir George.
 Rao, Mr. V. Panduranga.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sams, Mr. H. A.
 Saason, Sir Victor
 Schuster, The Honourable Sir George.
 Shillidy, Mr. J. A.
 Simpson, Sir James.
 Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.
 Stevenson, Mr. H. L.
 Webb, Mr. M.
 Young, Mr. G. M.

Mr. President: Ayes 39; Noes 39. It is obvious I must vote against the Resolution, therefore the "Noes" have it.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

RESOLUTION *RE* COMPULSORY PHYSICAL TRAINING, ETC., FOR INDIAN BOYS.

Dr. B. S. Moonje (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Honourable Sir, I rise to move my Resolution which runs thus:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that steps should be taken as early as possible to provide for compulsory physical training, military drill and rifle practice for Indian boys attending schools and colleges between the ages of 16 and 20 years."

I should like to explain why I have brought forward this Resolution before this Assembly. Members of this House will remember the most admirable analysis of the character of Indian boys given by the Skeen Committee from the military point of view. The Skeen Committee say in effect that Indian boys have been examined from the military point of view and there have been several defects found in their character. These defects are want of "general aptitude for dealing with and controlling men," a lack of "the power of leadership," of "the spirit of initiative," sportsmanlike character, love of discipline, and over and above all, lack of "a strong and genuine military spirit such as is essential to training and command of troops."

Such are the defects that have been noted by the Skeen Committee. From the people's point of view, I think, India cannot be too grateful to that Committee; they have so effectively focussed public attention on the defects of our boys. That these defects exist in our boys no one can deny to-day, in spite of the fact, the historical fact, that in this House there are representatives of several castes and communities who hardly a 100 or 125 years ago had waged wars, fought battles, established empires and run empires. People cannot forget the fact that, even now, the name of Hari Singh Nalva in that country of ferocious Pathans is remembered with fear; people cannot forget that there are representatives in this House of a caste which produced two soldiers, Rana Pratap who was a constant thorn in the side of the powerful Moghul, Emperor Akbar the Great, and the noble Shivaji of the Maratha race. Here I find sitting before me my friend, Mr. Jayakar, who comes of a caste of which it is known that they have wielded both the pen and the sword with equal facility. The rice-eating Brahmins, the Peshwas, in those days when there were no railways, no telegraphs, no motors, no aeroplanes, marched all the way from Poona to Panipat to give battle to that intrepid Pathan soldier, Ahmad Shah Abdali. In spite of these historical facts, the fact is equally true that to-day the Indian boy's character is really deficient in the way in which it has been noted by the Skeen Committee. It must, however, be remembered that the Skeen Committee has not stopped here after merely mentioning the fact. No, they have analysed the point further. What does the Skeen Committee say in respect of the origin of these deficiencies in the Indian boy's character? They say that during the 150 years of British rule, opportunities have not been given to the Indian boys to take part in the defence of their country. The capacity for fighting

for the defence of India, inherited from their grand-fathers, is latent amongst our boys, their grandsons, but opportunities have not been given. Perhaps they think that these qualities may have practically died out by now merely from non-use. They say while analysing still further :

"In England the educational system has been definitely adapted, in part at any rate, to the production of efficient leaders of men."

While in India, as Lord Macaulay has somewhere said, the educational policy has been to train up a class of men, to serve as a recruiting field for the supply of meek and docile and obedient subordinates to the haughty and arrogant British administrators of India. If the policies of educating youths in India and in England has been different, the results also in the evolution of character of the British and the Indian youths must be different. It is from this point of view that I have felt the need of moving this Resolution, and I hope that if these people on the opposite side really sympathise, with the object of bringing up the youth of India to take their due share in the defence of the country and of the Empire in which we live, there will be no difficulty in accepting the simple Resolution I have brought forward. My Resolution says that the curriculum of education for our boys must contain physical training, military drill and rifle practice. I go further and say that these must be made compulsory. About physical training I do not think there will be any difficulty in accepting my point, because it is an axiomatic proposition which does not require any demonstration, that unless a man has a strong and healthy body, however, intelligent that man may be, however enthusiastic he may be, that body will not be able to carry out the behests of his mind and his intellect; and therefore, I do not think there will be anybody here who would go against that part of my Resolution. Now, the next point is military drill; and why do I want to include military drill in the curriculum of the education of our boys? Captain B. H. Laddel Hart, Military Critic of the *Daily Telegraph* had written a very nice book called the *Remaking of Modern Army*. Therein he brings forth the effects of military drill on the character of boys, "Military drill in particular," he says, "has a dual object: first, to instil obedience, self-control, cohesion, quickness and alertness, all of which qualities may be summed up in the phrase, 'the disciplined activity of the individual.'" Second, to develop the mobility and flexibility of the units for battle." This means, in other words, that if we introduce military drill in the curriculum of education of our boys, we shall go a great way in removing the defects referred to in the Skeen Committee's Report, namely, a want of "general aptitude for dealing with and controlling men" and a lack of "power of leadership." Therefore, if the Government are really sincere and sympathetic, I do not think there can be any difficulty from this point of view in accepting also this part of my Resolution.

Now, Sir, with regard to rifle practice, perhaps the question may not seem on the face of it as simple as I regard it to be. I am one of those who have been enthusiastically supporting Pandit Motilal Nehru's constitution. For the first time in the history of India, the people of India have accepted the King of England as the Emperor of India by their own consent, and therefore they say and the All-Parties Convention have accepted the point, that they want Dominion Status under the British Empire. So from our point of view we have given as complete an evidence of our goodwill as it is possible for any man to do. Therefore,

[Dr. B. S. Moonje.]

I say, if this evidence is accepted as convincing, then the introduction of rifle practice as a part of the education of our boys must be really as simple as it appears to me. If Dominion Status is to be granted, who is then going to protect that Dominion Status in the hour of an emergency of foreign invasion? If the Empire again comes into difficulty, as it had come during the last world war, the English people must note the fact that never again a time will come when one of our Viceroy's would be in a position to say that 10,000 soldiers in India were quite enough to defend India from all foreign aggression. That time is gone for ever; it is not going to come again. Let British people note the fact that they alone can not now defend India, unaided by us. It will be too late then, if time is not taken by the forelock, and if preparations are not made now, to meet an emergency, should it arise. It is from this point of view, and also as one interested in securing and maintaining Dominion Status, and as one who knows that no one else will be able to protect that Dominion Status except those people of India who fought for it and secured it, it is from ingrained conviction of these facts that I am putting forward this proposition as a preliminary step for the training of Indian youths for the defence of India.

