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THIRD SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1936



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Legislative Assembly.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 17th March, 1936.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROHIBITION OF MUSLIM SOLDIERS FROM READING THE *PESHWA* OF DELHI.

1265. ***Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Muslim soldiers of His Majesty's Army in India have been prohibited to read the *Peshwa*, Delhi for about two years past? If so, under whose report?

(b) Are Government aware that the *Peshwa*, Delhi, is a purely religious magazine?

(c) Are Government aware that the *Peshwa* has never supported the cause of the civil disobedience movement?

(d) Are Government prepared to give the names of the papers that have been banned in the Army? How many of them are Hindi, and how many Muslim? How many of them are religious and how many non-religious?

(e) Is the editor of the paper given a notice before the magazine is prohibited, and given an opportunity to defend his cause? If not, why not?

(f) Are Government aware of the fact that the *Peshwa* is suffering an annual loss of rupees seven thousand by the ban on it?

(g) Are Government prepared to remove this ban?

(h) Have Government read the note that appeared in January and February issues of the magazine, in which the editor has complained of the theft of the letters of the *Peshwa*?

(i) Are Government prepared to enquire into the matter?

(j) Are Government prepared to take steps to warn the postal authorities of the theft and remove the complaint of the editor?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (g). The *Peshwa* of Delhi has been classed by the military authorities as unsuitable for Indian soldiers on account of its extreme communal tendencies and they are not prepared to alter their opinion so long as it continues to manifest such tendencies.

(h) to (j). Government are aware that the editor has threatened to file a suit against the postal authorities, and they are prepared to await this action.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the authority which decides as to what papers are to be read by Indian soldiers?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: The authorities are His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's staff at Army Headquarters.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any special committee appointed for this purpose?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: There is no committee.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any special directions laid down, as to what papers should be allowed and what papers should not be allowed?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: No, Sir. I don't think there are any directions laid down anywhere.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any nationalist papers, for example, advocating the Congress cause, allowed to the Indian soldiers?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: I would require notice of that question; I do not know.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any list of papers which soldiers are allowed to read?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: There, again, I am afraid I must require notice. There is certainly no published list. It is possible that the Army Headquarters may keep a list of suitable and unsuitable papers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do these soldiers subscribe to these papers themselves, or are they supplied to them by the Army authorities free?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: There is no question of supplying newspapers. What happens is that possibly a particular unit writes up to Army Headquarters and suggests that a particular paper is unsuitable for the men in the battalion to read, and then the matter is considered at Army Headquarters, and, if Army Headquarters agree, then they issue an order that they consider that particular paper unsuitable.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the law or regulation which empowers the Army authorities to prohibit certain papers from being supplied to Indian soldiers even if they are willing to pay for them?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: They do not prohibit the supply of newspapers to the soldiers. They merely say that they consider that they are unsuitable for perusal by soldiers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In spite of that, can he subscribe to any of these journals?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham: I presume the soldier can buy any paper he likes, but if he is found buying a paper that has been declared unsuitable, it may be necessary to take disciplinary action. I do not know about that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member inquire, and find out exactly what the position is in regard to this matter, whether this direction is a mere advice or a kind of order, peremptory or otherwise?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It is advice that carries with it the effect of an order. That is probably correct.

MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRICITY IN THE MEERUT CANTONMENT.

1266. ***Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** (a) Will Government please state when the Meerut Cantonment area will be handed over to Messrs. Martin and Company, for managing electricity and why it has not been given away since 2nd May, 1934?

(b) Will Government please state why private persons are being kept away from getting electricity till Martin and Company take over the charge?

(c) Have Government received complaints against the Garrison Engineer and his department in Meerut on several matters? If so, are Government prepared to appoint a small committee to enquire into the complaints?

(d) If not, are they prepared to take the responsibility before the Public Accounts Committee?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Only the residential and bazaar areas in Meerut Cantonment are being handed over to Messrs. Martin and Company. The transfer of the M. E. S. electrical supply lines which exist in the areas to be transferred was held up by litigation. The court has since decided that certain of the supply lines were the property of the Cantonment Authority, Meerut. It is understood that Messrs. Martin and Company have recently settled matters with the Cantonment Authority, and the transfer of the areas will be effected shortly.

(b) The M. E. S. mains are already overloaded; further connections could not, therefore, be given to private persons. Moreover, additional connections would further complicate the impending transfer of the areas to Martin and Company.

(c) and (d). The only complaint received has been from Hakim Mian Mohammad. This has been enquired into and the result communicated to my Honourable friend. The remainder of these two parts of the question does not arise.

EXPIRY OF CONTRACT OF THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1267. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) when the last period of the contract of the Shahdara-Shamli Railway came to an end and when it was renewed;
- (b) when the present contract comes to an end; and
- (c) whether they have any proposal to purchase the line after the contract comes to an end, or if they are thinking of giving it a further extension?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway contract. This contract is between the United Provinces Government and the Company, and the last occasion for its termination was in 1934. The United Provinces Government did not then exercise their option.

(b) The next date for termination of the contract is 18th April, 1941.

(c) The question of the purchase of the line in 1941 is one for decision by the United Provinces Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the Government of the United Provinces wish to purchase this line, will they have to come to the Government of India for a loan?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a hypothetical question, unless the Honourable Member wants to know whether, under the Constitution, they would be forced to do it, in which case, it is a matter for the Honourable the Leader of the House.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Have the Provincial Government got to take the approval of the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already replied to that question.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Supposing the Provincial Government buy a particular Railway, then, will that Railway, according to the rules that exist at present, be under the direct control of the Provincial Government or they would be under the Railway Authority?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: When the Honourable Member begins his question by saying "Supposing", he makes the rest of the question hypothetical.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1268. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no advisory committee on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway?

(b) Have Government under contemplation the appointment of any such committee? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. P. R. Rau to question No. 696 asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 23rd September, 1932.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is there no Railway Advisory Committee on this particular Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot say. They are not under the control of the Railway Board.

REDUCTION OF THIRD CLASS FARE ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1269. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the railway fare for third class passengers on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway is 4½ pies per mile and much in excess of other Railways in Northern India; and
- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether they propose to take steps to get it reduced to the general level of other Railways? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The basis of third class fares on the Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway is 4½ pies per mile for the first 30 miles and four pies per mile for the additional distance beyond. These fares are higher than those applicable on other railways in Northern India.

(b) I will communicate the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Managing Agents of this Railway Company for consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any material difference in the kind of control that the Railway Board exercises over this Railway and the control they exercise upon Company-managed Railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the difference?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There is no control over this Railway except the fixing of maxima and minima rates.

PROVISION OF WAITING ROOMS ON STATIONS OF THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1270. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Are Government aware that there are no waiting rooms for second and intermediate class passengers and even third class passengers on any of the stations of the Shahdara-Shamli Railway?

(b) Are Government aware that some of the Railway Stations on Shahdara-Shamli Railway are at considerable distances from the towns and passengers arriving at and departing from such stations by night trains are put to great inconvenience due to the absence of waiting rooms?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of the provision of such waiting rooms for all classes of passengers on the bigger stations of Shahdara-Shamli Railway such as Shahdara, Baghpat, Baraut, Shamli and Saharanpur, etc? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) These facilities are within the discretion of the Railway Administrations, and their provision would be governed by the traffic offering. The line is under the administrative control of the Local Government.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are Government prepared to send this suggestion together with their own recommendation to the Agent of the Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I can send a copy of the question to the Managing Agents.

DISTANCE BETWEEN THE PLATFORMS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY AT SAHARANPUR.

1271. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware of the great inconvenience to which the travelling public is subjected, by the great distance between the platforms of North Western Railway and Shahdara-Shamli Railway at Saharanpur?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of getting the Shahdara-Shamli Railway Company to arrange for the conveyance of their trains to the North Western Railway platform? If not, why not?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, have Government considered the advisability of getting North Western Railway to extend the western bridge on their platform to the road running parallel to the railway on the south, which would bring the platforms of the two Railways nearer? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government recognise that there may be some little inconvenience as the stations are some distance apart, but there would be considerable engineering difficulties in attempting to bring the Shahdara-Shamli Railway trains to the North Western Railway platform, and the expenditure would not be financially justified.

(c) A copy of the question will be sent to the Agent, North Western Railway, for consideration.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: So far as the other suggestion is concerned, of making a bridge on the platform and extending it to the other side, that will not cost much?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is with regard to that that I have said that a copy of the question will be sent to the Agent, North Western Railway, for consideration.

ELEVATION OF SEATS IN SECOND CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1272. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that the seats of the second class compartments on the Shahdara Shamli Railway are so low that the passengers lying on the seats cannot avail themselves of the air through the windows?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of ordering the company to so elevate the seats as to remove this grievance of the travelling public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have no information.

(b) I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Railway for such action as they may consider necessary.

PROVISION OF FRUIT VANS ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1273. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Are Government aware that fruits are conveyed on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway in ordinary iron wagons which spoil them in transit?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of ordering the Shahdara-Shamli Railway Company to provide proper fruit vans for the carriage of fruit? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have no information.

(b) I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Railway for such action as they may consider necessary.

PROVISION OF LATRINES IN THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1274. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Are Government aware that third class compartments of old stock which have got no lavatories are still used by the Shahdara-Shamli Railway on night trains, which cause great inconvenience to the travelling public?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of getting the said company to replace such stock or at least to provide lavatories in such stock? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Forty per cent. of the third class coaches in normal use on the Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway have latrine accommodation. None of the old stock (which has been in use since the line was opened) is so fitted, but latrines have been installed in all stock subsequently built and will be installed in all stock built in future.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: When will latrines be supplied in all the coaches?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I cannot mention any special date.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are any steps being taken in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said that all the new coaches are being fitted with latrines, every one of them.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Could not latrines be provided in the old coaches by a little change in the construction? Is it not feasible?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is for the managing agents to decide.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: What will be the recommendation of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no control over this Railway beyond the slight control which I have already mentioned.

**OPENING OF THE TELEGRAPH OFFICES ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI
RAILWAY STATIONS TO THE PUBLIC.**

1275. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that the Telegraph Offices on Shahdara-Shamli Railway do not accept telegrams from the public which results in great inconvenience to the public in general?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of opening the Telegraph Offices on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway stations to the public? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I should like to know what is meant by the reply, "Government have no information"? Do they, or do they not, make any inquiries at all? It is not that for every matter, which is the subject of interpellation on the floor of this House, we expect that the Government know the position immediately, while they are sitting at Delhi, but we expect that they should collect the information and place it before the House.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have explained that this particular Railway is not under the administrative control of the Government of India. Therefore, Government have no information; and Government cannot call for information.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Has the Telegraph Department nothing to do with the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have nothing to do with telegraphs.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is it not necessary, Sir, so far as the question is concerned, that the Honourable the Commerce Member should be replying to all aspects of the question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I can only answer with reference to what I am concerned with.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I have asked the question of the Government as a whole, not of any particular Member.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As a matter of fact, the Honourable Member's question is concerned with the telegraph offices on this particular Railway, and, with that, the Government of India, either in the Railway Department or in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, have no concern.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any telegraph offices being run in this country, without reference to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, these telegraph offices are being run for the purposes of the administration of the Shahdara-Shamli Railway, and they are, for the purposes of administrative control, under the Government of the United Provinces, and not under the Government of India.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are these telegraph offices sanctioned without the sanction of the Government at the Centre, or not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I cannot answer that question, but the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs might answer that question.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: May I reply to this question? It is entirely at the option of the Railway Administration to permit their railway telegraph offices to be opened for the use of the public. The railway telegraph offices are essentially for the business of Railway Administrations only, and if they have the time and staff and the facilities, the Railway Administrations throw them open for the use of the public. There is no compulsion on the railway system to throw open their telegraph offices for the use of the public.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Has the Honourable Member made any inquiries as to whether this is a fact or not, *viz.*, whether the telegraph offices on Shahdara-Shamli Railway are not open for the transmission of public messages?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have made no inquiry.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I am asking the Member concerned, not yourself.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The question was put to me. Question No. 1275 is my concern, and I am, therefore, replying.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: So far as question No. 1275 is concerned, it is no concern of yourself, but of the Telegraph Department, because you say specifically that the railway telegraph offices of this Railway are subject to the administrative control of the Government of the United Provinces, so I do not know why you take it upon yourself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not a fact that the railways make use of the telegraph wires of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for their own purposes?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The Telegraphs Department constructs wires for the use of the railway, and these wires are entirely at the disposal of the railways alone. The telegrams from these offices are not sent outside this particular railway area.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are telegrams not sent outside this particular area? Are there no arrangements between the Government Telegraphs Department and this Railway Telegraph Department for the sending and receiving of telegrams, and, if so, what are the arrangements?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Is the Honourable Member referring to this particular Railway?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have no information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How are telegrams given here for railway purposes received in other parts of India or other parts of the world? This is a self-contained system.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There is probably some office of exchange.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is that office of exchange?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I cannot say unless a question is put down and I make inquiries.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Now that it has come to light that this question relates to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, are Government prepared to make an inquiry and give the answer subsequently?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It does not relate to the Telegraphs Department at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government made any attempts to come to some arrangements with this Railway so that their telegraph offices can be made use of by the public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the feasibility of coming to some arrangements with this Railway, so that their telegraph offices can be made use of by the public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question. This has been sufficiently discussed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to ask you, Sir, who decides the Department to which this question relates. Is it done in your office?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; we do not know.

TREATMENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STAFF BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS.

1276. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Are Government aware that the staff reporting to the Divisional Medical Officer, North Western Railway, Delhi, for examination or treatment are mostly sent by the said officer with a letter of authority to certain very expensive private practitioners before being finally declared fit by the said Divisional Medical Officer?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government aware that the staff thus sent for treatment to the said private practitioners resent this sort of treatment which is beyond their means?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are there no other qualified private practitioners than the particular ones whom the Divisional Medical Officer always patronises, and whether the latter himself is not sufficiently qualified to attend to such patients?

(d) If the replies to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the object for which the Railway Hospital is maintained and the Divisional Medical Officer was appointed?

(e) Will Government please state any specific rule which prohibits Government servants getting themselves treated by doctors according to their means and choice and binds them to go to doctors appointed by their employer?

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

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

WANT OF MUSLIM COOKS IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HOSPITAL, DELHI.

1277. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Is it a fact that in the North Western Railway Hospital, Delhi, there are more than half a dozen Hindu cooks, while there exists no arrangement for orthodox Muslims who abstain from taking food prepared by the Hindus?

(b) Is it a fact that in the absence of a Muhammadan kitchen and cooks, orthodox Muslim indoor patients have to go outside the hospital premises, to get such food as they can from a Muslim shop which is situated opposite the Hospital?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to redress the grievances of the Muslim indoor patients?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are informed that there are two Hindu cooks employed in the railway hospital, Delhi, who are assisted by four Muslims and two Hindu Ward servants and one Muslim waterman.

(b) No instance of a Muslim indoor patient getting his food from outside the hospital has ever come to the notice of the hospital authorities.

(c) The employment of a Muslim cook for indoor Muslim and European patients is already under consideration.

PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS APPOINTED ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1278. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Permanent Way Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have directly been appointed on probation after due advertisement in the year 1935?

(b) Was the appointment of these Permanent Way Inspectors made on communal lines?

(c) Was any weightage given to the Mussalmans in the appointment of these Permanent Way Inspectors?

(d) How many of the selected candidates are Mussalmans?

(e) What is the total number of the Permanent Way Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(f) How many of them are Mussalmans?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of filling up future posts and new appointments by Mussalmans to give them proper weightage in services and also according to their population basis?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

MUSLIM SUBORDINATES PROMOTED ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1279. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Mussalmans (employees) on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from the subordinate service have been promoted to the upper grade service in the year 1935?

(b) If so, what is the total number of the Muslims so promoted and in what Departments?

(c) Are these promotions made in view of the proportion of the percentage of 25 per cent. recently fixed by the Government of India for the Muslims in the higher services?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I presume by the upper grade service the Honourable Member means the Lower Gazetted Service. If so, no Muslim has been promoted permanently to the Lower Gazetted Service during the year 1935.

(c) The percentages which have been fixed for Muslims and other minority communities under orders of the Government apply only to direct recruitment and not to promotions.

MUSLIMS APPOINTED IN LEAVE VACANCIES ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1280. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Muslims were given chances to work as substitutes in the vacancies caused in the leave arrangements in the various Departments of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the year 1935?

(b) What was the total number of such vacancies in the year 1935?

(c) Are any registers maintained for different Departments to fill up such vacancies by substitutes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1281. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of clerks in the Establishment Sections of the various Departments on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway;
- (b) the number of Muslim clerks and their percentage in the Establishment Sections;
- (c) the total number of Head clerks in the various offices of different Departments on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway;
- (d) the total number of Muslim Head Clerks;
- (e) whether there were some vacancies of Head Clerks in the Establishment Sections of the various Departments on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the year 1935;
- (f) if so, the total number of these vacancies; and
- (g) how many of them were Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results. These are matters of detailed administration entirely within the competence of the Agent, whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

MUSLIM DISTRICT COMMERCIAL INSPECTORS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1282. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of District Commercial Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway;
- (b) the total number of Muslim Inspectors and their percentage in the same line;

- (c) what steps Government have so far taken to fill up the percentage of the Muslims as District Commercial Inspectors in the said Department;
- (d) whether there are no suitable and competent graded Muslim Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Yard Supervisors and guards to be promoted as District Commercial Inspectors;
- (e) whether Government are prepared to issue instructions to the Railway authorities to fill up the posts of these Inspectors from among the officers (Muslim) mentioned above?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). The information readily available with Government is contained in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway classified list of subordinate staff on pay of Rs. 250 and above and in appendix 'F' to Volume I of the Railway Board's report on Indian Railways, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(c) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the orders fixing a definite percentage for Muslims on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. If so, these orders apply to direct recruitment and not to promotions.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) No.

INDIANISATION OF WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

1283. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 26th November, 1935, headed "Indianization of Women's Medical Service" and to the allegations made therein?

(b) Is it a fact that Dr. Houlton had a break in service and in spite of it she was put on the second highest appointment in the service? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(c) Is Dr. Young, a junior in the Women's Medical Service, without any public health qualification?

(d) Was she appointed superseding the claims of twelve senior members in service who have public health qualifications to their credit, on the ground that she had administrative experience and was made third in the rank of the service?

(e) What provision have Government made to give the seniors in the service any administrative training, so that their claims may not be overlooked on that score?

(f) Is it a fact that Dr. Orkney has now been similarly pushed up in service?

(g) Does Dr. Webb refuse to advertise vacancies and invite applications for vacancies from duly qualified candidates? If so, why?

(h) Is it a fact that till now, since the inauguration of this service, European lady doctors alone have been accorded extensions of service?

(i) How is it that so far no Indian lady doctor has been appointed to the headquarters administrative posts in the service?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member's information about a break in the service of Dr. Houlton and the position on the seniority list and qualifications of Dr. Young is correct. I may, however, mention that selection for the post of Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical College, is not made merely on the ground of seniority, nor is the possession of a public health diploma an essential qualification. The post is filled by the selection of the most suitable person available.

(e) Administrative experience comes in due course to all suitable officers. No special arrangements are considered necessary for the acquisition of administrative experience.

(f) No. Her position in the seniority list remains unaffected by her appointment as Director of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau.

(g) It is not usual to advertise vacancies in selection posts.

(h) Yes. No applications on behalf of Indian doctors for extensions of service have so far been received.

(i) These posts are filled on the basis of qualifications and experience. In 1935 the principalship of the Lady Hardinge Medical College was twice offered to and declined by an Indian member of the Women's Medical Service before it was offered to Dr. Young.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know why these posts are not advertised?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: As I have already said, Sir, the cadre consists of something like 44 officers, and when we have officers within the cadre qualified for these selection posts, there is no necessity to advertise.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it not a fact that the Women's Medical Service has existed for the last 21 years?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Women's Medical Service has been in existence for a considerable period of time, but the process of Indianisation really began in 1924.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it not a fact that there is not a single Indian lady doctor in any of the administrative appointments or posts?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: There are only two administrative posts—one that of the Chief Medical Officer and the other (if it considered to be an administrative post at all) is that of the Director of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau. There are no other administrative posts.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it not a fact that the incumbents of the senior appointments had all been missionaries or engaged in missionary service before they joined the Women's Medical Service?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Quite a considerable number of the European members of the service, I believe, have at one time or other been missionary doctors.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: How do Government explain the position that when once people leave off the service and join the service again, all their previous service is taken into account and their seniority is thus determined?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That, Sir, was an anomalous rule, and my Honourable friend will be glad to know that since last year it has been altered.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Thank you.

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN LADIES IN THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DUFFERIN FUND ASSOCIATION.

1284. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Are there any Indians in the Council and in the Executive Committee of the Dufferin Fund Association? If not, what are the reasons for such omission?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government state how long such Indians have been there?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of associating Indian ladies both in the Council and Executive Committee of the Dufferin Fund Association?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) Ever since the foundation of the Fund in 1885.

(c) The matter is one for consideration by the authorities of the Fund. I understand, however, that there are at present five Indian ladies on the Council and one on the Executive Committee.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is that one Member on the Executive Committee a medical woman?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, Sir. Dr. Panel. She is a Parsi medical woman.

CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

1285. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that at the meeting of the Sub-Committee of Bridge Commissioners held in Calcutta on Monday, the 24th February, 1936, both Indian and European members of the Sub-Committee opposed the proposals of the Chairman to give the contract for the new Howrah Bridge to a British firm;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the German tender is the cheapest;
- (c) whether it is a fact that an alternative design was prepared by the Indian combine at the instance of the Commissioners;
- (d) what is the difference in cost between the tenders given by the Indian combine and the British firm;
- (e) whether Government are aware that there is a strong national feeling in this matter; and

(f) whether Government propose to take every step in their power to bring this to the notice of the Bengal Government?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) to (f). Government's position in relation to this matter has been explained in reply to several previous questions, and I would refer the Honourable Member in particular to my replies to his question No. 111 on the 8th February, 1936, and to the short notice question by Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury on the 25th September, 1935. Government have no further information on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the fact that there is to be a meeting of the Howrah Bridge Commissioners, on the 23rd of this month, to dispose of this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the fact that, owing to want of demand, the Tata Plate Metal Factory have been compelled to close down recently their workshops, throwing out of employment some hundreds of workers? Are Government also aware of the fact that this contract, if given to the Indian combine, will help the Tatas to re-start their works?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I can express no opinion on this point.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that, if this contract goes to the Indian combine, a crore of rupees will be spent in this country and work will be found for 5,000 skilled and unskilled workmen?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have made no estimate of the benefits that are likely to result from the contract being placed in this country.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the latest position in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That the matter is still under the consideration of the Howrah Bridge Commissioners.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government brought the feeling of this House to the notice of the Bridge Commissioners?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I gave an assurance to the House on a previous occasion that Government are satisfied that the Local Government are fully aware of the feelings of the House in this matter. I do not think there would be any justification for the Government of India to enter into direct correspondence with the Bridge Commissioners.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that the Bridge Commissioners are going to meet on the 23rd March to finally settle the question, will the Government of India convey to the Government of Bengal, and, through them, to the Bridge Commissioners, that this contract should go to the Indian combine, and not to any foreign firm?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, Government could not take up that position, as I explained during the last Session in September. All that Government could do and have done is to see that the Local Government is kept fully informed of the feeling of the House on this matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the answer to part (b)?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have replied to the whole question together, that I have got no further information beyond what I have already given to the House.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL TARIFF BOARD.

1286. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the accompanying[†] note from the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 27th February, 1936, on the Special Tariff Board and its expected report;
- (b) whether it was a fact that the Board's report was expected in December first and later in January;
- (c) whether Government at any time entertained the hope to include their decisions on the recommendations of the Board in the Budget for 1936-37;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Board has summoned the assistance of a Textile Specialist to explain certain statistics; if so, who the specialist is;
- (e) whether Government are aware that the delay by the Board is causing anxiety in textile circles;
- (f) whether Government propose to take any steps to impress on the Board the necessity for expediting the report; and
- (g) whether Government propose to take any action independent of the Board with regard to textile tariffs?

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

(b) and (c). I have nothing to add to the information contained in paragraph 4 of the Resolution No. 341-T. (12)/35, dated the 10th September, 1935, issued by the Department of Commerce.

(d) I presume the Honourable Member refers to the Customs Textile Expert, Rai Bahadur H. K. Mukherjee, who has been Technical Adviser to the Special Tariff Board since the commencement of the enquiry in October, 1935. Subsequently, a Customs Textile appraiser, Mr. Das Gupta, has also been appointed to assist the Board.

(e) Government are not so aware.

(f) and (g). No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government are aware that Sir Alexander Murray, the Chairman of the Tariff Board, has left or is about to leave for England?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

[†]Sent to the Department concerned.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government having any proposals in mind of introducing this Session changes in customs tariff, especially on textiles from foreign countries?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I am not prepared to give a reply to that question. If the Honourable Member is making any particular reference to the report that might be submitted by this Special Tariff Board, obviously Government cannot come to any decision till they have received the report.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I was simply asking, as an unrepentant Parliamentarian whether Government would be good enough to tell this House if they have any legislative proposals to be brought before the House this Session amending the customs tariffs on textiles, in any particular direction.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I am unable to answer that question at this stage. A little later on, I may be in a position to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government any information from this Board, as to the reasons for the delay in the submission of their report?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information whatsoever from the Board as to any approximate date on which their report might be received, and, it is only when any such date is communicated to the Government, the question of any delay would arise or the reasons for such delay.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government press on the Board to expedite their report, consistent with their taking evidence and other relevant factors, so that the anxiety of the textile circle in India, who are in an uncertain position, may be allayed? Government will naturally depend upon the report of this Board, with regard to their customs policy which they may have to arrive at.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no reason to think that the Tariff Board are not proceeding with their work as quickly as possible, having regard to the circumstances under which this enquiry is proceeding.

CONFIRMATION OF CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

1287. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government state whether their recent Resolution regarding the communal proportion is being applied in the case of old appointments with retrospective effect in the Subordinate Railway Services in the Railway Accounts Offices?

(b) Is it a fact that old clerks of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office appointed before 1st January, 1929, belonging to the Hindu community and having to their credit more than seven years' temporary service, have been superseded by the recent entrants of the minority community with about two years' service, who have been made permanent?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Chief Accounts Office, North Western Railway the staff appointed before 1st January, 1929, is being confirmed in accordance with the strict seniority basis, irrespective of the communal considerations?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of absorbing the temporary staff appointed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office before 1st January, 1929, on permanent posts as well, before effecting confirmations of the staff appointed after 1st January, 1929?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The new communal proportions recently specified apply to all vacancies filled by direct recruitment after the proportions were specified.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government understand that the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, recently confirmed a few such clerks mainly on the basis of seniority. The propriety of this is under investigation.

(d) No. There seems to be no adequate reason for deviating from the existing orders regarding communal proportions applicable to these cases.

APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON THE CASE REGARDING THE LEVY OF INCOME-TAX ON *NIDHIS* AND FUNDS.

1288. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that in answer to a supplementary question to my starred question No. 521, dated 19th September, 1935, Mr. A. H. Lloyd replied that Government considered the question of appealing to the Privy Council against the Full Bench decision of the Madras High Court, dated 5th December, 1934, and decisions in similar cases, declaring the levy of income-tax on *Nidhis* and funds as illegal and that they decided not to appeal?

(b) Are Government aware that the Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras, has since made an application to the High Court for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state why it has so occurred?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) I said that it had been decided not to appeal to the Privy Council against the decisions of the 5th December, 1934, but **did not say that it had been decided not to so appeal against a decision in any similar case.**

(b) No. The Commissioner of Income-tax applied for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision dated the 1st November, 1935, in case O. P. No. 146 of 1935.

(c) Because the Commissioner was dissatisfied with the decision of the High Court.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that the grounds of decision in the case under appeal are the same as the grounds of decision in the case where there is no appeal preferred?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: There was a great similarity, yes.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, why is the appeal sought to be preferred in one case and not in the other?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The reason for not appealing in the case of the Sivaganga Sri Meenakshi Swadeshi Saswatha Nidhi, Limited, was that it was a very small concern, and we felt it could not stand the expenses of meeting an appeal to the Privy Council.

HIGHER POSITION OF GRADUATES AND UNDER-GRADUATES IN THE GRADATION LIST OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1289. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the Postal Enquiry Committee of 1920 recommended for graduates and under-graduates, recruited to the clerical cadre of the Postal Department, higher initial pay but not higher position than matriculates and non-matriculates?

(b) Is it a fact that after introduction of the revised scales of pay recommended by the Committee, the graduates and the under-graduates were allowed fifth and third year's stage, respectively, in the Gradation List?

(c) Is it a fact that the concession referred to in part (b) above has resulted in the graduates and under-graduates becoming senior to a large number of matriculates and non-matriculates who entered the Department four and two years earlier than the former?

(d) Is it a fact that the minimum educational qualification of a candidate for an appointment in the clerical cadre of the Postal Department is that he should be a matriculate?

(e) Is it a fact that all recruits in the Postal clerical cadres have to pass the same test either before or after actual appointment wherever such test is prescribed, have to perform work of exactly the same nature and to share the same responsibility as graduates and under-graduates?

(f) Is it a fact that both the concessions, *i.e.*, higher initial pay and higher position in the Gradation List have since been withdrawn for the new graduate and under-graduate entrants?

(g) If the replies to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) why the concession of higher position in the Gradation List was allowed; and

(ii) why the concession which has since been withdrawn for new entrants could not be withdrawn with retrospective effect?

(h) Are Government aware that the allotment of senior positions to graduates and under-graduates has been causing great resentment and heart-burning to those who have been assigned inferior positions;

(i) Are Government prepared to withdraw the concession of higher position in the Gradation List from graduates and under-graduates, who are still enjoying the same?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the last part no specific recommendation was made by the Committee as to the position in the gradation lists which should be given to the officials in question.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The rules prescribe that the educational standard required should ordinarily be a pass in the Matriculation Examination of a University or its equivalent.

(e) The facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct.

(f) Yes.

(g) (i). The concession was allowed in the interests of departmental efficiency in order that men of superior education should be available for promotion to higher posts at an earlier age than men with no such special qualification.

(ii) It would not have been possible to withdraw such a concession with retrospective effect except at the cost of considerable administrative confusion and inconvenience and of hardship to the officials directly affected.

(h) No.

(i) No, for the reasons stated in reply to parts (g)(ii) and (h).

CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS OF CENTRAL INDIA AND RAJPUTANA.

1290. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Will Government please state the amount of conservation expenditure incurred last year on conservation of monuments of Central India and Rajputana?

(b) Will Government please state whether any part of this expenditure was incurred departmentally?

(c) How do Government justify the appointment of a whole-time officer for this work? Is the work done by Public Works Department? Are the functions of this officer only of a supervisory nature?

(d) Can this supervision not be exercised either by the two officers in the Directorate or by some circle officers?

(e) Have Government considered that such expenditure on pay, travelling allowance, etc., of the whole-time officer is absolutely necessary in view of this financial stringency merely for supervision work?

(f) How many years' service has this officer put in and has he any publications to his credit?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The expenditure incurred by the Government of India in Ajmer amounted to Rs. 2,582. This does not include amounts spent by the Darbars on the monuments in their states.

(b) No.

(c), (i). The officer does not merely look after these monuments but also assists the Director General of Archæology in India in other work especially in editing the contributions of departmental officers.

(ii) The work is carried out through the agency of the Public Works Department.

(iii) Yes. His duties in this respect are similar to those of other Circle Superintendents.

(d) No.

(e) Yes.