Now, Sir, having said this much in support of the Resolution, I might anticipate the possible objections on the other side. The objections which are likely to be raised by the other side will be on the score of compulsion. The British people might say that they are inherently against compulsion, that they have got an inherent repulsion to compulsion. Is it really a fact? I have got proof here which shows that no less a personality than Lord Roberts thought it to be his duty in his last days to impress upon his people the fact—he thought that his last days could not be better spent than by bringing this fact to the notice of his people in England—that England will not be safe until all the boys are made to go through a system of military training. If that is so, if a personality of the status and position of Lord Roberts of Kandahar thinks that way, I think we, situated as we are in a country like India, must divest ourselves of our prejudices if I may say so, of our predilections if I may say so, and look at the fact from a purely scientific point of view, from a purely dispassionate point of view, and see whether a country whose military traditions have been broken during the last 150 years could be really made without full previous

3 P.M. preparation, to take its share and its responsibility in an emergency which, who knows, might come five years hence or ten years hence or 25 years hence; but the world situation is such that everybody who wants to be on his guard must be prepared to meet any emergency at any moment. But, Sir, is it really a fact, I again ask, that the British people do really hate compulsion? They may not be wanting compulsion for their boys in their own Home in England, but these very people do want compulsion for their boys when they go to the Colonies. In British Guiana every British subject is made liable for service by Law. In British Honduras every British subject is made liable for service; the same is the case in Kenya, Fiji, in Gillbert and Ellis Islands. In Canada the Provincial Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario avail themselves of the power vested in them to enforce compulsory military training for their boys, and their curriculum includes compulsory drill and rifle shooting in the curricula of all the schools and colleges under their control. The same is the case in New Zealand. There boys between

the ages of 14 and 18 are liable to be trained as senior cadets; between the ages of 18 and 19, they all pass into the general training section. In South Africa boys between the ages of 13 and 17 in all parts of the Union where facilities for training exist or can be arranged, are required to be Cadets, unless their parents or guardians object. All arms and equipment for the training of cadets are issued, and the cost of training is provided at public expense. If that is so, I do not think it can be contended that the Britishers do really hate compulsion, and therefore it goes against their grain.

Now, looking at the question from a financial point of view, I do not think I can argue better than how an English administrator, I mean His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey, has done. This is what he says:

"We spend large sums on our professional and educational colleges, and since we have definitely decided that the military career must be open to Indians, it is clearly a justifiable expense to secure the best men possible. Within reason, I do not think we should allow finance to stand in our way in this respect."

I do not think, Sir, much need be said about the difficulties of finance. But is there really any difficulty about finance, I should like to know. I don't think so. But I shall suggest a compromise to get over the difficulty if it be a real one. Let the Government accept the principle of compulsion; let the Government accept the principle of introducing physical training, military drill and rifle practice in the curriculum for our boys, and then I would say that should, for want of previous experience, we find it difficult to get over the financial difficulty, you might choose a province like mine, a province of meek and docile people, a province which is not likely to give you any trouble, a small province

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): What about Nagpur?

Dr. B. S. Mookje: I might ask the Government to make an experiment from the financial point of view in that province, so that the Government also might get some experience, and I am hopeful their experiment of two or three years will be so encouraging that they themselves will be inclined to expand that experiment and try it in other provinces. I am sure the Government, from its own interest, will not oppose this Resolution of mine. I am also sure that other friends of mine,—here I am appealing particularly to my European friends,—will support my proposition, because they should understand that they are living in a country like India, where they are a mere drop in the ocean and if their interests, particularly their commercial interests, are to be guarded, who is going to guard them in India? It is not the British Government, because it will be impossible for the British Government to defend India single-handed without the willing and trained co-operation of the youths of India. Therefore, even purely from the point of view of self-interest, I think the Europeans in India should support my simple proposition. As regards my other friends, I need not say much because I know that they see fully eye to eye with me. With these words I place my Resolution before you for your acceptance, reserving to myself the right of replying to any objections that might be raised in the debate.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, the learned and gallant Doctor has a reputation not only inside this House but outside the House, in fact, throughout

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

India, for the deep and profound interest which he takes in re-kindling in the hearts of the youth of India the military spirit. He has, I have no doubt, made a very careful and painstaking study of the literature on the subject, and I believe that he is wondering in his own mind as to why I, whose interests are in education, should presume to tackle him, not on his native heath, but what might metaphorically be described as his military heath. Well, Sir, I have no martial ambitions at all. By birth I am a man of *ahimsa*. I have nothing whatever to do with slaying or preparation for slaying. Further, by training I am used to the *métier* of the pen, not to the *métier* of the sword or that other weapon of modern warfare—for after all, Dr. Moonje is not merely a modernist but a modern realist in the sense of Nietzsche—that other weapon of modern warfare, the firearm. My excuse at this stage for interfering or intervening in the debate is that the gallant Doctor is thinking not merely of training the people of this country to take their share in the defence of this country, but he has singled out a section of the population of this country, namely, the section which attends schools and colleges, for this particular form of training, and because he bases his proposal on this, that the Government of India must direct the Local Governments, and all those who are responsible for educational administration in the provinces—to make military education a feature of the curricula of schools and colleges.

Now, Sir, from the purely military stand-point, whether the principle of compulsory military training for boys in schools and boys in colleges between the ages of 16 and 20 is desirable or not desirable, whether it is a practical or an unpractical proposition, whether the finances of the Army or the finances of the country as a whole will bear or will not bear the burden of this particular experiment—those are questions which I think the heavy artillery of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mackworth Young, will be able to cope with more adequately than I can. In other words, the purely military defences and weapons of offence of my Honourable friend opposite will have to be dealt with by the military spokesman in this House, the Army Secretary. Mine is a much more modest but perhaps an important task of developing an attack, shall we say, along the educational flank of the arguments employed by Dr. Moonje. And I put forward my objections from the purely educational standpoint under three groups.

The first is the constitutional objection. Dr. Moonje wants, as I have already stated, that compulsory physical training, compulsory rifle practice, compulsory drill, should be features of the curricula of schools and colleges throughout India. I may, by way of parenthesis, explain that compulsory physical training is a feature of the educational curricula in schools in most provinces and in colleges in some provinces. But the main point which I wish to make is that, as the Honourable Member is aware, education is not now the concern of the Governor General in Council. Education, under the Government of India Act and the Devolution Rules thereunder, is the exclusive responsibility of Provincial Governors, their Ministers and the Provincial Legislative Councils. It would, in view of the constitutional position, therefore be *ultra vires* of the Government of India to arrogate to themselves the role of dictator or guide to Local Governments as to what should constitute the essential features of their educational curricula whether in colleges or schools.

The second point to which I should like to pass on now is the stand-point of the educationist pure and simple towards this proposition, the

proposition of making military drill and rifle practice compulsory in schools and colleges. I do not presume or pretend to be an educationist myself, but we have some expert advisers who are educationists and their opinion is that from the point of view of building up the physique of your young men, compulsory military drill and compulsory rifle practice are not so important or so satisfactory as other forms of scientific drill which specially subserve that object, as for example, Swedish drill and forms of exercise which, whether comprehended under the system of Müller or other similar system, are becoming more and more popular. Further, their feeling is that this poise, shall we say, of agility and activity between mind and limb, the complete flexibility and strength of the muscular system as it were, can be developed not merely by resort to a system of military drill, but by those scientific forms of exercise which I have mentioned. I took note, as the gallant Doctor was speaking, of the fact that some authority, whose name I could not catch, had something to say on the influence of military drill in training character. I must not therefore be understood as contending that military drill has no utility or that it serves no useful purpose. I am merely trying to explain that from the purely educational standpoint, or rather from the standpoint of developing the physique of the young men of this country, there are other forms of physical training which perhaps are preferable to military drill. Then, Sir

Mr. M. K. Acharya (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are these other forms now employed in colleges?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: In certain schools and colleges, certainly. Then we come to the other objection which our educationists put forward and that is an objection of principle. It is this, that in a country like India, or a country of the size of India, where you have not adopted or introduced the principle of compulsion for education itself, you cannot proceed to make military training obligatory. If you had built up a system of general military conscription, that would be another matter. Every section of the population would then be liable to military training. Your students as a section of the community, or the general body of the population, would be equally liable for military training. But what you would be doing by adopting this particular expedient of confining compulsory military training and military drill to students would be to affect your educational expansion, because the population of the country as a whole is not imbued with the same intense enthusiasm for military training or military practice as my friend Dr. Moonje; and the parents of the students perhaps are not imbued universally with the same spirit. Unless and until you have kindled in the country as a whole this enthusiasm for military training, there is the danger that, instead of helping forward the educationist with his policy of attracting more and more students to schools and colleges, you would be hindering him. The third objection which I have to urge is this. It is an objection based on such literature as I have been able to study on this subject in so far as it has been discussed by educational bodies and committees. Those who have given thought to this subject seriously have not come to the conclusion that the principle of compulsion for purposes of military training is at this stage either desirable or necessary. I shall first of all quote from the Report of what is popularly known as the Shea Committee, the Report, to be quite accurate, of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee. In paragraph 8 of their Report they say, referring to the University Training Corps:

"No form of State compulsion should be adopted in order to secure the enlistment of the students in the University Training Corps."

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

That was their recommendation, made in 1925. Since then, Sir, a number of universities have considered the question. A question was asked in February 1928 in the Legislative Assembly as to which universities in India had pronounced in favour of compulsory military training and which university, if any, had adopted the method of compulsory military training. We then made inquiries from different Local Governments and I shall state briefly the purport of the replies which we received. The Government of Bengal wrote to say that the University of Calcutta at first pronounced in favour of compulsory military training for students attending colleges. On reflection, however, they came to the conclusion that this was not an altogether practicable proposition and they resiled from their original recommendation and said that they would be quite satisfied with the extension of the University Training Corps on a voluntary basis. The University of Bombay had considered a Resolution in favour of making military training compulsory. That Resolution was moved in the Senate of the University of Bombay by Dr. Paranjpye. My information, derived from the Government of Bombay, is that the Senate of the University of Bombay did not adopt the Resolution of Dr. Paranjpye, but was satisfied with developing the University Training Corps on a voluntary basis. In the case of the University of Patna, the original Resolution was in favour of compulsory military training. On reflection, that view was revised. The conclusion of the University of the Punjab was not in favour of compulsory military training but against it. The University of Delhi decided likewise. The University of Nagpur, I believe, has not considered this question at all. The University of Rangoon has postponed consideration of the question. Probably it will be taken up some time in the course of the present year. I think, Sir, this bears out the inference I have drawn, namely, that the body of educational opinion in this country, in so far as it is represented by universities, which, in view of the powers that they enjoy, would have the most to do with giving effect to any recommendation of this character, is not in favour of compulsion.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): What is their objection? It may be due to lack of finance?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Lack of finance was one of the reasons urged, but as far as I know, other reasons prevailed with them, such as the resultant effect on the enrolment in colleges and schools and the possible, even probable, unpopularity of educational courses if military training was made compulsory. I was saying, Sir, that the body of educational opinion has, at any rate so far, not expressed itself in favour of compulsion. The position is this. Your educationist does not regard this proposal with satisfaction, because he feels that instead of helping forward the cause of disseminating education, you will be hindering it. Your universities are not in favour of it because they think that, at any rate for the present and for some time to come, there is scope for doing all that is necessary with the University Training Corps as the nucleus. The last question, which again I have to deal with from the purely educational standpoint, is the question of expenditure. I just tried to have a rough calculation made of the number of boys affected by my Honourable friend's proposal. The number of boys attending schools and colleges between the ages of 16 and 20, who will be affected by this proposal, is in the neighbourhood of 380,000. I think I am correct in stating that this figure is somewhat in

excess of the total strength of the Army in India. Now the cost of preparing this large body for compulsory military training would indeed be large. Somebody was saying that a rifle costs Rs. 200. So then the cost of rifles alone will come to eight crores approximately. Then there is the question of the equipment, and so on. I do not wish to develop this point at too great length. I merely wish to say this. Are we quite sure that, education being as I have said a provincial transferred subject, Local Governments, who have considered this question and pronounced against it on the whole, would be prepared, even if we were to put it to them from here, to say "Very well, we shall try this".