(f) Six years. The officer has not brought out any publications of his own but helps the Director General of Archæology in India in editing contributions received for publication.

NECESSITY FOR APPOINTING A SPECIAL OFFICER FOR BRINGING OUT THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

1291. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that Government felt the necessity of appointing a special extra officer for bringing the annual reports of the Archæological Department up to date?

(b) Could not the assistance of the Assistant Superintendent for Central India and Rajputana be invoked to help the Director General in bringing this work to completion? Is it a fact that in the past temporary scholars attached to the department used to help in this work?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Temporary scholars did not help in this work.

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS TO THE CREDIT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

1292. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Will Government please state how many departmental publications, such as archæological guides, memoirs, catalogues, lists and New Imperial Series Reports, has the present Deputy Director General of Archæology to his credit?

(b) How many such publications have been issued by other officers of the department individually?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) I lay on the table a statement containing the required information.

(b) The desired information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Statement showing official publications written or edited by the Deputy Director General of Archaeology in India.

By Deputy Director General of Archaeology.

1. Memoir No. 8—Three Sculptures from Mahoba.
2. Articles contributed in the Epigraphia Indica, Volumes XIV-XXI.
3. Memoir on Puharpur in manuscript.

Edited by Deputy Director General of Archaeology.

4. Memoir No. 24—Rock-paintings and other antiquities of prehistoric and later times.
5. Memoir No. 50—Sravasti in Indian literature.
6. Bakshali Manuscripts part III (N. I. S., Volume 43).
7. New Imperial Series, Volume No. 47—Eastern Indian School of Mediaeval sculpture.
8. The Ananda Temple at Pagan (not yet sent to press).
9. Guide to Sarnath (being edited).

DISTRIBUTION OF SALT BY THE SALT DEPARTMENT AT KHEWRA AND
WARCHA.

1293. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that formerly every customer had to deposit a certain sum of money in the Treasury, after which the Salt Department allotted wagons of salt proportionate to the money deposit; and
- (b) if it is a fact that instead of this system, the Salt Department at Khewra and Warcha have now introduced a system of lottery; if so, whether they are prepared to order its discontinuance?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) I assume that this part of the Honourable Member's question, like part (b), refers only to Khewra and Warcha. On this assumption the answer is in the negative.

(b) The lottery system, for the allocation of salt, has never been introduced at Khewra, but at Warcha, where the demand greatly exceeds the supply, salt is allocated by means of a lottery. This system was introduced in 1930 and it is not proposed to discontinue it.

Bhai Parma Nand: Does not this system prevail in Khewra?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It does not prevail in Khewra

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the method adopted in dealing with orders for salt at Khewra?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Yes, Sir. I will place a copy of the indenting rules on the table of the House.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: Are Government aware of great delays in dealing with these orders?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: Will Government take it from me that there are great delays?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: If I give the Honourable Member concrete instances, will he then at least take it from me that there are great delays?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: There may be delays in cases where the demand exceeds the loading capacity of the depôt. That is an ordinary incident in all business transactions. I think, as the representative of the community which the Honourable Member represents, he knows that perfectly well.

Bhai Parma Nand: Do Government see no objection in the lottery system?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

FRAUD CASES IN TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN THE LAHORE ENGINEERING DIVISION.

1294. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that there have been several fraud cases in several telephone exchanges in the Lahore Engineering Division?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please lay on the table of this House, a statement showing the particulars of the officials involved?

(c) Is it a fact that the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Lahore, himself belongs to the same community as the delinquents?

(d) If the facts are as stated above, what action do Government propose to take to guard against a recurrence of such frauds?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not consider that any public interest would be served by furnishing particulars of the officials involved in these cases.

(c) and (d). It is a fact that the majority of the delinquents belong to the same community as that of the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Lahore. But there is no justification whatever for the innuendo in part (c) of the question, as it was the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, himself who discovered the frauds and brought the perpetrators to justice. The defects in the system which rendered the frauds possible have since been removed.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE LAHORE ENGINEERING DIVISION.

1295. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Lahore Engineering Division a large sum of Government revenues was embezzled?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state to what extent the said fraud was due to the slackness on the part of the officer in charge of that Division?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) It is a fact that some embezzlements took place, but the total loss, so far ascertained, is less than three thousand rupees.

(b) The frauds were most ingenious and it has been held after full investigation and, I may add, after personal examination of the case by me that the officer in charge cannot be held seriously to blame for the failure to detect them earlier.

TREATMENT OF HINDUS AS A MINORITY COMMUNITY IN THE PUNJAB POSTAL CIRCLE.

1296. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that according to the reservation rules, the minority communities consisted of the Muslims, Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Parsis, and Christians, etc.?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, is it a fact that in the Punjab Postal Circle, Hindus were also treated as minority community in certain recruiting units?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the number of clerical appointments given to Hindus in the Punjab Postal Circle wherein they were treated as a minority community, and also state whether any action was taken by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, while reviewing the annual recruitment statements of various communities?

(d) If no action was taken, are Government now prepared to redress the wrong done to the minority community by giving them extra recruitment in adjustment, and what action do they propose to take against the recruiting officers who treated Hindus as a minority community in the Punjab Postal Circle?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (d). Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT AND RECOVERY OF RENT OF QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1297. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that the new procedure of assessment and recovery of rent introduced recently by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, has proved defective and unsuccessful?

(b) Are Government aware that owing to this procedure the occupants of Government buildings are put to great inconvenience in the matters of refund of rent, etc., charged in excess from them, and that they have to wait for the refund for an indefinite period in spite of official and personal reminders?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) No. The suggestion is entirely without foundation.

QUARTERS FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS IN NEW DELHI.

1298. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government please state whether the *duftry* type of quarters are meant for *duftries* only, or other class of inferior staff is also entitled to the same?

(b) If the reply to the latter part of part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if an inferior servant drawing Rs. 20 per mensem and above is entitled to allotment of such a quarter? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government please state if the rules governing the allotment of inferior staff quarters in Old Delhi differ from those in New Delhi? If so, why and in what respect?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). "*Duftries*" quarters are intended for *Duftries*, Record Sorters and other inferior servants of similar status. No pay limit has been fixed for such quarters except in the Press Area in New Delhi.

(c) No, but I may explain that there are no "*Duftries*" quarters in Old Delhi.

TRAVELLING OF RAILWAY SERVANTS WITH INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSES BY CERTAIN TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1299. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it a fact that 13 Up and 14 Down Delhi-Sealdah Expresses are the only fast trains by which railway servants with passes can travel in the intermediate class between Calcutta and Delhi, and are Government aware that their utilizing these trains in large numbers causes discomfort to *bona fide* passengers? If so, are Government prepared to recommend to the East Indian Railway either to attach one more intermediate class bogie to those trains, or reserve some compartments other than the regular intermediate class bogies for such railway servants?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: 13 Up and 14 Down are the only fast through trains for intermediate class pass holders between Howrah and Delhi, which take about 32½ hours for the journey. There is, however, an alternative service by 11 Up from Howrah which necessitates a change at Moghal Sarai and the time taken for the through journey is 37 hours. In the reverse direction the alternative service is 16 Down from Delhi on which there is one intermediate and third class carriage which runs through between Delhi and Howrah and is sent on from Moghal Sarai by 20 Down. The time taken for the through journey is 34 hours.

A census of 13 Up and 14 Down taken about three months ago showed that the average number of intermediate class pass holders by 13 Up was five and by 14 Down seven. These figures do not indicate the necessity for the reservation of a separate compartment for intermediate class pass holders.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do Government always go by averages? Sometimes there may be overcrowding and sometimes there may be no passengers. How can averages help in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: What else would help?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The addition of a compartment would help.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: But when a test was made, it was found that an additional compartment was not found necessary.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Will Government be prepared to have additional compartments on holidays when generally the railway servants as well as other persons travel in larger numbers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: When there is a larger traffic than anticipated, the railways always make arrangements with regard to additional carriages where additional stock can be put on to a train without interfering with its running.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that, in this particular train, they attach an extra first and second class bogie, if necessary, and never attach extra third or intermediate class carriages even when required?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I am not aware of that. But, with regard to this particular matter of pass-holders travelling in this particular train, I may inform the Honourable Member that certain changes are in contemplation from 1st April, 1936, which might ease the situation.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Can the Honourable Member give us any idea about those changes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have got the details here, but I think it will weary the House if I read them out.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Can the Honourable Member give a summary only?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Certain changes in the time-table which might enable intermediate class pass-holders to travel by other trains.

REFUSAL TO ADMIT INDIAN GUESTS AT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE, DHANBAD.

1300. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement published in the *Searchlight* of Patna in which it is stated that "the authorities in charge of the European Institute at Dhanbad refused to admit Indian guests who had been specially invited to see the Ford car exhibition there on the ground that they were in Indian dress"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Institute is in receipt of grants from the Railway authorities? If so, will Government be pleased to state why such discrimination is allowed in a State-aided institution?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to take such steps as may prevent the repetition of such actions on the part of any Railway institute in future?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are informed that on the 19th of February, 1936, the European Railway Institute at Dhanbad was hired out to Messrs. A. Bowen & Co., representatives of the Ford Motor Car Company, to enable the firm to show a film dealing with the manufacture of Ford cars, etc., free to the public. When this arrangement was made it was made clear to Messrs. A. Bowen & Co. that admission would not be confined to Europeans only. This point was also made clear to the firm by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, when he was approached for a special license to show the film. A Mr. Kanai Lal C. Bhatt, Manager of a Colliery in the Jherriah Field, who lodged a complaint with the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, regarding being refused admission to the Institute on the 19th of February, 1936, stated at an enquiry which was held by the Coal Area Superintendent, Dhanbad, that neither he nor his friends were refused admission by any member of the railway staff, but that he had been told by one of Messrs. Ford Cars representatives who was present when Mr. Kanai Lal C. Bhatt arrived at the Institute that he could not enter as he (the representative of Ford Cars) had been given instructions to this effect.

by some one whose identity cannot be fixed. Government understand that many Colliery Managers and others are Honorary Members of the Dhanbad European Institute. The incident appears to have been due entirely to a misunderstanding for which the Institute Committee is in no way responsible.

(b) and (c). In view of my reply to part (a) these do not arise.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will Government take steps to see that Indians are not insulted in these European Institutes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: In this particular case, it had nothing to do with the officials of the Institute.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government pass a rule or direction that these Institutes should not be lent out to any Associations or individuals, who are likely to make any distinction as against Indians?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member will understand that here not only was there no question of there being any reason to imagine that a distinction was likely to be made, but clear instructions were given by the officials of the Institute, as well as by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, that no distinction should be made. It was an unfortunate incident that occurred in spite of those instructions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of that, and with reference to clause (c) of the question, will Government take such steps as they think they need take, to see that such unfortunate occurrences are not repeated, in spite of the best endeavours of the railway authorities?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member will see that the question says that such incidents should not be repeated on the part of any Railway Institute in future; and, as the answer will show, there is not the slightest reason for thinking that the Railway Institute were in any respect to blame with regard to this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to know whether the Railway Institutes, in lending these institutions, will insist as a condition precedent, apart from other things, that admission to the Institute should not be denied to Indians.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As a matter of fact, that is exactly what happened in this case. They did insist that, as the Institute was being hired out to them for showing a film, they must not restrict entry to Europeans alone.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But what steps have the railway authorities taken to punish this breach?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There was no breach on the part of the Institute people at all, as I am trying to show. The incident occurred on account of one of the representatives of the Ford Company trying to interfere with the admission of one of these men.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Did they act against the terms of the contract?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: They did.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Have Government taken any steps, so far as the breach of that contract is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: What steps would the Honourable Member suggest in this case if one of Ford's employees did commit this foolish mistake?

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AND STATE RAILWAY PRESSES.

1301. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Is it a fact that on a Resolution being moved in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy for the appointment of a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into the working of the Government of India Presses and the State Railway Presses on the 25th February, 1935, the Honourable Sir David Mitchell stated on behalf of the Government that any grievances of the employees of the Presses would be sympathetically considered if memorials are submitted to Government through the proper channel?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1301 to 1312 together.

I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

PAYMENT FOR TIFFIN TIME TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1302. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. P. R. Rau laid on the table of the House a statement on the 18th July, 1934, showing that the mean average of the piece earning rate per hour and class rate \times 200 was taken as the method of fixing the initial pay of the men in the East Indian Railway Press?

(b) Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway Press, employees actually work $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day from Monday to Friday and $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day on Saturday, thus making 209 hours a month?

(c) Is it not a fact that 209 hours follow both from monthly and yearly calculations?

(d) If the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government intend to compensate the employees for the extra nine hours?

(e) Is it not a fact that before the introduction of the pay system, the staff of the East Indian Railway Press were paid for tiffin time?

(f) Is it a fact that the privilege of being paid for tiffin time has been withdrawn from the employees for the last five years?

† For answer to this Question, see answer to question No. 1301.

(g) If the reply to parts (e) and (f) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if they desire to introduce the old system of paying for the tiffin time? If not, why not?

PAYMENT FOR HOLIDAYS TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1303. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that all employees of the East Indian Railway Press, irrespective of their being Hindus and Muhammadans, were permitted to enjoy both Hindu and Muhammadan holidays?

(b) Are Government aware that the enjoyment by the Hindu and the Muhammadan employees of both the Hindu and the Muhammadan holidays commonly with one another cemented the cordial relationship among the Hindu and the Muhammadan employees?

(c) Is it a fact that on 28th December, 1936, only the Muhammadan employees of the East Indian Railway Press were permitted to enjoy the Id holiday and the Hindus had to attend office?

(d) Is it a fact that the Muhammadan employees were not paid their wages for this Id holiday enjoyed by them on the 28th December, 1935?

(e) Is it not a fact that the Muhammadan employees were paid their wages on the occasion of all other previous Id holidays?

(f) If the answer to parts (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, will Government state the reason for this policy?

GRANT OF COMPULSORY HOLIDAYS TO THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1304. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that the industrial employees of the East Indian Railway Press suffer pecuniary loss by reason of the grant of compulsory holidays?

(b) Is it not a fact that on the 3rd January last, there was a public holiday declared for the Viceregal departure and the East Indian Railway Press was also closed?

(c) Is it a fact that the industrial employees were not paid their wages for this holiday?

(d) Is it not a fact that this compulsory reduction of their salary will affect the amount of their Provident Fund, as also the gratuity?

(e) If the answer to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take any steps to prevent the compulsory loss to the poor employees?

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1305. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not the policy of Government to give promotion to the employees according to the seniority of service, good conduct and regular attendance?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1301.

(b) Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway Press, seniority of service, good conduct and regular attendance are not given any weight? Is promotion granted only at the discretion of the establishment clerk and the supervisors?

PRACTICE IN THE RAILWAY PASSES REGARDING RETIREMENT AND GRANT OF INCREMENTS.

†1306. *Dr. P. N. Banerjee: (a) Is it a fact that it has always been the practice in the Railway Presses:

(i) to compel retirement from service according to seniority of service, and

(ii) to grant increments according to the seniority of service?

(b) Is it a fact that recently there has been some deviation from the practice for the last three years? If so, why?

RIGHT OF APPEAL GIVEN TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1307. *Dr. P. N. Banerjee: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is the right of the employees of the East Indian Railway Press to appeal to the Agent against the decisions of the Superintendent?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Superintendent of the Press has any power to withhold any memorial and dispose of the same himself on behalf of the Agent?

WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1308. *Dr. P. N. Banerjee: (a) Is it not a fact that the Handbook for the guidance of the East Indian Railway Press administration contains a provision, in Rule No. 35 at page 10, for a works committee?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state (i) whether the administration in the East Indian Railway Press was carried out according to that provision, and (ii) whether there was any election and proceedings of any works committee for the last three years? If not, why not?

EMPLOYMENT OF RETRENCHED PERSONS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1309. *Dr. P. N. Banerjee: (a) Is it not the policy of Government to provide the retrenched hands when any vacancy is filled up in the office of the Government?

(b) Is it not a fact that vacancies in the East Indian Railway Press are being filled up by new recruits?

(c) Is it not a fact that the new recruits in the East Indian Railway Press are getting rapid promotion and increment in preference to the old staff?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the number of persons newly recruited in the East Indian Railway Press during the last two years, and the number among them of the retrenched hands?

†For answer to this question see answer to question No. 1301.

HOLIDAYS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1310. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Is it not a fact that by letter No. 229-E.G., dated the 20th February, 1932, the Railway Board directed that the Press employees will get 20 holidays during the year?

(b) Is it a fact that only 13 days are being given as holidays to the Press employees in the East Indian Railway Press for the last three years?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

SUSPENSION WITHOUT AN OPPORTUNITY BEING GIVEN FOR OFFERING EXPLANATIONS TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1311. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Is it not a fact that the ordinary practice in all the Government Presses as also in the East Indian Railway Press, is first to call for an explanation from a guilty person when a report is received against him and then to award punishment?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that sometimes employees in the East Indian Railway Press are suspended from work without being given an opportunity of offering an explanation?

LEAVE, HOLIDAYS AND PAY, ETC., OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF RAILWAYS.

†1312. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing:

(i) the rules under which the industrial workers of each Railway are guided, so far as the leave and holidays are concerned; and

(ii) the grades of pay that are allowed to the industrial workers in each Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no uniformity of rules guiding these industrial workers of the different State Railways? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons in each case?

MEMORIALS OF TEMPORARY BINDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1313. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Is it not a fact that on a Resolution being moved in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy for the appointment of a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into the working of the Government of India Presses and State Railway Presses on 25th February, 1935, the Honourable Sir David Mitchell stated on behalf of the Government that any grievances of the employees of the Presses would be systematically considered if memorials were submitted to Government through the proper channel?

(b) Is it a fact that several binders of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted a petition for making them permanent on the 20th July, 1930, and that petition was returned by the then Manager with a note which said amongst other things that "I am certain that those who can claim a fair amount of service will have their posts converted to permanent posts before very long"?

(c) Is it a fact that the temporary binders in the Calcutta Press, claiming services from 12 to 22 years, submitted memorials to the Honourable Member in Charge, through proper channel, in September 1934 with a prayer to include them in the permanent staff, so that they might enjoy the privileges of Government service?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. A. G. Clow stated before this House on the 20th September, 1935, in answer to question No. 527, that the prayer was under consideration?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how long they will take to dispose of this matter, and whether any definite scheme has been framed in relation to it?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (d). Yes.

(e) Orders are about to be issued for the transfer of a large number of posts in the Government of India Presses from the temporary to the permanent establishment. These orders will result in the grant of permanent status to the great majority of the temporary binders of the Calcutta Press.

NON-CONFIRMATION OF PIECE-EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1314. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that in granting pensions to the piece-employees in the Government of India Presses, the earnings of the last six years and 25 to 30 years service and 55 years age are calculated?

(b) Is it not a fact that if the piece-employees are granted leave without pay the amounts of their pensions decrease on that account?

(c) Is it not a fact that in the Government of India Press at Calcutta there are piece-employees of 22 to 24 years service and 50 to 53 years age who have not been made permanent as yet?

(d) Is it a fact that the temporary piece-employees of the Government of India Press do not get any pay for medical leave granted to them?

(e) If the answer to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the amounts of pensions of the employees are greatly affected by it?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the legitimate grievances of the piece-employees and give them the privilege of Government service?

(g) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the names of all piece-employees in the Government of India Press at Calcutta who are temporary, with the dates of their appointment, their age and the departments to which they belong?

(h) Is it not a fact that in the Government of India Presses at Delhi, Aligarh, Simla and Calcutta, there are works committees and that these works committees discuss the grievances of the employees and forward their proceedings through proper channel to the Government of India?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state what representations were made by the works committee of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, to the Government of India on the 18th December, 1934 and in June, July, August and September, 1926?

(j) Will Government lay on the table the proceedings of the meeting of the works committee of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, held in November and December 1934?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) The ordinary rule for all Government servants is that leave without pay does not qualify for pension.

(c), (e) and (f). I am not in possession of exact information regarding the age of the piece-workers employed at the Calcutta Press and the period of their temporary service. I understand that there are temporary piece-workers in that Press who have put in long years of service. Government have decided to transfer a large number of temporary posts to the permanent establishment and orders to this effect are being issued.

(d) Temporary piece-work employees are entitled to 16 days leave on full pay in a year to cover absences on account of holidays, sickness or leave.

(g) No: no such record is maintained in my Department.

(h) Works Committees have been established in the Government of India Presses to afford the employees regular opportunities of discussing with the supervising staff inequalities and difficulties which may arise under working conditions. Their proceedings are not required to be forwarded to the Government of India.

(i) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by Mr. Clow in the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1935, to part (d) of starred question No. 526 asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya.

(j) No.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: With regard to clause (h) of the question, what is the result of the decisions of these Works Committees if they are not forwarded to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: This, Sir, is a domestic matter. They are forwarded presumably to the authority most concerned with them,—the Manager of the Press. He presumably studies them and takes any action that may be necessary. The Government of India can hardly be expected to deal with a matter of detail of this kind.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: In case the decision of the Manager of the Press is not satisfactory, will Government consider the decisions of these Works Committees?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It is always open to any employee of the Government of India Press to represent his grievances in the usual way.

SYSTEM OF BIENNIAL AUTOMATIC CLASSIFICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1315. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that the employees in the Government of India Press under the pay system automatically reach their highest grade when they retire from service?

(b) Is it not a fact that the piece-employees in the Government of India Press had to retire from service before they reached their highest class rate?

(c) Is it not a fact that under the existing system of biennial automatic classification in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, an employee placed on class six will take forty years to reach the highest class?

(d) Is it not a fact that under the system of biennial automatic classification in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, an employee entering service at the twenty-fifth year of age and placed on class six will not be able to reach the highest class before the age of sixty-five?

(e) Is it not a fact that, under the Government service rules, retirement is compulsory in the Government of India Press, Calcutta at the age of 55?

(f) If the reply to parts (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of abandoning this system and replace it by an annual automatic classification system?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the composers of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, who retired during the last five years, together with their highest class rate at the time of retirement?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for those composers not reaching the highest class rate under the system of biennial automatic classification, if they have failed to reach the highest class rate at the time of their retirement?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) and (d). It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the position of the piece composers under the Classification Rules issued in 1928. Classes 16 to 25 are selection classes promotion to which is confined to a limited number of composers. It was never contemplated that all composers would reach the highest class automatically. In order to accelerate the promotion of deserving men the rules have been further amended.

(e) No. Industrial employees in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, fall under the category of ministerial servants who under the rules may be retained in service up to the age of 60 years if they continue efficient.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No: no such record is maintained in my Department.

(h) This does not strictly arise, but as I have already explained the rules were not framed with the expectation that all composers would rise to the highest class.

DECREASE IN THE EARNINGS OF THE PIECE-EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

1316. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Is it not a fact that the earnings of the employees under pay-system in the Government of India Press, increase with their length of service, while the earnings of the employees

under piece-system decrease as the period of their service increases and as they grow old?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that this system of decrease in earnings of the piece-employees with the length of their service affects the amount of their pension?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Honourable Sir Thomas Holland in reply to the debate on Mr. G. S. Khaparde's resolution in the Imperial Council on the 14th September, 1920, urging the appointment of a committee to investigate and report on the causes of the trouble in the Government of India Presses, stated on behalf of the Government that he would tear up the Government Resolution if the earnings of the piece-employees were gradually to decrease as the period of their service would increase?

(d) Is it not a fact that the maximum earnings of a piece-worker, compositor, in the Government of India Presses in 1925-26 was Rs. 122 per month as stated by the Honourable Mr. Ley in the Council of State in 1926 and that the same maximum earnings dwindled to Rs. 82 per month as stated by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce in 1933 in this House, and that the same have since then been on the gradual decrease year by year as admitted by the Honourable Member in Charge of Industries and Labour in this House in reply to interpellation, No. 283, dated the 11th December, 1933, No. 720, dated the 21st March, 1930; and No. 720, dated the 20th September, 1933?

(e) If the reply to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if any steps are being taken, or are intended to be taken, to give relief to the poor workers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Salaried hands who are on time scales of pay get increments based on the length of their service. The earnings of piece-workers depend, generally speaking, on their outturn, but their class-rate tends to rise with their length of service.

(b) The rate of pension depends upon earnings in the last six years, but piece-workers recruited since 15th July, 1920, are on provident fund and not on pension.

(c) and (d). I have nothing to add to the reply given by me on 11th December, 1933, to parts (g), (j), (k) and (l) of unstarred question No. 283 by Mr. S. C. Mitra. Question No. 720 dated the 21st March, 1930, quoted by the Honourable Member does not relate to earnings, and I am unable to trace question No. 720, dated the 20th September, 1933.

(e) Does not arise.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will Government be prepared to take any steps in order to give some relief to the poor workers?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have pointed out that Government have taken steps. They are transferring certain workers in the Press from the temporary to the permanent establishment, and, in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Honourable Member's last question, I have said that, in order to accelerate the promotion of deserving men, certain rules have been amended.

RATES FOR COMPOSITORS, DISTRIBUTORS AND BINDERS, ETC., IN THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

1317. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that the same class rate was prevalent among the compositors, distributors, press-men, machine-men, and binders in the Government of India Presses from 1920 to 1928?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what the respective highest class rates were of the compositors, distributors, press-men, machine-men and the binders in 1922 and in 1930?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The time rates in force from 1920 to 1928 were 20 in number, the maximum being eight annas per hour for all piece-workers. The maximum class rate in 1930 for compositors was ten annas and two pies. for pressmen, machinemen and binders five annas and four pies and for distributors four annas per hour.

RULES FOR LATE ATTENDANCE BY EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF
INDIA PRESSES.

1318. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that in matters of late attendance a general grace of ten minutes in the Government of India Presses in stations other than Calcutta and 15 minutes grace in the Calcutta Press was allowed to the employees before the introduction of the new rules in 1933?

(b) Is it not a fact that five late attendances in a month in the Government of India Presses in stations other than Calcutta and six in the Calcutta Press were as a general rule excused and late attendances exceeding that limit were punishable under the old rules before the introduction of the new rules in 1933?

(c) Is it not a fact that when under the old rules of attendance, deduction of half an hour's pay at class rate for each ordinary late attendance and a deduction of three-fourth of an hour's pay for each double late was imposed upon the piece-workers?

(d) Is it not a fact that in the Government of India Presses under the rules of attendance introduced in August in 1933:

(i) no late attendance, is, as a general rule, excusable; and

(ii) one day's leave is forfeited for each four unexcused late attendances and two days' leave is forfeited for five unexcused late attendances?

(e) Is it not a fact that the piece-workers in the Government of India Presses are imposed a twofold punishment for late attendance (i) by depriving them of the price of the time lost for late attendance, and (ii) by imposing the penalty of forfeiture of leave?

(f) Is it not a fact that under the old rules of punishment for late attendance, the fines imposed for late attendance and realised from the employees in the Government of India Presses, were spent for the benefit of the employees and their families?

(g) If the answer to parts (a) to (f) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for making these hard rules of attendance in comparison to the old ones existing before 1933?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the amount realised from piece-workers of the Government of India Presses by imposition of fines in the years 1931, 1932 and 1934, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (c). Yes.

(d) Under the rules introduced in 1933 late attendance up to a limit of four per mensem may be excused at the discretion of Managers. Late attendances which are due to unavoidable causes of a general and serious character may also be excused at the discretion of Managers without regard to the limit mentioned above. One day's leave is forfeited for every four unexcused late attendances.

(e) Forfeiture of leave is provided for in the rules as a measure of discipline but no deduction is made from the earnings of piece-workers after their leave has been exhausted. Loss of earnings due to late attendance is not a punishment, but a result for which the worker is responsible.

(f) Yes.

(g) The old rules were defective in some respects. Government consider that the revised rules which were framed after careful consideration are fair and reasonable.

(h) I regret I cannot furnish the information required by the Honourable Member as its collection will involve an amount of time and trouble disproportionate to the result.

**GIVING OF LIGHTER WORKS TO THE OLD EMPLOYEES IN THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.**

1319. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that in answer to question No. 528, asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya as to whether the principles of giving lighter works to the old employees was being followed in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, Mr. A. G. Clow stated before this House on 20th September, 1935, that the Controller of Printing and Stationery was enquiring into the matter?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the Controller of the Printing and Stationery has finished his enquiry and whether the older employees are getting lighter work?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The older employees in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are given a preference in the allocation of work as far as practicable.

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICE OF PIECE-EMPLOYEES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES FOR CALCULATING LEAVE.**

1320. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Is it a fact that services of piece-hands of Government Presses are taken into account for calculating leave on average pay of the man who has since been promoted to the salaried establishment? If not, will Government be pleased to quote the relevant rules?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Under the Revised Leave Rules for Press Employees which apply to new entrants permanent industrial employees transferred from the salaried to the piece-work establishment

or *vice versa* are allowed to retain leave at their credit. No such provision was made in the old leave rules for press employees as transfers between the salaried and the piece-work establishments are not frequent. In certain cases of transfers of men from the salaried to the piece-work establishment orders were issued allowing them credit for the leave earned by them.

APPOINTMENT OF UNPASSED PERSONS IN THE READING BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1321. *Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is it a fact that University degree-holders have been exclusively ignored lately in filling up the appointments in the Reading Branch of the Government of India Press at Calcutta by appointing all unpassed hands without giving any chance to any passed hand?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have no information regarding these appointments which are not made by Government. But the possession of a degree is not an essential qualification for new entrants, and when vacancies are filled by promotion, work in the Branch affords a safer guide than academic qualifications.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a disqualification?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the fact that the staff in the Government of India Press at Calcutta has been found to be not quite up to their work, and the Public Accounts Committee have pointed out that they must do something to increase the qualifications of the staff in order to improve the working of the Department?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

1322. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the first of the 'Occasional Notes' of the *Statesman* of the 21st February, 1936;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the Jokatiabad disaster, 62 persons were killed and that the Committee found that if the miners had been properly warned and not allowed to congregate too close to the shots the casualties would have been very few;
- (c) whether they have come to any conclusion on the recommendations of the Conference, which met recently in Delhi to advise on the safety measures for preventing such accidents in future;
- (d) whether the proposals of the Conference will be placed before this House; and
- (e) whether steps are being taken in the direction of legislation?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). We are in consultation with Local Governments and the interests concerned and it is our intention to place a Bill before the House for the purpose of securing the necessary powers during the current Session.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (b) of the question, have Government taken any action, in view of the answer that the death of 62 persons might have been avoided or lessened, if proper precautions had been taken?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The fact is that the person responsible for the failure to warn the people who congregated too close to the shots was the shot-firer who was himself killed in the accident.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government are contemplating any transitional arrangements to carry out the object of the legislation, in the intervening period before the Bill becomes law?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hope that it will not take long for the Bill to become law. We are very anxious to get it through this Session. That merely means a delay now of a very few weeks. I trust that I shall have my Honourable friend's co-operation in getting the Bill through the Legislature as soon as possible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That depends on the contents of the Bill. I should like to know if it is the intention of Government to go through all the stages of the Bill, in both Houses during this Session.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hope so. It will be a very short Bill. Its main provision will be to enable Government to make rules and regulations immediately.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will there be a time limit for speeches on that Bill? (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the Bill more or less based on the recommendations of the Conference?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would ask my Honourable friend to wait and see what the Bill is like. We discussed all these matters at a conference of representatives of the various interests involved, including labour, and we asked those representatives to put the conclusions of the conference before the interests they represented. The replies are now coming in, and I hope that it may be possible for me to introduce the Bill in this House in the course of next week.

REVISION OF THE TERMS OF CONVENTION SEPARATING THE RAILWAY AND THE GENERAL FINANCES.