My own impression is that, with the numerous calls which now exist upon the limited resources of Local Governments, it is hardly likely they would be prepared to embark upon so expensive an experiment.

To sum up then, Sir, my objections to the Resolution, which I would again make clear, are objections put forward on educational grounds pure and simple, are as follows: First that constitutionally it is *ultra vires* of the Government of India to issue any instructions to Local Governments for introducing innovations into their educational curriculum. My second objection is that educationists do not regard either compulsory drill or compulsory military training as necessary by themselves and as the best methods for developing the physique of their students. Thirdly, that they regard the introduction of compulsion for purposes of military training and drill as likely to affect the popularity of their educational institutions. And my last objection is that, in view of the numerous calls in the sphere of education itself, such as the expansion of primary education, collegiate education, etc., which are not being completely met by Local Governments, not being within their financial resources, it is not likely that Local Governments would be prepared to accept a recommendation of so expensive a character.

For these reasons I regret, Sir, that it is not possible for me to support this Resolution.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Sir, we have listened to a very disappointing speech from our friend, Mr. Bajpai. Situated as he is, probably he could not make a speech of any other kind, and I really sympathise with him in that. He tried to make a point that this Resolution was *ultra vires*. If he had carefully studied the Resolution and read the language therein, he would have found that this Resolution does not commit the Government of India to take the education of the boys in the provinces in their hands, but that it only wishes the Government of India to take certain steps so that the education of the boys on lines indicated here in the Resolution may be taken up by the provinces. He has also forgotten that the Government of India have educational institutions under their own direct control. And, my friend Mr. Bajpai has ignored that aspect of the question altogether. Is the Government of India prepared to accept this Resolution so far as the education of boys which is under their direct control is concerned?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I merely interrupt the Honourable Member on a point of fact. It may interest him to know that the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, which is one of the directly administered areas, is opposed to the introduction of compulsory military training in his province, and the University of Delhi has also pronounced against compulsory military education.

Mr. M. S. Aney: In spite of what the Administration of the North-West Frontier Province has said, it would not be *ultra vires* of the Government of India to accept this Resolution if they think it proper to do so. I am answering only the constitutional objection which my Honourable friend has raised. There is definite responsibility on the Government of India to train these boys. It is obviously not *ultra vires* of this House to make any such suggestion. Secondly, we are asking the Government of India not to take the education of the boys into their own hands, but they can indicate the direction and only give instructions to the Provincial Governments on that point. In this connection I will bring to the notice of the Honourable Member certain important passages in the Sandhurst Committee's Report. In their recommendations at page 54, sub-clause (6), they have distinctly stated that:

"The Government of India should impress upon educational authorities the paramount national importance of reforming the system of education in India with a view to developing in the pupils of the ordinary schools and colleges those characteristics so essential in an Army officer, to which little or no attention is at present paid by them, and should appeal to them to reorganise the institutions under their control to this end."

By means of this Resolution my friend Dr. Moonje has been asking the Government of India what steps they have taken to carry out this important recommendation of the Sandhurst Committee. We know how they have dealt with other recommendations of this Report and how they have succeeded in turning down some of the most important recommendations therein. But this is a recommendation which the Committee has made, and so far as the reply of my Honourable friend is concerned, I do not find anything in it to show that they have taken any steps to impress the importance of this kind of education upon the provincial authorities who are in charge of schools, or done anything to further the objects which the framers of that Report had in view. Inasmuch as nothing has hitherto been done, it means that these important recommendations of a nation's building character are being consistently ignored by the Government of India. And yet the Government of India, I am sure, will come forward and say, "as long as the country is not ready for its own defence for constitutional advance and further progress in responsibility we cannot do anything." We are treated to this sort of absurd argument and Government fails to see the incongruity of its own statements which are being thrust upon us every day. My learned friend's second argument was that various universities had expressed themselves against compulsory military training. He fails to see that his Resolution is not for compulsory military training, but for compulsory physical training, military drill and rifle practice. Military drill and rifle practice do not cover the whole field of military training. When the Military Secretary speaks, I am sure that he will be telling the House that military training means much more than this. If we had insisted upon military training in its entirety being immediately and compulsorily introduced, there would possibly be some force in the arguments, but my friend has confounded the idea of compulsory military training and compulsory training in military drill and rifle practice and has regarded these two things as entirely one and the same. He should have distinguished and discriminated between these two things. We are only asking that military drill and rifle practice should be part of the compulsory training to be given to the boys in the colleges and schools of India.

If that is borne in mind, the boggy of financial difficulties which is being raised up before us will vanish completely. Military training may require considerable equipment, the cost of which the Government of India may or may not find it easy to provide. It will largely depend upon whether it has the will to do so, or it has not the will to do so. If the attention of the Government of India is fixed upon these two points which are singled out for compulsory training in this Resolution, then I do not think the cost will be so enormous as to be beyond the means of the Government of India and of the Provincial Governments to meet. Besides that there was a further generous proposal made by my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje in his speech of which my Honourable friend did not take any notice. The simple question is whether the Government of India accept the principle. If they accept the principle in the first place, the question of financial difficulties could be considered later on. But when there is objection to the principle itself, it is not much use raising the boggy of financial difficulties which is simply intended to scare away the Members and mislead the people, if I may be permitted to say so.