1323. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the terms of the Convention of 1924, whereby the Railway and the General Finances of the Central Government were separated, are to be revised before the establishment of the Federal authority;
- (c) whether the Legislature will be consulted in the matter, especially
- (b) whether that revision is under consideration; in the matter of writing off any capital of the railways, and debiting a portion thereof to the General Finance; and

(d) whether the proposals will be completed before the Statutory Federal authority comes into being?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Under section 186 (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, any surpluses on revenue account shown in the accounts of the Federal Railway Authority shall be apportioned between the Federation and the Authority in accordance with a scheme to be prepared, and from time to time reviewed, by the Federal Government, or, until such a scheme has been prepared, in accordance with the principles which immediately before the establishment of the Authority regulated the application of surpluses in railway accounts.

(b) The whole question is of course under consideration, but I would remind the Honourable Member that under Part VIII of the Government of India Act, the main principles of any new financial convention are largely determined in advance. The only substantial question left undetermined is the division of any surplus which remains after fully providing from revenue for working expenses, interest, maintenance, renewals and amortisation of debt. In present circumstances, there is no sign of the emergence of a surplus and the discussion of its division is therefore largely academic.

(c) and (d). Under section 187 (1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, the capital debt of the railways or the sum deemed to be owing from the Authority to the Federation is such sum as may be agreed or, in default of agreement, determined by the Governor General in his discretion, to be equivalent to the amount of the moneys provided, whether before or after the passing of this Act, out of the revenues of India or of the Federation for capital purposes in connection with railways in India (exclusive of Burma). For the purposes of that sub-section, where the Secretary of State in Council has assumed or incurred any obligation in connection with any such railways, he shall be deemed to have provided for the said purposes an amount equal to the capital value of that obligation as shown in the accounts of the Government of India immediately before the establishment of the Authority. I do not see how in the circumstances any question of writing off part of the Railway capital at the expense of general revenues can arise. I am unable at this stage to state whether the Legislature will be consulted in the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am much obliged to the Honourable Member for the very full answer he has given; but may I ask, in the light of that answer which he has read out, particularly with reference to clause (c) of the question, whether Government are considering or propose to consider early, the question of what shall be the sum due to the Federation from the railways, before the railway authority comes into existence? Is it going to be a matter of negotiation or are Government going to accept, as the Secretary of State is compelled to accept under the Government of India Act with regard to Company-owned capital, that the sum due to the Federation shall be Rs. 800 crores or Rs. 700 odd crores, which now the railway debt bears in proportion to the general debt of the country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As I have read out in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the question, under section 187(1) of the Government of India Act, this matter has got to be settled between the Federal Government and the Federal Railway Authority, and, in case of difference between the two, by the Governor General.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that this Government propose to do nothing in the matter, till the Federal Government comes into being?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Except to collect all the information and all the data that may be necessary for a decision on this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that the present separation convention will continue till the Federal Government comes into being?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot take any responsibility in that respect, that if any alterations become necessary in the meantime, they might be considered; but nothing is under contemplation at the moment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am simply asking whether, as and when Government make up their minds that either this convention requires any alteration, or they are to make up their minds with regard to the capital which shall be owed to the Federal Government from the railways, they will consult the Legislature at the appropriate stage.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is entirely a hypothetical question. I have assured the Honourable Member that Government are not contemplating anything of that character at present: as and when they do it, it will be a question to be decided as and when it arises.

ANTI-INDIAN FILMS.

1324. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to an article entitled "Anti-Indian Films" in the *Forward*, dated the 25th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the Honourable the Home Member is prepared to pursue the enquiry further, as to the names of the producers of the film "India Speaks";
- (c) whether the facts stated therein are correct; and
- (d) whether they propose to take further steps in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: (a) I have seen the article in question.

(b)—(d). I am not aware if the facts stated in the article are correct. I am making further enquiries as to the name of the Company which produced the film "India Speaks" and will, on receipt of the information for which I have called, consider what, if any, further action in the matter is necessary.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any steps been taken to see that those films are not put on boards in other countries?

The Honourable Sir Henry Crank: I have answered that in reply to previous questions, Sir.

DISCUSSION ON THE GENERAL CLAUSES OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF
ACCESSION.

1325. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti**: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the article entitled "Legal talks on Federation" in the *Statesman* of the 25th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the India Office has inquired of the Princes whether their counsel would be ready for a discussion on the general clauses of the Instruments of Accession that Their Highnesses must execute before Federation comes into being; and
- (c) what these clauses are, and whether Government can throw any light on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The position in regard to the draft Instruments of Accession is stated in the Press Communiqué issued by the Government of India on the 12th March, 1936, and I have nothing to add to it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does that communiqué state the clauses of the Instrument of Accession?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The communiqué is there: and if the Chair will allow me, I can read it out:

"Press Communiqué, dated 12th March, 1936.

The Secretary of State's legal advisers have been engaged in revising provisionally the original draft standard form of the Instrument of Accession published with the White Paper of March 1935. Opportunity will be taken of the presence in London of Counsel representing Indian States for purposes of informal discussion without prejudice in regard to the general form of the draft. It is expected that in a few months time the revised draft Instrument will be available for communication through the local political authorities concerned to the Indian States individually with a view to detailed negotiations when their comments have been received."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to know whether the Government of India have any part or lot in these negotiations which this communiqué contemplates.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If my Honourable friend is referring to the informal discussions taking place in London between the representatives of the States and the India Office, the answer is in the negative.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether the Government of India are expecting to be consulted with regard to the detailed clauses of the Instruments of Accession, which are expected to vary from State to State?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is our expectation certainly.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: So far, they have not been consulted?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No: so far the situation has not arisen.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is happening about these Instruments of Accession?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I would advise my Honourable friend to send a telegram to counsel for the States to get the information: we have laid before the House all the information that we have.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government no interest in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: They have plenty of interest, but not undue or premature curiosity.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the people of this country are very much interested in seeing that these instruments of accession are shaped in such a manner, as not to unduly weigh the scales against British Indians and in favour of Indian States, and will Government, therefore, consider getting information, as early as they can, in order to press this point of view on the authorities who will finally negotiate the Federation?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The Government of India have always acted expeditiously, and they will continue to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And the result of the expedition is that they have no information!

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DELHI BROADCASTING STATION.

1326. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a statement made by Dr. S. K. Sen on broadcasting in Delhi, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 27th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the suggestions made by the writer will be examined by the authorities in charge of the Delhi Broadcasting Station;
- (c) whether they propose soon to appoint a regularly constituted non-official advisory committee to provide good music from the Broadcasting Station?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 810 on the 25th February, 1936.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have these suggestions been examined by Government?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have said "yes" in my reply to (a) and (b).

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The question is "whether they *will be* examined", and the answer is "yes". I am now asking whether they *have been* examined.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am sorry that I have got my tenses confused. They have been examined.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And what is the result of that examination?

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

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there going to be any improvement—we can judge it for ourselves tonight—in the kind of music broadcast from this station? Will there be better music hereafter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is a matter of opinion. I myself am no judge of Indian music. My musical sense is lacking. But I have heard opinions that the music is very good. I have also had opinions that it is not. I am not in a position to judge between them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I can judge good Indian music. Will Government consult good experts like me (Laughter), before they decide what class of music to broadcast from this station?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am quite sure that the Controller of Broadcasting and Director of the Broadcasting Station will only be too glad of any assistance my Honourable friend is willing to give them.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Are Government aware that the people of the country generally do not appreciate the tune of the Congress? (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the people of the country want only Congress music, and not the Moradabad Knight's music? (Renewed Laughter.)

MUSEUMS IN INDIA.

1327. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the opinion of Mr. S. F. Markham on Museums in India, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 24th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the facts stated therein are correct; if so, whether they propose to take steps to remedy the defects mentioned therein?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to his question No. 957, on the 3rd March, 1936.

1328. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Sir, I do not ask this question?

CURTAILMENT OF RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

1329. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the view of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, on the Railway Budget, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 28th February, 1936;
- (b) whether they propose to examine the suggestions contained in the article; and
- (c) whether they are prepared to appoint a sub-committee, with a majority of non-officials, to go thoroughly into the railway finances and point out the possible directions in which curtailment of expenditure can be effected?

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

(b) The suggestions have been examined.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to his question No. 963 on the 6th March, 1936.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That was a negative. May I ask Government once more whether they will reconsider the whole position, and face the very difficult financial position of Indian railways, and just concede, for once, that other people may have some light to throw upon the problem, in addition to themselves?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: My reply on the previous occasion was not in the negative.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will they appoint then a committee consisting of officials and non-officials, with a non-official majority, to go into the whole question of railway retrenchment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: They are considering the question of appointing a committee: they cannot at the moment say whom the committee will consist of.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government say when they will be in a position to make an announcement in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I cannot say.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Or as to the likelihood of non-officials being taken?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot answer that either.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion on the motion for consideration of 12 Noon. the Indian Finance Bill.

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, I listened with very great pleasure yesterday to the powerful and passionate plea put forward by my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant. As one who has fought for many years for the industrialisation of the country and for the protection of its industries, I was almost moved to tears of joy when I found such close identity of views between the Honourable Pandit and myself! I thought to myself that the prospect was appreciably nearer of the lion and the lamb lying together. (Laughter.)

An Honourable Member: What are you?

Sir H. P. Mody: I am the lamb.

Sir, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, called my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, and myself, the other day, as the Harijans of Bombay. I wish very much, Sir, that we were just Harijans . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Why? You are.

Sir H. P. Mody: Everybody today pays lip service to the cause of the Harijans. They command the active sympathy and support of the Government; they command the active sympathy and support of the Congress. Srijuts and Rai Bahadurs alike look after their interests, but who is looking after our interests? Kicks on all sides, that is the lot of the real Harijans of Bombay, whom my friend so often is in the habit of poking fun at. Sir, I almost burst into song, inwardly, of course, . . .

An Honourable Member: Thank you.

Sir H. P. Mody: . . . when I found my friend, the Pandit, making such a powerful impression on the Honourable the Finance Member, and, inspired by Omar Khayyam, I sang:

"Ah, Pant, could thou and I with Grigg conspire
To grasp this sorry scheme of Free Trade entire
Would we not shatter it to bits—and then
Remould it nearer to our heart's desire!"

Coming back to the earth, I would like to emphasise that the issue today is no longer political. I do not know, Sir, whether there are any professors or cranks left in this country who are theoretical free traders. The time has gone by when people subscribed to that famous maxim of Adam Smith: "It is the maxim of every prudent master of a family never to attempt to make at home what it will cost him more to make than to buy. What is prudence in the conduct of every private family can scarcely be folly in that of a great kingdom". Very fine words these, but the history of the last ten years has blown them to bits, and I doubt whether there are any people with any experience of industrial and commercial conditions in this country who subscribe to the free trade doctrine.

Now, Sir, let me say at the outset that my friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, did not do justice to the Finance Member when he proceeded all along on the assumption that he was a fanatical free trader. I have had the advantage of a great many discussions with the Finance

Member, ever since he came to this country, and I for one accept wholeheartedly his assurance that, whatever his principles may be, so far as they concern his own country, so far as this country is concerned, he accepts loyally the policy laid down by the Fiscal Commission and by the Legislature. And, so far as his public utterances go, if we leave out the asides, for which he is so famous . . .

An Honourable Member: Monkeying?

Sir H. P. Mody: . . . so far as his public declarations are concerned, I have not been able to find anything in them to support the viewpoint which is being held in a great many quarters in India that the Finance Member is an enemy of industrialism or is a determined exponent of free trade. I don't think, Sir, that it is necessary for anybody to argue the enormous benefits of industrialisation in this country. It is well-known that agriculture cannot possibly support anything like the population which exists in this country. With our primitive methods, with a precarious rainfall, with a poor soil, with large tracts of unirrigated land, it is quite impossible that agriculture can provide food to the teeming millions of India. Besides, as every one is aware, the spectre of middle class unemployment has risen in the last few years, and, if we have to feed the hungry mouths whom the soil does not sustain, and if we want to make some impression on the alarming figures of middle class unemployment, I say that the only policy which can achieve that is the industrialisation of the country. I am not suggesting that it should be a sort of forced hot house growth. I say that all the elements which go to make a country industrial are present in India. We have the material resources, the mineral resources, we have an enormous labour force, we have cheap labour—in spite of my friend, Mr. Joshi—we have a great many favourable factors, and I maintain that all these factors make it possible for this country to be industrialised steadily and progressively within a very few years. And it is only when you have industrialised the country, relieved the pressure on the land, and provided various avenues of employment that you can raise the purchasing power of the country. In the West, there are a great many avenues open to the sons of middle class families,—the Army, the Church and a great many other things. In this country we have nothing, and I repeat that the one way in which you can reduce unemployment and raise the consuming power of the country is by industrialisation. I will quote, Sir, an important testimony, the testimony of Professor Gregory, in his conclusion to a book entitled "Eastern Industrialisation and its Effect on the West". It is a book whose perusal I strongly recommend to my Honourable friends in this House:

"Whatever the casual sequence may be, it is clear that we should view the eastern scene in the light of our own historical experience, and recognise that the ultimate condition for a rise in the eastern standard of life is such a balance between population growth and technical progress as to permit of a surplus which will raise the per capita welfare of Eastern populations. The attainment of this surplus is theoretically possible by a drastic decline of population: given the population situation, it is only possible to solve it by means of industrialisation.

Nor is there anything of a sinister or pessimistic nature in this conclusion, as such. For a growing population with growing resources represents a growing market; in fact"—(and this is a very important consideration),—"the East is reproducing the conditions which made for the most rapid economic growth in other parts of the world in a not very remote past."

[Sir H. P. Mody.]

Sir, if examples are necessary, I would point to the textile industry of this country which, in the past at any rate, existed in spite of Government, which today is providing employment to nearly half a million people, who with their dependants would make up as much as two millions of population, and which consumes more than half the cotton grown in this country. This industry has established the competence of Indians to manage their own economic affairs, and has proved their adaptability in many fields of industrialisation. There are certain mills in India which can compare favourably with any mills existing anywhere in the world. Incidentally, I may say for the benefit of my Honourable friends, the champions of the agriculturists and the handloom weavers, that it is because of the protection given in recent years to the textile industry that the handloom industry has been enabled to survive.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Sir H. P. Mody: There is no question about it; it is a hard concrete fact. The benefit of protection has not merely gone to the power factories, but has percolated to the handloom weavers. Today, the incursion of Japan, if it was not checked, would wipe out the whole of the handloom weavers, and, incidentally, also half the textile power industry in this country. Take the case of steel. Out of what was a mere jungle, some thirty years ago, has risen a town of nearly 100,000 inhabitants, laid out in the modern way, laid out even better than most of the capital cities in India, and providing employment to 25,000 people. These are the concrete achievements of protection. But I want to go a little further. While I am about it, I had better be as whole-hearted as possible, because, after all, it will not make much difference to what my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, is going to say. I say, Sir, that the time has arrived for a more definite policy of protection. A new Fiscal Commission is necessary. The Fiscal Commission over which that eminent industrial and commercial magnate and public citizen, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, presided, laid down a policy which has been held up and, rightly, to the admiration of other countries. That policy has served us so far well, but the time, I repeat, has arrived for taking that policy a little further. Very many important factors have supervened since the Fiscal Commission issued its report. Most countries are subscribing more and more to the policy of economic nationalism. There have been exchange depreciations, quotas, export bounties, and in a great many other ways the whole economic system of the world has undergone a very severe change. It is necessary, therefore, that a new Fiscal Commission should be appointed, which, taking our mad world as it is, will lay down what India can do to maintain its position in these extraordinary times. The Commission would also perform another important service, and that is, it would examine and report upon the consumers' argument which has been trotted out so often, not merely from non-official benches, but also from Government benches. The Commission would examine how far the scheme of protection, as it has been given effect to in this country in the last ten years, has affected the consumer.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): In other words, you pre-judge every question in advance.

Sir H. P. Mody: No. I am not asking the Commission to judge the issue. But I have my own view just as the Finance Member has his own view; but the Finance Member ought to be really more careful about his view than I should be about mine. He holds the responsible position of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and when he tells us, as he did, very solemnly a couple of days ago, that the consumer had suffered to the extent of 34 crores of rupees a year through the protection given to the textile and steel industries, I immediately join issue with him. . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Textile and sugar, and not steel.

Sir H. P. Mody: Now, Sir, I do not know whether my Honourable friend really thinks that this is a matter of just mathematical calculation.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes.

Sir H. P. Mody: Without duty, so many annas per yard; with duty, so many annas per yard; therefore, so many crores of rupees have been taken out of the pockets of the consumer! Never was a greater fallacy uttered. The predecessor of my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Zaf-rullah Khan, once said on the floor of this House that, taking the figures of the last fifteen years, the consumer had really not been made to pay anything more than he would have paid otherwise. What has happened is that the textile industry is confronted with the competition of a country which has got its own standards, which has got its own methods of exploitation and penetration, and it is due to the competition of that country, to the dumping,—I am not using that word in the technical sense—of her goods on to the markets of this country, and also due to the internal competition, that I stand firm upon what I am now saying, namely, that, today, the consumer of cloth is paying no more than he did when there was no protection whatsoever.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Question.

Sir H. P. Mody: How can you question facts? You may question theories.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is not a fact.

Sir H. P. Mody: These are very hard facts, and I think, so far as my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, is concerned, he is talking through his *pugree*. (Laughter.) There is only one other observation that I would like to make in order to emphasise my point that you require another Fiscal Commission to lay down a policy for India, and that is, that it is necessary, and it has been increasingly established in the last few years, that if you want to protect an industry adequately, you must protect it for an adequate period of time. It is no use giving three years protection; then, at the end of two years, making another enquiry and throwing the whole machinery out of gear, creating a lot of uncertainty, and in every other way, making it very difficult for industries to carry on. That, again, is a matter on which the Fiscal Commission may

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have something to say. I will give you the authority of one who is very well-known, Professor Taussig, who was the first Chairman of the United States Tariff Commission. He said:

"The length of time to be allowed for the experiment should not be too brief. Ten years are not enough; twenty years may be reasonably extended; thirty years are not necessarily unreasonable."

You do not give protection unless you have had an elaborate enquiry on the part of the Tariff Board, then Government incubating on that report, and the Legislature dissecting it; if after all this enquiry, you feel satisfied that protection is due to an industry, well, give it for an adequate period of years so that behind the shelter of the tariff wall the industry may be enabled to put its house in order.

That brings me to the question, which is equally important, of the revision of the machinery which has been provided under the Fiscal Commission's report. I say, without meaning any disrespect to the eminent men who have occupied the positions of Members and Chairmen of the Tariff Board.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Question.

Sir H. P. Mody: . . . I say the machinery is entirely out of date. In more than ten years, less than fifty enquiries have been handled by our Tariff Boards. What is the case in a country which was a fanatical adherent up to within recent times of the free trade doctrine, I mean, Great Britain? The Import Duties Advisory Committee was set up three years ago after a long series of other breaches in the free trade principle, for the purpose of considering the advisability in the national interests of restricting imports into the United Kingdom and the interests generally of trade and industries in the United Kingdom. They issued a little while ago their three years' report. What does the report say? 310 applications were received and disposed of, 99 orders issued affecting a large number of commodities, and each representing in many instances a large number of "bricks" placed on the wall. About three-quarters of the imports, amounting to 700 million pounds, now come under the jurisdiction of the committee. If there had been no abandonment of the gold standard the Committee would, in all probability, have recommended higher duties. That is the record of the Import Duties Advisory Committee and, I say, Sir, that the time has arrived when we ought to consider whether we should not set up a similar organisation for dealing speedily with problems which cannot await the leisurely methods employed hitherto. Great injury has been inflicted in times past through the fact that the inquiries undertaken by the Tariff Board are of much too elaborate a character and that the subsequent stages by which the report is carried further and translated into legislation are of an extremely dilatory character, and my view is that in the present abnormal condition of the world it is absolutely essential that we should set up some such organisation as that of the Import Duties Advisory Committee. Lest my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, may try to tear my arguments to tatters, I shall say, that I am not a fanatical protectionist as he probably thinks I am, but I hope it will be conceded that it would be criminal folly on my part if I were to be anything else but a protectionist in a world which has gone mad with

protection. It may be that the time may come, some years hence, when the whole world may swing back to free trade, realising the barriers to international trade which are implicit in the present position of the economic world, but until that time arrives, and until India has consolidated her industrial position and is able to meet on equal terms the countries of the West, it is absolutely essential that we should pursue a policy of active sympathy and support to all our industries. There is just one other reason why it is necessary that a fiscal commission, a new body, should be appointed. There are a number of small industries which do not conform to the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission. The protection and development of industries which could not under the present policy qualify for protection because they depend to some extent on imported raw materials—though they incur the greater part of the expenditure in this country—has got to be thought of. I may give you a couple of examples. They may not prove to be strong examples, but I am giving them out only as illustrations of what I mean. The glass industry needs soda ash from abroad but it enables a considerable industrial activity to be profitably undertaken in India. The cinema industry is another case in point. Raw films have to be imported but the industry incurs a very heavy expenditure in India and employs large numbers of people. I am not arguing any more than that there are a number of industries which cannot possibly qualify for protection under the present policy, because the Fiscal Commission has laid down certain conditions, but which, in the national interest, it will be wise to promote. There is nothing repugnant to the national interest in promoting even those industries which depend to a larger or smaller extent on materials imported from abroad.

An Honourable Member: Will agriculture be included in that industry?

Sir H. P. Mody: Agriculture is receiving lot of attention these days, and we recently very cheerfully voted, or, if we did not vote it, at least we approved of it,—2 crores and 81 lakhs for agriculture.

My last point is just this. I have pleaded with the same strength and passion, as that of my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, for the industrialisation of the country, because the economic position of the country—and I say this in spite of the fact that I am a stout hearted optimist—is not by any means satisfactory. If you judge it by the standards of the West, it is alarmingly low and poor. I have before me a few statistics in support of my contention. If these statistics are not reliable, well, I am afraid I am not to blame for it. Let Government produce more reliable statistics and I shall be very grateful to them. My statistics say that while the total industrial production in India is below Rs. 20 per head, it is 158 in Japan, 410 in the United Kingdom, 470 in Canada and 720 in the United States. Everybody knows about the national income. I will put it so far as India is concerned at the high figure of Rs. 100. While it is 100 here, it is 1,300 in Canada, 1,100 in the United Kingdom, 2,000 in the United States and 270 in Japan. Take banking deposits. They are Rs. 7 per head compared to 700 in the United Kingdom and 215 in Japan. Finally, take Savings Bank deposits, which are really the criterion of the condition of the lower middle and poor classes. In India, they are Rs. 2 per head as compared with 270 in the United Kingdom, 90 in Japan and 125 in France. Sir, it is easy to overdraw the picture. That is not my intention. I am not going to indulge in any claptrap about the failure of this or that party to do this or that

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thing. The country is enormous, its problems are enormous, and if not more has been done in order to ameliorate the condition of the masses, I am not going to draw any of those harsh conclusions which have been drawn by some of my Honourable friends, but let nobody lay the unction to his soul that because our credit is high, therefore, the economic position of the country is satisfactory. Credit and economic position are two different things. Our credit is high because we have balanced the budget. I wish to give full marks to the Finance Members who, in spite of the undoubted unpopularity of their proposals, have gone ahead with them; they at least maintained a balanced budget with the result that our securities stand high in the world markets. This country can command money in the international market on very favourable rates, more favourable than some of the European powers can enjoy. I admit all that but do not let that picture obscure the other picture, which is the darker picture, of the economic condition of the country, and there my point is, that while a great deal has been done in the last few years and the problem is being tackled in earnest from every quarter, and from many fronts—from the agricultural front, from the industrial front—the time has now arrived for a more rapid industrialisation of the country. It is only when that is done that India will be placed above the dangers of economic distress. Sir, I have done.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I was not aware of the chivalry of the Honourable the Finance Member. In fact, I had always the belief that I was a good, sharp shooter. Sir, in my university life in England, I had taken part in rifle range competition. I am a South Indian Brahmin, but I can still pride myself in saying that I was not behind the rest of my English comrades in the University of London. (Hear, hear.) But what I find here is that it is all blank shot, there is not even a Bull's eye, and I can assure my Honourable friend that our shots do make jolly little impression now (Laughter) if they make any impression at all. Sir, I heard the other day, and I speak subject to correction, that the Honourable the Finance Member stated in the other House that the gold that is flowing out of this country is not distress gold, but I remember him saying in this House once at least that it was distress gold. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, I can easily clear up that misapprehension. I said that I did not personally believe that it was distress gold, but, assuming for the sake of argument that it was distress gold, etc.: that was precisely the argument that I used in another place this Session.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: It is confusing to me to understand the two statements. If the gold that is now flowing out of this country is due to the high prices that are being offered for gold, and if the Honourable the Finance Member had understood the mentality of our people, he would have known that we Indians do not part with our gold under ordinary circumstances. The poor man in the village has to sell his gold by reason of the attractive prices, due to the real distress that is prevalent in this country. If there is no distress, the prosperity of the country, if there was any, would have been reflected in many ways. Take, for example,

first of all, the question of the relief of the indebtedness of the poor man or of the agriculturist in this country. Now, I would ask my Honourable friend whether, if the agriculturist has been prospering, why have the provincial revenues been falling and falling in most of the provinces of this country. I would also instance another fact. There are a number of co-operative societies operating in the various provinces. Has the Honourable the Finance Member looked into the accounts of these co-operative societies, and do the repayments, if any, of the loans taken by agriculturists, during the course of the last year, show whether this gold has been sold at a net profit for the agriculturist or not? Well, that factor must have been stated if true, and the co-operative societies should have shown that under the subject of the repayment of debt. But the facts, Sir, are otherwise. Well, the debt accumulation of co-operative societies in our province has not shown a diminution, and, in fact, they are worse and they will be worse than they have ever been. Thirdly, I would ask him to look at the fact that the Local Governments have given revenue remissions, remissions of taxation in rent. In the Presidency of Madras, a remission of one anna nine pies in the rupee has been given and it has been given continuously for the last two or three years. Well, does that indicate that the gold that has been sold is or is not distress gold? Well, then, I would ask my Honourable friend to consider a suggestion from me. I do not speak with the authority of a financier, but that of a man in the street. I would like to place before him one or two suggestions. Various issues have been raised and suggestions have been thrown out from this side that there should be a protective tariff on gold or a protective export duty on gold. I really do not believe that that would give any relief to those that sell gold. After all, what I would like the Government to do is this,—that they should buy up all the gold that this country is capable of giving out at a fairly enhanced price at which the people have been selling gold today, and, having bought up that gold, let them do this. The dis-equilibrium in foreign trade which would be caused by such measures would then have to be remedied by proper deflation measures. Now this has actually been brought to the notice of the public by the writer of a recent article, Sir Gavin Jones, which appeared so recently as yesterday in the *Hindustan Times*. But the trouble is that in this country we have no financial Swaraj, nor even economic Swaraj. The problem of our economics is tied down to the chariot-wheel of England, and economic and political considerations prevail in determining the economic policy of this country. (Hear, hear.) When the Honourable the Finance Member says that it is not distress gold that is exported, I really believe he means that he is not, in the least, himself distressed about the gold exports. (Laughter.) That is just how I would put it to him.

Now, coming to the financial suggestions that he has made, I for one would certainly be inclined to congratulate him, but, upon a consideration of all the facts before me, I must be excused if I do not stretch out my hand of congratulations to him, but, still, it is some relief, and as a relief, miserable, meagre and wretched as it is, it is some relief. Now, my Honourable friend, in connection with the grant of ten lakhs to the Indian Research Fund Association, says:

"Health is a vital factor in measures aiming at a general improvement in the conditions of village life, and to ensure that the benefit of these ten lakhs goes primarily to the rural population the Association will be required to devote the amount mainly to schemes connected with the prevention or cure malaria."

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan.]

Well, Sir, it is a pity, as I mentioned last year, that we do not have a Cabinet Minister who is a medical man, and most of us in the Assembly, harring a few exceptions, are laymen. But I am glad to find that the Honourable the Finance Member has been persuaded or convinced of the fact and is taking measures in this direction. Sir, in my speech on the Finance Bill, last year, I drew the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to the economic conditions and to the problem of the physical well-being of the people of this country, and malaria is perhaps the one source of disease which incapacitates a large number of people apart from the number of deaths that it causes either immediately or ultimately. I have before me large volumes of valuable reports from the Indian Research Fund Association and the articles written by Colonel Sinton and his co-workers which have been embodied in these reports. If these reports and the standard Government publications are of any value, I want you, Sir, to see what a miserable pittance this amount of ten lakhs is which has been included within the budget for the relief of a suffering which, perhaps in its essentials, has no comparison whatsoever, for let me tell this House the real condition that prevails in India today. According to these reports before me, there are roughly 100 million people in this country suffering annually from malaria; out of a population of 365 millions, as many as 100 millions suffer from malaria annually. (Interruption.) I will tell my Honourable and gallant friend, Col. Gidney, that these figures are from the Government reports that I have before me and I will quote chapter and verse. Of these, two million deaths are directly due to malaria. Indirectly, due to the effects of malaria—I do not say directly—75 million cases have been reported ill and incapacitated on account of malaria. Again, I am speaking from records. In his report as late as 1933, Colonel Megaw says:

“The span of life in India is less than half of what it might be.”

I am not talking here of England, I am talking of India. I say, on the authority of Colonel Megaw, that there is a possibility in this country of the lives of our people being doubled. That is the statement he makes from a record of malaria survey in this country. I would take you, Sir, a step further and ask you to consider what this doubling of life of our nation means economically to the Finance Member who is interested in figures and in the economic well-being of our country. To him I will tell the economic loss that we sustain on account of this disease in the country. The average income in this land has been computed to be Rs. 3½ per mensem. It has been calculated that out of these 100 million sufferers from malaria, they have been incapacitated by half a month in a year on account of this illness. According to this report, the total loss calculated to the revenues or to the economic condition of this country is 1,900 lakhs. According to the Simon Commission report, it is computed to be 4,600 lakhs. This is the actual economic loss due to the suffering, due to the illness; but there is a period of suffering not from illness but from the effects of illness which, in its turn, produces enormous economic loss. That has been computed roughly and the loss due to post-malarial inefficiency is computed to be 7,425 lakhs. This is the loss in the economic income of the individual and to the family when an earning man or some of those that are responsible for the economic income of the family are taken away or laid down by disease, and according to the Statistics of

Malarial survey, the loss to the family has been calculated to be 10,760 lakhs. If you would only go from the individual and the family to the financial loss to commerce and industry and agriculture, you can possibly imagine the astounding and the staggering figures that you would arrive at and the economic loss that this country is suffering from on account of ill health—ill health, mind you, Sir, preventable, ill health which has been prevented in many other countries in the world by proper steps being taken by Government of the respective countries and which steps this Government have for long neglected in spite of the production of these voluminous reports. The financial loss to the commerce and industry of this country could not be calculated exactly, but in the tea estates alone, where statistics are available, particularly in the Tea Estates of Assam, the capital value of the loss is calculated as 7,14,000 Rs. per annum. It works out to nearly 40 per cent. of the value of the estates without its labour force. Malaria inhibits natural increase in the population, inhibits birth rate and what is more, hastens the death rate of the people of this country. It also does something more. It prevents the proper physical development and also hinders consequently the social, intellectual and political progress of the citizens of this land. Thirdly, there is the financial loss due to illness, diminished efficiency, loss of industrial development and failure to exploit the agricultural and mineral resources of this country. Sir, there is only one thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the Government with regard to the treatment of the reports of malarial survey. Treatment of malaria, medical men will understand, is under two heads, one is prophylactic and prevention of malaria and the second is treatment of malaria. The prophylactic and preventive treatments do save a lot of valuable lives, but the process of administering proper remedies to large millions of people who are affected by this disease is certainly a great problem. But I should like to know how the Government have tackled it. I can understand when the Honourable the Finance Member comes to us and says: "the finances of this country are bad, and, therefore, we cannot afford funds and there are so many other schemes on my budget. I will let you do it when you get a good financial budget, because preventive measures do take a lot of time and care and investment of finances. It means reclaiming the waterlogged areas, draining the waterlogged sources, drying the ground in which malarial mosquitos thrive". I understand all these things and I know they have been done successfully in many other countries, but no serious steps have yet been undertaken here.