Secondly, as regards the universities which have expressed themselves adversely, I do not think the question was put to them in the specific form in which it is now raised in this House. If it be put in this particular form, I am sure the universities, constituted as they are at present, though not strictly democratic as we desire them to be, would still contain a preponderating majority of non-official element which will readily go in for a step of the kind recommended in this Resolution. My Honourable friend should have at least given us the promise that he would try this experiment in various forms and in the various universities. If he had at least given us that promise, he would have shown some willingness on his part to accept the Resolution. But he does not want to give any such promise, in fact he does not want the Resolution at all. He would point his finger to certain circumstances which have no analogy at all to or bearing on the present Resolution, and on the strength of that he would say that, the circumstances being adverse, nothing could be done. The Government of India have taken absolutely no step whatever to impress me or any Member on this part of the House as to their genuine sincerity in their attempts to develop in the boys the kind of military spirit the Skeen Committee recommended, and they also do not want to move any further. That is the meaning of the reply which I have heard from my Honourable friend. That is the reason why it came to me as a most disappointing reply, coming as it did from that part of the Treasury Benches which is occupied by my Honourable friend Mr. Bajpai. I could have understood that reply if it had come from the other half of the Treasury Benches. But constituted as they are at present, we do not expect anything better than that. We have to take things as they are. I, however, implore the Government to prove their *bona fides* and sincerities in the professions which they make that they are making honest efforts to train this nation for taking its appropriate place and attaining its legitimate position in the ranks of the civilised nations in the world. If they want to justify the professions which they make times out of number—and they are never tired of making them—then they must express their readiness to accept the principle of the Resolution which in my opinion, embodies a very modest demand that could be made on behalf of the youths of this country who are undoubtedly awakened and anxious to take their appropriate part in the defence of

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their motherland. With these remarks, I believe I have practically disposed of the very insuperable objections, as my learned friend has thought, he has raised and there is nothing so far as his objections are concerned that remains to be answered.

There is one point to which I deem it my duty to refer in conclusion before commending this Resolution to the acceptance of the House. That point is this. The youths of this country are anxious to have some outlet for them in military careers. There is the youth movement spreading all over the country, and it is for the Government to see that they have the prudence, the necessary foresight and statesmanship to provide a legitimate outlet for that sort of ambition. The youths are determined to have this sort of education; they are determined to have those qualities which develop a martial spirit in them, and if you make provision for a proper and legitimate outlet for them to develop these qualities in the schools and colleges which are controlled by you and which are aided and supervised by you, so much the better. Otherwise things are likely to go from bad to worse and the consequences thereof you will have to reap, when probably it would be too late for you even to retrace your steps. With these words, I strongly support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje.

The Revd. J. O. Chatterjee (Nominated: Indian Christians): Sir, I entirely support my Honourable friend, Dr. Moonje (Hear, hear.) in so far as the first part of his Resolution is concerned in which he asks for compulsory physical training for all boys in our schools and colleges between the ages specified in his Resolution. I do wish he had stressed that point even more than he has stressed the second part of his Resolution. It is well known that, as things stand at present, physical education is said to be compulsory in our schools, but I am sure that my Honourable friend, Dr. Moonje, knows that in a great many of these schools, I should say that in a vast majority of these schools, physical education as it is given now is to a great extent valueless and in some cases it is little more than a farce. I wish therefore that, as a result of this Resolution, the attention of the country and of the Government would be diverted to this question of physical training in schools. I remember in my own evidence before the Skeen Committee I laid very great stress on that matter and said:

"If you are going to have physical education in schools, let us for Heaven's sake have something that is worth while in training these boys and in making them physically fit and also fit to defend themselves afterwards."

I am sure Dr. Moonje also knows that, so far as the colleges are concerned, in a vast majority of them there is no physical training given. Physical training for boys stops very often when they leave schools and is not continued in the colleges. There again it is extremely necessary that Government should take some steps to ensure that the physical training begun in schools does continue, if possible, in a more efficient manner when the scholars go to colleges.

As far as second part of the Resolution is concerned, if the object underlying the Resolution is that the young students of our colleges, who are the growing citizens of our nation, should be so trained that they may be able to defend themselves and defend their hearths and homes when the need arises. If that be the principle underlying the Resolution, I am entirely in agreement with the Honourable Mover. I must confess that as the Resolution now stands, and as it is worded it is rather unhappy

because it is easily vulnerable. If Dr. Moonje had asked in his Resolution—for he as well as any one else who takes an interest in the subject has a perfect right to ask—if he had asked in his Resolution that adequate facilities should be provided for military training and for rifle practice to any student who either by himself or through his guardian desires it, then there can be very little objection to it. What one desires to ask for and press for, so far as I am concerned, is that such adequate facilities should be provided and that no student should be refused a chance of making himself fit to defend his country and his home. It is extremely difficult at the present moment, speaking from an educational point of view, to see how this Resolution, as it stands now, could be given practical effect to. I do not want to enter into the financial or military aspect of it, but I look upon it in this way. I look round Delhi and I see that if this Resolution were accepted and given effect to, we would have to train, at a modest estimate, between 3,000 and 4,000 boys of the ages mentioned in the Resolution. I fail to see how it would be possible to provide any real military training for them. Give physical training by all means and military training for as many as are physically fit and desire to get it. But to compel the whole lot of 3,000 or 4,000 of these young students between the ages of 16 and 20 to undergo physical training is not practicable. I fail to see how we would be able to provide physical training, or the training ground or equipment for such a large number of boys. I only speak as one engaged in education. I do not know the military aspect of it at all and I do not mean to say anything about that side of the subject.

Then there is another point. It is that I am opposed to conscription in the case of students. We have already so much compulsion that is imposed on students to do one thing or another. They have to learn a multitude of subjects. As it is they do not know how to divide their time to the best advantage because so many things are made compulsory for young boys. If this military training also is to be made compulsory and if it is going to be something in addition to what physical training now is, I am sorry to say that it cannot, in the majority of cases, be made at all effective. If my Honourable friend, Dr. Moonje really means that effective training is to be given, and if we are going to compel every one of our students to undergo this training, I fail to see how they would be able to attend to their intellectual development, get through their examinations, or apply themselves to their main object, namely, the pursuit of knowledge. I do not quite see how these are going to be affected by making it compulsory for the boys to undergo military training. I must say I feel grave doubts on that subject. The Honourable the Education Secretary has referred to certain reasons why the Universities turned down the proposal. I may also add that one of the important reasons was that they felt that if we made every student undergo military training at all effectively, it would come to this, that their attention would be diverted, and the main purpose of their student days would to some extent be forgotten.

There is another point, Sir. As an educationist I believe that what is worth doing is worth doing well, and if we are going to train 4,000 boys in Delhi, how can that be done well? From what Mr. Aney has said, it seems to me that what he wants is a kind of preliminary military training, something very simple. I want to ask him, is it the idea that our students should get something which is colourless, something which is not at all thorough, in other words ineffective?

Mr. M. R. Jayakar (Bombay City: Non-Muhammedan Urban): Is the Honourable Member opposing or supporting the Resolution?

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: What I say, Sir, is that it will not be possible to take in such large numbers as are implied in this Resolution, if compulsion is to be applied. If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well, and therefore the proposal contained in this Resolution should be such as can be properly dealt with.

There is yet another point, Sir, and it is this. There are a certain number of boys who have got a natural aptitude for this kind of training. We must bring them together and make them really efficient soldiers, to be really useful when the time comes. But if we have a whole lot of boys who have to be given this training under compulsion, then the really bright fellow, the really apt soldier, if I may use that expression—and we who have something to do with teaching know how the weak and inefficient boys keep the bright boys back in the class—is likely to be kept back and handicapped. If we are going to train 4,000 boys in one place and compel them to take that training, the result will be that 200 at least who will make very efficient and trained soldiers and who will be able to defend themselves will be distinctly kept back. These are the reasons, Sir, why I feel that it would not be right to introduce compulsion. But I am entirely with the Mover of the Resolution if he means that adequate training should be given, and that facilities should be offered, to every student who himself or through his guardian, desires to receive such training, and that nobody should be turned away if he wishes to receive such training.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar: Sir, it is very unfortunate that this Resolution comes at a time when the non-official benches are very thin and also the official front bench is unoccupied except for one Member. I wish, Sir, I could convey to the opposite benches the strength of feeling which this Resolution provokes on the non-official side. If I may say so, Sir, it is the one vital Resolution of this session on which we feel very keenly, not excluding questions like the Simon Commission. And the reason is that it relates to a matter connected with the youth of the country. Sir, from that point of view, it was to me a painful surprise that the Education Secretary, of all officials on the opposite side, should have been made the spokesman of Government. I could have quite understood Mr. Macworth Young replying on a question of this character, because the attitude of the Government on the military side we are all quite habituated to by this time. It is the plain attitude of a man who does not want anybody else to come into his close preserve. But when the Education Secretary gets up as an educationist—and we must not forget that he was speaking from the point of view of the educationist and not that of a technical military adviser of the Government of India—there comes a painful surprise, due also to the plausible character of his speech. This Resolution, Sir, as I said, is a very vital one, and Dr. Moonje is to be congratulated on the fact that he moved it in terms of great self-restraint. What is his plea, Sir? It is very brief and simple. He says, to the Government that by your emasculating system of education in this country, you have deprived the youth of the spirit and mettle which are their due, the spirit which the Skeen Committee regard as the most essential quality of the youth of a country which seeks to be free. At page 54 of their Report, the Skeen Committee mention: "Those characteristics so essential in an

army officer"—that is, those characteristics which, in their own country, the Englishmen opposite me find it absolutely necessary to preserve, develop and regulate in their youth, from the very cradle, and through the nursery and public school up to the time they get into public life. Ours is the ambition that, as in their country, so also in ours, children should be surrounded by an environment which produces those qualities so that when India is free, she may not be regarded as unfit to defend herself. There is no question of immediate complete military training in this Resolution. Why then draw a red herring across our path? It is plain that the present Resolution is not intended to turn out military officers by the dozen and score or to interfere with the power and patronage of Government in military matters, which are so often unworthily bestowed, as we Indians know. If Government do not wish to accept the Resolution, let them say so; but let this not be done on the wrong ground. The simple plea is that we want to create in our schools and colleges an environment which will produce those characteristics which are necessary in the future army officer. Is there anything extravagant in this? I do not want this Resolution to be thrown out, as it is sure to be, judging by the strength on either side, on wrong grounds. I know the fate of this Resolution long before we come to a division; but let that result be come to on the right ground. The plea is very simple, and that is that we want the Government to atone for the past defects of their system of education in this country. The charge is this; I want the Government of India to meet it face to face: that the system of education which the Government introduced in this country has deprived the young students in India of all those qualities of courage, of resource and of initiative which are necessary to be implanted in our youth. For the view that the educational system which is after all only a part of the system of Government in this country, was intended for the purpose of creating a meek and contented mediocrity of ill trained men I have the authority of a member of the Civil Service. I am quoting from a report of a Select Committee of the East India Company made in the year 1812, i.e., few years before Lord Macaulay's Minute on which the system of education in India has been fashioned. I am quoting only one or two passages because to quote more would be tiresome—the official, a certain Mr. Thackeray, a Madras Civilian referring to the English people, their public life and the qualities generated in their youth, says:

"The leisure, independence and high ideas which the enjoyment of wealth affords has enabled the English people to raise Britain to the pinnacle of glory. Long may they enjoy it. But in India that haughty spirit of independence and deep thought which the possession of great wealth sometimes gives ought to be suppressed. They are directly adverse to our power and interest. The nature of things, the past experience of all Governments renders it unnecessary to enlarge on this subject. We do not want in this country Generals, statesmen or legislators. We want industrious husbandmen."

Then he goes on to state the deadly truth towards the end:

"Our first object is to govern India and then to govern it well."

I have quoted from an official document. I do not have the temerity of calling myself an educationist, as so many previous speakers have done. I am only an humble dilettante in the fields of education: but I can tell the Government of India that these ideals still covertly govern the policy of the British people even in respect of education in this country. Now there is an awakening and we Indians feel that the evil defects of this system,

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which has continued for 150 years, ought to be remedied and remedied very fast. This Resolution is a modest step in the right direction, a very simple and unextravagant experiment that Dr. Moonje wishes the Government to take up.