There is another point to which I am driving. It is this. There is only one remedy which we know of and which acts effectively, and that is cinchona and its alkaloids. The quinine policy of this Government on which I tabled a number of interpellations, during the course of this Session, has revealed to me a most gruesome state of affairs. The quinine policy of the Government of India was started 70 years ago, with an absolutely philanthropic motive of producing cinchona for the benefit of those people of India who are suffering from malaria. I have already pointed out the great devastating effect that this one disease of all diseases in this country has upon the population and upon all the other things I have mentioned. To cure that ill, seventy years ago, the Government of India started on the policy of cultivating cinchona and getting alkaloids out of cinchona. What do we find there? The whole cinchona production has been developed into a commercial concern. It is not sold even for its output price. The other day, the Honourable Member in charge of the portfolio made me understand that they make a profit of a very few annas

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on every pound. But, Sir, I have got before me the statistics of the conference of the medical research workers held last year, and they say that the Government of Bengal in that province have made a profit of four lakhs of rupees on the sale of quinine and its compounds. The Province of Madras where cinchona is produced has made a profit of one lakh; and what is more, they are expected to pay and are paying a dividend first of all of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Imagine, the Bank of India is only paying three per cent. today. They are selling quinine for suffering humanity, selling quinine for the very poor man who cannot afford the services of a doctor and to whom this quinine is supposed to be sold through the post offices. The post offices are made the medium of selling quinine simply because the poor man cannot afford a doctor. He has simply to go and pay the actual cost of the production of quinine at the post office and get that quinine for his use. But mind you, Sir, the other day, I asked a question as to the price at which quinine is sold in the post offices, and I was told that an inquiry has been sent to the Local Governments for information, and as soon as the information comes to the hands of the Honourable Member I will be given the answer. But I can give the answer to this House and to this Government today; that I make it on the authority of the report that I have got that quinine in post offices is sold at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas per 20 tablets. Sir, I will ask you what it means. It really comes to Rs. 27 a pound of quinine while the cost of production of quinine is from Rs. 8 to Rs. 13-8-0. All told, inclusive of charges and interest and for profit on it it does not exceed Rs. 13-8-0, and the rate at which it is sold in post offices is Rs. 27. If the Honourable the Finance Member really means to tackle the question of malaria, facts and figures are enough, enough to stagger anybody. And the method of treatment also has been proclaimed from house-tops from year's end to year's end; and even in the other Legislature the other day my Honourable friend, Sir Nusserwanji Choksy, drew the attention of this Government to its quinine policy. The other day, the Honourable Member told me that they hold as much as three lakhs of pounds of quinine in reserve in their hand, reserve to be kept in hand to see millions of our countrymen die day after day from a vile disease for treating which that quinine was made. Is this philanthropy, is this business, is this at least common honesty? I really fail to see where this policy of quinine supply in this country comes from. Who based it? It was understood, and I have got the authority of Government to say, that it is absolutely meant for philanthropic purposes. Then why make this 100 per cent. profit by the sale of quinine through the post offices? I really fail to understand this. And, after all is said and done, only two per cent. of the people, who suffer from malaria, can go to the post offices and pay this meagre sum of $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas. The poverty of our country is so great that we cannot buy even this quinine and from this population this Government makes a profit of 100 per cent. Well, Sir, you need not give us any money from our budget; at least first of all see that the quinine that you hold is given at actual cost prices, not at a dividend of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. And Government hold today 150,000 pounds in their hands: 150,000 pounds were sold last year at a profit

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: And 60,000 pounds were given away free.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Thank you for the information, but what is that? Is it because you want to wash away your sins of 100 per cent. that you gave away this 60,000 pounds? You gave away 60,000 pounds free. It is all right, but my contention is that you ought to have given away the other three lakhs that you hold in your hands. Burma is going to be separated and your cinchona cultivation is simply going to be insufficient. Bengal and Madras are the two places where the plantations are growing. What I want Government to do is to invest these few lakhs on these. It is never going to relieve our malaria by these ten lakhs and your research workers have done enough work to make you invest another ten millions or a 100 millions or 1,000 millions. Therefore, your ten lakhs, if you only distribute it and invest it in production of further cinchona for the poor man of this land, you will find it pays you ten thousand times over. The life of our people will become double; the economic income of the Government will be enormous, and the family income, the national income and the consequent development of political and economic institutions in this country will be an asset. I beg you, Sir, to take this fact into consideration with regard to the quinine policy which Government have followed so far. I am sorry the Honourable Member who is most concerned with this question is not here, but I do hope he will get a copy of the statements I have made in this House with regard to the quinine policy, so that, when next a question is asked, he will be in a better position to give an answer.

Sir, I have got one more factor in this Finance Bill which I should like to speak upon because it concerns me directly. Here is a statement by the Honourable the Finance Member:

"We propose to allocate . . . a grant of 30 lakhs for Agricultural Research. This will cover the Rs. 10 lakhs still outstanding of the block grant promised to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research when it was first established and a further Rs. 20 lakhs for financing other urgent schemes of research, some of which will be under the direct control and supervision of Government. These other schemes include sugarcane research, and investigations in connection with the dairying side of animal husbandry. This branch of the peasants' activity has not received sufficient attention in the past."

Well, Sir, I should like to know whether it has received any attention at all. I should say it has received no attention, and to say that it has not received sufficient attention is to put it very mildly. But, still:

"Experience elsewhere emphasises its importance to the cultivator, both as a means of supplementing his income and of adding to his diet elements that make for good nutrition and, therefore, for good health."

Well, Sir, I should certainly congratulate Government on the feeling that has been evoked in their mind that the people in this country suffer from malnutrition. It has never been thought, and it has often been said, "Oh, you are talking about this nutrition? Look at our jail population." Sir, we have been in jail. I have been in jail for a sufficiently long time and I know the cost of a jail inmate is one anna and six pies. Two annas and six pies is the rate for a C class prisoner, but, out of that, one anna and six pies represents the actual food value that he gets. And, after that we are told, "oh, look at the age average, look at the incidence of disease and all that". Unless we subscribe to the proposition that the whole of this continent should be converted into a jail and that our rations should be measured by Government and whip in hand the warder and the jailor would stand behind us, and that we should be taken into the jail in the prime of our life and that we should be treated

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like that, I cannot understand the logic in any other way. Because, after all, a human being is a complex of impulses and tastes and we have got a tongue and all the other senses, and food comes in as one of the requirements; and in a composite dietary it is not the jail diet that should be taken as the standard shown to us. Now what is jail life? You are treated as so many brutes, locked in at certain hours, made to eat a certain quantity and shut out of everything that makes life worth living. And that is jail life; and the figures of jail life are shown to us as being an ideal diet for our people. Far from being the ideal diet it represents a wretched standard of our national food. It represents an utter lack of those ingredients that make life happy and healthy in this country. And modern research, thanks to the great and devoted work of men like Sir Robert Mackerrison and of Dr. Ackroyd, the Indian public, and the Indian Government have become aware of the fact, of that fundamental and rudimentary fact, that the diet of this country is really very very poor, and that it does not contain enough ingredients to maintain an ordinary healthy existence in this country and for which Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs is being given. I quite agree, and I suppose that the Honourable the Finance Member will agree with me, that this does not take us anywhere. Except as a factor to show that this Government have recognised the absolutely insufficient food value that most people in this country have, this figure does not show anything more. I know that there are many other considerations that go into this question, and, therefore, I do not expect the Honourable the Finance Member to go into it. But I would only make one suggestion. There is no use of giving away this Rs. 10 lakhs and having some voluminous report of the nature that we already have. It is granted that our diet is poor, it is granted that it is lacking in all its essentials and on that account we have become the victims of diseases. All these are proved facts. What is it that we want? I would suggest that there should be constituted in this country a Board for Nutrition composed of suitable people. It is done in Japan, it is done in America, it is done in every country where the Government have the welfare of their subjects in their heart. I know that many attempts are being made to standardise diet. Even recently, the health centre at Bombay produced a book called "Balanced Diet". The diet is to be such as to bring in all the elements available in this country into the national food of the people. People may laugh at perhaps the erratic experiments which Mahatma Gandhi has made on himself and at the research that he has been carrying on. But it simply amounts to this, that he, of all men, has felt and felt truly that the poor man's diet is wanting in ingredients to maintain a healthy existence. The honest man that he is, the great man that he is, the true man that he is, that he should become the first victim of the inception of this experiment in diet is an irony of fate. I only mention it to show how all, in this country, feel on this question of the poor nutrition of its people. If a Nutrition Board is brought into being, if its recommendations have any value, and if the Government would at all be influenced by its recommendations, you would have got your money's worth, that is, your miserable Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs. That is all that anybody could get out of the amount that you have allotted.

When you talk of the dairy industry, you must know that your Rs. 10 lakhs will not take you any far. In this land, where cows abound, where pastures abound, our cows are almost as poorly fed and are as short-lived as most of us. Our forests are all shut out, no man can graze his

cattle there, no calf can go and graze on Government pastures without paying the price for it. Not only has the owner of the cattle to pay four or six annas a day, it brings the cost of maintenance of cattle to an enormously large proportion. Therefore, the first thing that you should do for improving the cattle industry in this country is to throw open the forests for people to graze their cattle and enable the milk produce of this country to be used by all people. In an agricultural country like ours, where we have so much cattle, we find that we are importing today dry milk tins from abroad. We can convert our milk into dry milk and keep it, so that the poor man may use it. You can spend your Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs in the research for converting milk into dry milk and giving it to the poor man at the cheapest possible price. I cannot conceive of any other scheme than that by which you can improve the condition of our cattle and the food products of our people. I am not taking you beyond the Finance Bill, and I have confined myself to these two or three points on which I could speak with a certain amount of authority and a certain amount of knowledge. My facts and figures have been taken from official publications, and if anybody dares challenge the statements I have made, he can do so, and Government can give me more correct figures.

Before I finish, I would like to refer to one subject. Last year, in my speech on the Finance Bill, I referred to the conditions of the Indian Medical Service. The Army Secretary was good enough to tell me that this matter was engaging the attention of Government last year. Twelve months have elapsed, but just a few days ago, I was told that the matter is still engaging the attention of Government. I am not here to complain about anybody, but it is a surprise to me that they should take such a long time to think over this question. I simply wanted to have the ratio of two Englishmen to one Indian altered to two Indians to one Englishman. In fairness, let the doctors be provided from Indians. The wonderful policy, unheard of in the annals of civilization, of the Government of India, was to provide Europeans with European doctors in this country. I thought that in the medical profession the best man was selected. That is the rule in every country in the world. Only in this country of India do we find a certain group of people brought from 6,000 miles away—from the land of their birth—to treat their own kith and kin. I could understand it in an age when we had no medical men, but, today, in India, we have 25,000 qualified allopathic medical men, and if these 25,000 men cannot be allowed to treat the people who are ill in this country, the equity of the whole thing seems patent. I do not want to harp upon this subject any longer.

I would like to refer for a moment to the question of Women's Medical Service. I have before me a report submitted by the National Association for Women for supplying medical aid to the women of India. It is a valuable document containing the record of work of nearly 50 years. If you just turn to the opening page, you will find that there is a Council and an Executive Committee. I can understand Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon being the President of that Council. It is right that on account of the exalted position which Her Excellency occupies in this country she should be at the head of affairs of this Association. In the Council there are a number of ex-officio and honorary men, but except one medical man, I do not find that there are any other Indian medical man or woman. I raised this question even this morning. When you come to the Committee, you find that the President of the Committee

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shall be the wife of His Excellency the Viceroy, and that, in her absence, the power of filling the vacancy shall rest with His Excellency the Viceroy. I suggest that His Excellency or Her Excellency must be kept beyond all these discussions of committees. They must be members or Presidents of the Council, but the executive committee is a working committee and I really do not want exalted personages to be drawn into turmoil of an executive committee meeting. Therefore, I suggest most humbly that in future, as far as possible, such exalted personages ought to be kept out of the purview of these committees and this rule does not fit in well with the privilege or prestige of such high personages.

Then, I come to another very glaring thing which my Honourable friend told me this morning. He said seniority does not count. Qualification does not count. If both these things do not count, there are certain things, indefinable, inexpressible, which only the department knows, for putting a lady doctor, 15th in rank, as the first one! This species of mathematics is very hard to understand. I ask him as to why such things are being done. If seniority is no consideration, qualification is no consideration, and unblemished record of recorded service has nothing to do with it, what are those certain subtle things which only the members of the executive committee understand by which a woman, 15th in rank, is posted as the first woman, over the heads of 14 others? Here I have before me the seniority list of officers of the Women's Indian Medical Service. The first three have been missionaries: and of these missionary ladies, I say all praise to them—I do not ever say a word against their services to this country—in fact I admire the services which they have rendered, but today, as members of the Indian Medical Service, they are paid, and when they get paid, they should have no privilege over the heads of others who are similarly paid. Here is an instance of a lady who served here for two or three years, chucks away her job, goes and does private work, and, after six years, she is taken back, and when she is taken back, all the record of service which she did in her previous generation is taken into account and she is kicked up to the top over the heads of other people. Such a thing has been done, and in answer to my interpellation today the Honourable Member admitted it and said in fact it was only a few months ago that that rule was altered and that service was not taken into account. This Indian Women's Medical Service has been in existence for 21 years: and when people who are 15th in rank can be made first, I do not see why the Anglo-Indian lady who is 4th in the list and the Indian lady who is 5th in the list could not be kicked up into the first position. It is difficult to conceive this sort of favourite appointments. I really do not want high personages like Her Excellency to be dragged into this business, because, after all, we have got to associate her as President of that Committee who is responsible for the management of this institution. I need not say anything more. If you only open the pages of these records, it will be a most disgusting review of things. I have simply given you a sample of one or two things that I have cared to study. Sir, I have nothing more to add, and, with these few words, I resume my seat.

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

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

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has asked the House to grant him ways and means to recover monies from the public. This is the occasion to bring to his notice the various grievances from which the country suffers, and I wish to take this opportunity to put forward some of the grievances. I think, Sir, I am entitled to raise certain questions on the floor of this House and to expect that, before the Government are entitled to any contribution from the public to carry on this Government, they are in duty bound to remove those grievances.

First of all, Sir, with your permission, I wish to raise once more the question of the privileges of this House. It has often been repeated on the floor of this House that the debates, in the House, are very unreal in their nature, that whatever we say makes little impression on those in whose hands the destinies of this country are placed. I had the privilege to raise the question about the rights of the Members of this House to publish their speeches in the press of the country. You, Sir, were pleased to give a ruling on the 27th of February last fully discussing the present state of the law as it stands in this country. Within the four corners of that ruling, Sir, I should like to raise a few more questions. While disposing of this point, Sir, you were pleased to point out that, "so far as the procedure for discussing matters of privilege in this House are concerned, the Standing Orders require amendment". The Government do not seem to have taken any step towards the amendment of these Standing Orders in the direction indicated by you. I gave a short notice question the other day seeking information on the point, but the Honourable the Leader of the House refused to accept the short notice and to waive the objection of the period of notice. You know, Sir, that it is a matter of vital importance to the Members of this House to know where they stand, and here I will once more draw the attention of the Government to the importance of the subject, and I should like to know whether or not Government are prepared to amend the rules and Standing Orders on that point. In this connection, Sir, I may be permitted to quote from your ruling, about the importance of this question:

"I am sure, the House generally will recognise the importance of protecting the honour and privilege of the Legislature. The Legislature is undoubtedly a most important instrument of Government even under the present Constitution, and, unless effective means are provided by which Members can be assured to carry on their deliberations in the Chamber without interference and molestation, and the dignity of the Legislature is duly protected from outside attacks, it cannot be expected to function to the best advantage."