And what was the Honourable the Education Secretary's reply to that? He says first of all the Government of India would be guilty of *ultra vires* if they were to issue instructions to the Provincial Governments laying down certain broad principles and policies. A most extraordinary claim has here been made on behalf of the Provincial Governments, for which I am sure the Government of my Province will feel very grateful to the Honourable Member. But what are we asking? We are only asking that the Government of India, the central authority—I will leave out the question which my Honourable friend Mr. Aney raised, with regard to the areas which are administered by the Government of India directly—should issue a statement of a general policy and principle to be pursued by the Provincial Governments. Surely the Government of India have not yet deprived themselves of their important function, namely, to enunciate and prescribe broad principles on questions, to quote the words of the Skeen Committee, of paramount national importance. I submit, Sir, that the Government of India do retain in their hands the power and the privilege of circularising Provincial Governments on questions of great national importance concerning the general welfare of the Indian people. May I ask my Honourable friend the Education Secretary what would, for instance, be the attitude of the Government of India in case the Provincial Governments began openly to use seditious text books in their universities? Let us take this as a hypothetical case. Supposing the Bombay Government began deliberately to adopt text books and other means calculated to promote seditious thoughts in the youth, would the Government of India remain quiet and say "No, it is a transferred subject; we won't interfere". Although a large question of national policy is involved in this question, will the Government of India say "No, it will be *ultra vires* to interfere with the Provincial Government in this matter? The matter is entirely one of internal regulation and economy." May I ask my Honourable friend opposite, will that be the attitude of the Government of India if such a case arises? Have they not in the past sent out circulars dealing with questions of large national policy? Can we not remember instances when circular after circular has gone out stating broad principles of an All-India character in educational matters? What is the good then of drawing this red herring across our path? The real issue is this. Do the Government of India to-day regard this question as a matter of vital national importance? That is the crux of the question. If they did regard it so, as some of us on this side of the House do, the answer given by Mr. Bajpai would be very different. He would then say "Yes, we see that the delay of every additional day matters in this important question and we will be prompt in laying down the proper policy in this behalf."

His next argument was "Oh, compulsory military education or military training" is impossible on such a large scale. He forgot for the moment that the Resolution uses the words "military drill" and not "military training"; the words are "compulsory physical training and military drill", I am sure my Honourable friend opposite, the Army Secretary, knows exactly how military drill is only a small part of military training, although Mr. Bajpai, not being a military man but a man of

Ahimsa, as he chose to call himself, is ignorant of such matters. Everything has to be forgiven to a man of *Ahimsa* when he is treading on paths of military training. He relied on another ground for opposing the Resolution. He said the Bombay University threw out such a Resolution a few years ago, but he never mentioned by what majority. Possibly he is ignorant of the full facts. I will tell him. It was not thrown out by such a large majority as to indicate a clear trend of public opinion. However, what is the Bombay University, may I ask him? Does it adequately represent non-official opinion on this subject as this side does in this House? May I tell him that the Bombay University senate up to recently had about 80 per cent. Fellows nominated by the Government? Is he aware of that? And if the facts are as I have stated, can he say that the Bombay University represents non-official opinion on this question? What is the good of quoting as conclusive the opinions of such bodies? I am sure the same is true about the Patna and other Universities. Then he quoted the authority of the Great Moghul of the North-West Frontier Province. Good gracious! He might as well have quoted the authority of the alligator to find out whether fish should be given liberty to grow! It is no use resorting to such arguments. Let us judge of the merits of this question on the main principle, and that is this, that we want the Government of India first to recognise the national importance of this question and then to take adequate steps on the right lines. We feel, Sir, very keenly about this matter. My Honourable friend Mr. Aney referred to the youth movement. Well, I do not know whether the Government of India are aware that this movement to-day counts 60,000 youths, not a small body, 60,000 youths whose ambitions have been awakened and who want free scope for their energy and vigour. Their ambitions, their generosity, their self-sacrifice are being quickened. Do the Government of India desire to employ all this talent and energy towards national purposes, which involve intrepidity, enterprise, self-sacrifice and valour, or will they lie by and see with contentment, that all this precious material in the country out of which a vast storehouse of military potentialities can be created, runs to waste or is diverted into futile and seditious channels. The broad question, Sir, is whether the Government of India are prepared to harness all this intelligence, valour and self-sacrifice lying so far dormant but now awakened in the youth of the country. The choice lies with the Government of India. A few of us are humbly struggling that all this energy may be diverted into proper channels of public utility and work. If the Government of India help us to do that, it will be fortunate for them. If however they do not wish to do so, then all I can say is that they must not complain later if all this youthful energy is diverted into channels for controlling which the Indian Penal Code may not prove sufficient. Theirs is the choice to make. Humble men like me can only make suggestions. Dr. Moonje's Resolution embodies one such sensible and sane suggestion. May I further warn the opposite benches? Let them not regard it as purely a controversial matter. It is a question in which the Government of India is as much interested—perhaps more interested than the non-official benches,—because to govern the country well is their responsibility. If the Government will not listen to our warning, they must be prepared to devise new forms and new methods of controlling and curbing this youthful vigour. Possibly their solution lies in the direction of revising the Penal Code so as to bring it upto date. That would be most unwise. A wiser course will be to provide, before it is too late, adequate opportunities for the youth of this country as indicated in this Resolution, whereby the sacrifice, enterprise, intrepidity, and valour of the youth of India

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will be turned to good account. The youth movement in India has come to stay. The only question is whether the Government have the wisdom to put themselves at its helm.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, my Honourable friend, the Education Secretary, has dealt with the constitutional aspect of this question, and the educational aspect, completely; and I have nothing to add to what he has said in those respects. It is left for me to deal with it from the point of view of the Army Department. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, suggested just now that an attitude of uncompromising hostility to the Resolution was what he expected from the Army Department; and he was rather disappointed that Mr. Bajpai should have shown that attitude himself. Well, Sir, the attitude of neither of us is one of uncompromising hostility. The attitude of the Government of India on the military side may be illustrated by quoting the recommendation on this subject of the Shea Committee, which the Government of India accepted. I read the passage in this House two years ago, and, with your permission, Sir, will read it again:

"The University Training Corps and the Indian Territorial Force should be regarded as existing primarily for the purpose of spreading military training and the inspiration of military service among the manhood of India, in order to lay the foundations upon which a national army can be built up. Such a national army could only be created by gradual stages, and by a steady process of education extending over many years. This education should commence wherever possible in schools; it should be continued in the universities and colleges by means of the University Training Corps, and should be concluded in the units of the Indian Territorial Force. The growth of a national military spirit should not be forced by the application of any measure of compulsion."

That, Sir, is the attitude of the Government of India on this subject. With the aims and objects underlying this Resolution we are entirely in accord. Where we differ is as regards the practicability of what is being proposed, and its utility as compared with the measures which are now in force.

As regards physical training, there is nothing to be said from the point of view of the Army Department. Then we come to military training. I must confess that I understood this Resolution to refer to military training; and when I heard my Honourable friend, Dr. Moonje, talk of high ideals of self-sacrifice, courage, discipline and so forth, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, repeating the same words, I naturally supposed that they meant the virtues which can be fostered by military training. It came as a shock and a surprise to me to hear my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney say, "No; we do not mean anything like that; all we mean is military drill"—that is to say, apparently, performing the evolutions of small bodies of troops upon a parade ground. Is that all that this Resolution means? Because, if so, I may say it is a most unexpectedly innocuous Resolution (*Honourable Members*: "Well then, accept it") as far as that part is concerned. (Laughter.) I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, mentioned the fact that educational authorities consider certain other kinds of drill more valuable in the building up of character and physique than the mere performance of military evolutions on a flat space of ground. It seems to me utterly inconsistent with what Honourable Members have said about these virtues, and how national characteristics should be built up, to say that all that this Resolution means, as regards military training, is

forming fours on a square. Nor is this the view that was taken by those who supported similar resolutions in Provincial Councils. They made no mistake about it. What they wanted was military training—compulsory military training. In three Provincial Councils, Resolutions were carried advocating compulsory military training—in the United Provinces, Bombay and Assam. And, as I say, there was no mistake about it. What was meant was, practically, conscription for a certain class at a certain age—university and school students between the ages of 16 and 20 as in this Resolution. (There were other age limits, I think, in some of the Resolutions moved in the Provincial Councils.) That, Sir, is a policy which Government must of course oppose. It is a policy which, so far as I know, is not carried out by any other nation in the world,—to select as the sphere in which you apply military compulsion your educated upper and middle classes, and to conscript them for the time that they are at school and college. University students are generally admitted to be the most independent class in the world, and the most intolerant of anything that savours of oppression. This is precisely the class to which conscription would be applied by my Honourable friends. I myself was once a university student in Germany, a country where universal military service existed. The system there was that while the normal term of service in the Army was two years, the educated classes, the university students, served only for one year, and had certain privileges. Their service in certain respects was made lighter. My Honourable friends opposite would apparently take this class and make them the only conscripts in the country. It is possible that if a measure of this kind were introduced there might be a wave of enthusiasm at the start which would carry a certain way. But sooner or later I think you would find a spirit of grave discontent fostered among students; and the measure of compulsion would either gradually peter out, or else it would culminate in something in the form of a strike—a strike, I may note, of students armed with rifles, bayonets and ammunition. My Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, wanted to limit the experiment, when he found that the Government of India were not constitutionally capable of enforcing this measure in the provinces. He said "Let them start in their own territories". Well, Sir, if we carried out that plan and introduced compulsion in the University of Delhi, the only result would be that we would deplete that university, and neighbouring universities would profit by the measure.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Why speculate?

Mr. G. M. Young: And that would be an even more invidious form of conscription than what is recommended by the majority of Honourable Members opposite.

Mr. B. K. Shanmukham Oshetty (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is this the Honourable Member's idea of conscription?

Mr. G. M. Young: Any compulsory military training is a form of conscription, certainly.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of expense. That is an important consideration. Who is going to provide the money? It is a question of supplying rifles in enormous numbers, uniforms presumably, and all the equipage of camps. This expenditure, which the Army cannot possibly afford, could be spent far more usefully on what we regard as essentially the

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main purposes of defence. We could certainly not afford these amounts on what Honourable Members opposite themselves admit to be merely an experiment.

There is also the question of custody, on which the Shea Committee laid great stress. If we were to have rifles disseminated in anything like the quantities postulated by this Resolution, we should have to spend almost twice as much again as the value of the rifles in guarding them.

Sir, as I said before, we are entirely in sympathy with the objects underlying this Resolution. I do not think Honourable Members fully realise what has actually been done by the Government of India, both before and after the recommendations of the Shea Committee. The Shea Committee recommended that there should be no arbitrary limit fixed for the University Training Corps. "Subject only", they said, "to financial considerations, they should be allowed to expand up to their natural limits". In other words this means that we should provide facilities for any students who wish to undertake military training: not merely military drill, but military training. We have recently, as a result of the recommendations of the Shea Committee, started University Training Corps in three places where they did not exist before. We have expanded one company in one university, and we are engaged in expanding a company in another. We have added a new section, a Sapper and Miner Section, to the University of Rangoon. Wherever there is a demand for the expansion of the University Training Corps, wherever we can see any signs of enthusiasm and desire to make use of these corps, we are prepared to consider favourably the provision of further facilities subject only to financial considerations. Our object is gradually to build up an enthusiasm for national military service. The success of the movement varies in different universities. I should like to quote to the House an extract from a speech by Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency, when he was speaking as Finance Member in the Punjab Legislative Council last year. He said:

"The sanctioned strength of our Punjab University Training Corps unit is 637. I have gone into its present condition with the officer commanding the corps. Enrolments at the beginning of the season are usually very satisfactory; but there is a tendency as the training season goes on for the numbers to dwindle down by about 400 more or less. For example, at the beginning of the present training year which has just passed, the officer commanding informs me that he recruited 280 men. These were sufficient to fill all the existing vacancies, but by March he had been obliged to strike off 60 students from the rolls owing to their not attending the parades and drills. More had to be dropped out later. The results therefore fall somewhat short of what we desire. At this present moment although ten colleges, that is eight colleges of Lahore and two colleges in the mufasil, contribute numbers to the unit, the actual numbers of the unit are 469 as against the sanctioned strength of 637."

I submit, Sir, that the object of this movement would be altogether defeated by the introduction of the element of compulsion. The spirit is there, but it is not at present strong. It is weak. We are trying to foster it; we are trying to coax it; we are trying to persuade students to undertake these national duties. If we were to apply now the element of compulsion, I believe the thing would be ruined.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 31st January, 1929.