With such a strong expression of opinion from the Chair, Sir, it was necessary for the Government to make up their minds immediately and reach a decision.

Next comes the question, Sir, of privilege. Here you were pleased to declare the present state of the law in the country. The present state of the law leads to very absurd results. The proposition cannot be denied

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that, under section 67 of the Government of India Act, the Members enjoy the fullest freedom of speech on the floor of this House. Under Standing Order 75, it is the duty of the Secretary of this House to publish the speeches of Members and the proceedings of this House. Further, Sir, there is no restriction imposed upon any person to purchase the Government publication of the debates of this House at five annas per copy in any number. Nor is there any restriction in law against broadcasting those published speeches in any number. May I ask, Sir, could the law go to greater lengths of absurdity than to say that these publications shall not be republished in any newspaper? Further, Sir, let us take another factor into consideration, and that is this that, according to Standing Orders, English is the language of this House. The speeches must be made in English and the debate carried on in English. But we represent here an electorate that is not educated in English. May I ask, Sir, whether constitutionally our electorates are or are not entitled to know what we are doing in this House? Are they not to be told whether we are redeeming our pledges which we solemnly gave them at the time of election? Are they or are they not entitled to know it? If they are, is it not necessary for that purpose to translate our speeches for the benefit of our electors?

An Honourable Member: Hear, hear.

Sardar Sant Singh: The absurdity becomes more manifest if we examine the position a little more deeply, because we shall find, as a matter of fact, to be reduced to a mere boys debating society, if the proceedings cannot be made known to the outside world. Therefore, I say that it is absolutely necessary that the law should be changed and that speeches should be allowed to be published broadcast in all the papers. To effect a change of the law lies in the hands of the Government. I can realise that the Government may come forward and plead their inability to change a law enacted by Parliament. But I would not accept that plea. This House is, I think, competent to amend the press law and the Penal Code, in the direction of extending the privilege of republication of the speeches in any manner it likes. This is a broader issue which I can leave for the present. But I may venture to point out that there are certain powers in our own hands which the House can proceed to utilise in order to develop the conventions of the House. In this connection, I will make certain suggestions to the Honourable Members of this House. The speeches or the proceedings of this House can be divided into two categories, firstly, speeches which refer to matters which may fall within the four corners of the law of sedition in the country or which may transgress the provisions of the Press Law of this land, and, secondly, those speeches which fall within the law of libel in the land and affect the reputation of third parties. So far as third parties are concerned, this House cannot exercise control over such proceedings in Courts under the present law. A person libelled in this House has a right under the existing law to go to a Court of law and try to get his grievance redressed therein. Here, the conflict that arose in England between the Courts and the Parliament cannot be remedied under the existing law, as you so lucidly pointed out in your ruling. In that ruling, you were pleased to say:

“The British Parliament, by constant assertion from ancient times, has acquired the status of a high court in all matters affecting its own privileges and those of its members, so that it is called the High Court of Parliament and, like other High Courts, the Parliament exercises powers to inflict penalties and punishments for

"contempt". It has for a long time exercised such powers through its own officers, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Black Rod to arrest offenders, punish them with imprisonment in the Tower and the Newgate and the right at least of the House of Lords as a court of Record also to impose fines in such cases has not been questioned. There were conflicts at times between the Parliament and the ordinary courts, particularly the King's Bench, and though some of the punitive and disciplinary functions once exercised by it have now fallen into desuetude, the Parliament still possesses considerable punitive and disciplinary powers. No such powers have been vested in our Legislatures by the Government of India Act creating them . . ."

Therefore, so far as libellous statements are concerned, made on the floor of this House, it will be difficult for any Member who chooses to publish his speeches outside, to stand and claim the right of privilege unless the case falls within any one of the several exceptions of section 499 of the Indian Penal Code. But the executive stands on an entirely different footing. My contention is that if the speech is a seditious one, it is only open to the Local Government to lodge or not lodge a prosecution against the speaker. If the speech is of a nature which falls within the scope of the Press Law, it is only open to the Local Government to take or not to take any action. This being so, the further question would be how can this House control the action of the executive Government? My submission is that this House has got enough power, and that power vests in your good self. As the President of the House, it is for you to enlarge our liberties and our rights in such matters. At this stage, I want to remind the House that this question has been taken up by all the important newspapers throughout the length and breadth of India. The Journalists Association held a meeting at Calcutta and expressed apprehensions as to the nature of their right to publish our speeches. A public meeting has been held in Calcutta where the point has been emphasised. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that this right has been enjoyed by the press throughout the last sixteen years that this Assembly has been in existence. The very fact that a gallery for the press men has been provided in this House goes to show that the press men are here to give a faithful report of the proceedings of this House to the public at large. Therefore, it is superfluous to argue that the question is of vital importance to the Members of this House. What I say is that its importance has been recognised throughout but, unfortunately, my motion has had the effect of narrowing down the liberties of this House. Previously, the idea was that the Members were entitled to publish their speeches in the newspapers . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is coming very near to discussing the ruling.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am not discussing the ruling, Sir. I am only discussing the importance of this question with your permission, and I will confine myself within the four corners of your ruling, accepting it as a correct interpretation of the law of the land. My submission is that it is left for this House to devise ways and means to enlarge its rights under the existing Constitution and under the existing law. Having discussed the importance of this subject, I will submit one or two suggestions for your kind consideration and for the consideration of this House. Those suggestions are that, in case the executive want to act against the wishes of this House, as expressed in the Standing Orders and Rules of this House, the House should take it upon itself to demand from the executive an obedience to the will of this House. How that obedience could be demanded is an important question.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Nothing else but the *lathi*!

Sardar Sant Singh: *Lathi* of a different sort, *lathi* wielded by not less a person than the President himself. And that *lathi* may be wielded like this. The Honourable the President may inform the executive that, unless it complies with the wishes of this House, the work of this House will be suspended. The Honourable the President has a right to adjourn the House for any number of days, and the House may be adjourned and a dead-lock created, so long as the executive does not submit to the will of this House.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That will suit some of us very well.

Sardar Sant Singh: It will not suit in this way, that they would have to suspend the Constitution. Then you need not summon us for the annual pilgrimage to Delhi or to Simla. That can be done away with. My suggestion is that, as it does not suit them, it cannot suit them, they will have to submit to the will of this House expressed through the Honourable the President.

An Honourable Member: *Kirpans?*

Sardar Sant Singh: *Kirpans* will come later. That is a preparatory stage. The dead-lock created in this way will help us to enlarge our liberties and to get freedom of speech and freedom of publication of our speeches outside in the Press. Certainly, under the present Constitution, the Government of India cannot plead that they cannot enforce their will upon the Provincial Governments. Provincial Governments are under their control and supervision and as such they are bound by the directions given by the Central Government. Under the next Constitution, it will be different, because there, the Federal Legislature is empowered by the new Government of India Act to frame their rules of business and, as such, this thing can be provided in the Rules and Standing Orders. I hope, Sir, that my suggestion will be examined by the House and some decision will be arrived at because it is a matter of vital importance to the Members of this House.

My next point, in this connection, is about the contributions paid by India to the League of Nations. Here I may point out that, in reply to my question put this Session, Government have published the amount that has been paid by India towards the League of Nations from 1921 to 1936. It amounts to 1,25,80,833 rupees. The proposed contribution for the next year is 14,31,000 rupees. Now, having made such heavy contributions to the League of Nations, we have to examine whether the underlying idea by which the League of Nations was proclaimed to the world as a saviour of humanity has been fulfilled or not. It was said that the League of Nations has been brought into existence to eliminate inequalities and war from the world politics. The League of Nations has been tested during the last several years on several occasions. There was a case of a conflict between Japan and China and the League of Nations miserably failed to settle that. The recent case is that of the Italo-Abyssinian War. The League of Nations' activities, in this connection,

have been too well-known to the Honourable Members of this House. Abyssinia was a member of the League at the time when the war was declared. The war was going on between the two members of the League. The whole League unanimously declared that Italy was the aggressor. They persuaded the Abyssinians to put their entire faith in the League of Nations. So they left everything to the decision of the League of Nations. With what result? The result could best be described in the words of the Emperor of Abyssinia which is published today in the *Statesman*. It is said:

"Those in closest touch with the Emperor are beginning to detect a change in his attitude towards the League and to the Western Powers for what he considers the League's disgraceful procrastination in applying only sanctions which could terminate the War. He is becoming slowly an Ethiopian of the old warlike type, eager to get into the fighting and either to destroy the Italians or die like a Negus."

Now, this is the sentiment of that member of the League of Nations who had like us largely contributed towards this fund and who trusted the League of Nations to save him in the time of trouble. What is this contribution for? The contribution is intended for this purpose—that in case there is an aggression, the other nations will come to their help but now we find that Abyssinia realises fully the truth of the well-known saying that "Nero was fiddling while Rome was burning". All the European nations are showing lip sympathy, while the Abyssinians are dying in large numbers from the aeroplanes and guns of the Italians. We have to take note of the proceedings of the League of Nations. We have also to consider the march of Germany into the Rhineland. Nothing is likely to come out of it also, and, therefore, we have to consider why our country should pay this amount. What benefit does this confer except for my friend, Mr. Joshi's annual pilgrimage to Geneva. If that is the return for this contribution, we will rather make the contribution to send him there every year rather than pay such huge sums. I am not jealous. I am only asking what return do we get for the huge sums we spend on this account. Therefore, I will suggest to the House to reconsider their position on this point.

My third point is something concerning nearer home and that is that

Regulation III of 1818 has been ruthlessly applied in India.

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Many persons have been detained without trial, without any charge being brought against them. Questions have been asked in this House every year and the replies do not show when the Government intends to release some of them. There are cases in which the detention has gone on for over 18 years. I think, the maximum period a murderer sentenced to transportation for life undergoes is less than that. Why should these detentions go on for such a long time? The only consolation that has been offered by the Honourable the Home Member to us, Sir, is that their cases are examined every six months. Is that any consolation really to the poor detenus? Is there to be no time-limit to the detention? Sir, no such justification has been made out. Then the detentions are in Provinces to which the detenus do not belong. Sardar Guru Charan Singh of Nabha has been detained in Madras, while Bengalis are detained in Mianwali. Why, Sir? There is no reason. At any rate, this House is entitled to know about the policy working behind such detentions. Why should they not declare the period for which these detentions are to continue? Therefore, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the serious discontent that is felt on these grounds.

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

I will now deal with the question of the Communal Award.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. K. L. Gauba (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Shame, shame!

Sardar Sant Singh: Shame? Sir, I wish to be shamed if I am to be shamed on this point

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on.

Sardar Sant Singh: The Honourable Member interrupting will be shamed later on. Sir, I do not shirk the responsibility. Here, Sir, I find myself in a peculiar position. Strong forces are arrayed against me. The very fact that my Honourable friend, Mr. K. L. Gauba, who once had the privilege of belonging to my community, now shouts forth "shame" when I refer to this subject, justifies my apprehensions. I am quite conscious that on this side sits the great "Ras", Sir Henry Craik, with his forty battalions pointing their guns at me. On my right,—at this moment my Honourable friend, "Ras" Jinnah is not present,—sits Mr. Jinnah, with his twenty battalions here, pointing their pistols at my side and threatening me, if I make a move to launch an assault on the fort of Communal Award. There sits our friend "Ras" Desai, totally indifferent and trembling in fear

An Honourable Member: He is totally indifferent.

Sardar Sant Singh: . . . that is exactly what I said, totally indifferent and trembling in fear that, if he takes my side, he might displease the great Generals and the guards on whose votes he depends for his success in this House. Sir, I will be wanting in my appreciation if I do not refer to the greatest General of all, "Ras" Sir Nripendra Sircar, who was once the greatest fighter against the Communal Award. (Hear, hear.)

An Honourable Member: He has withdrawn his forces now.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I got no support from them.

Sardar Sant Singh: He sits there, and he has hoisted the white flag, and he has surrendered his forces. Sir, he was pleased to say the other day, referring to the Congress Party and the Nationalist Party that "the dispute is over, this is a matter which is not only dead, but which has been cremated, and the ashes have been thrown into the Ganges". Sir,

An Honourable Member: The ashes have not been thrown into the Ganges, but into some other river.

Sardar Sant Singh: That is what he said, Sir. Now, I just want to remind all these gentlemen that so long as the twelve Members sit on these Benches, the question is neither dead, what to say of cremation unless it is cremated alive, it will never die

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: There are only five sitting there now.

Sardar Sant Singh: The seats are for twelve. Sir, I may remind this House that whatever may be the conditions in this House today, we feel sure that the whole country is with us in this matter so long as the Communal Award remains

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): What do you mean by "the whole country"?

Sardar Sant Singh: The whole of India.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: All the Sikhs, you mean?

Sardar Sant Singh: All concerned. Sir, *minus* Yakub and Co. (Laughter.)

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What about "Ras" Desai?

Sardar Sant Singh: How much influence he commands is to be seen by the later incidents of history. I do not want to go into reasons or arguments to show the inequitable nature of this Communal Award. They have been given on the floor of the House from time to time, but I just want to draw the attention of the House to my remarks on this point which I made in 1934. I said, Sir:

"Where one party, on account of a certain encouragement from a third party, refuses to come to a settlement, the best position of the Government, as an arbitrator or as an impartial judge, would be to maintain the *status quo* till that is altered by mutual agreement."

This proposition is sound in principle and sound in conception and very sound in practice. I still maintain my ground that His Majesty's Government have made the greatest blunder by announcing the Communal Award:

"At this time, when still the question is before the Joint Select Committee, I want to raise my voice of warning to the British Government and to the Government of India that if any reforms are based upon this Communal Award, the Government shall be responsible for the state of affairs that will result in the Punjab. This is not a language of threat, this is the language of truth, this is the language of sincere conviction". . . .

An Honourable Member: May I ask whom the Honourable Member is quoting?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am quoting my speech in this House in 1934. Sir, how far my fears have come to be true is known by now. What happened in the Punjab during the last seven or eight months? I then said, Sir:

"That the Communal Award is going to create the greatest trouble in the Punjab, and, in duty bound, I bring it to the notice of Government to take whatever steps they think necessary in the matter of modifying it so far as the Punjab is concerned."

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

Now, may I remind my Honourable friend, the Knight of Moradabad and the expectant Knight from the Punjab, whether I have been far wrong in my apprehensions. (Laughter.) Sir, the Punjab has shown recently, even before the new Constitution has come in, what great trouble is brewing, on account of this inequitable Communal Award! Sir, I do not want to examine, at this stage, the point as to whose fault it was because I do not want to create bitterness, but I just want to bring it to the notice of those who were responsible for this Communal Award that the state of affairs in the Punjab today does call for a really broad, statesmanlike handling of the situation at the hands of this Government.

Mr. Surya Kumar Som (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They wanted this trouble, and they got it.

Sardar Sant Singh: That is the one proposition which can be maintained with some justification. Here was a situation which was going out of hands and it must be said to the credit of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah—I am sorry he is not in his seat—that he went and tried his best to settle this question, but does he believe that a settlement can come without making a serious effort in the right direction? This is not the right direction. These are the symptoms of disease. This is not the disease itself. The disease lies in the Communal Award. If my Honourable friend musters his courage and means to settle this question, I will tell him here, in this House, to scrape off the Communal Award. Let us come to an agreed settlement based upon justice and fair play for all concerned. It is then and then alone that the settlement will be lasting and the real political advantages that can be gained from such a settlement will follow. Otherwise, I am afraid, the situation might become graver every time communal questions crop up there. Not only is there an illustration of this point in the Punjab, but another has been furnished from the North-West Frontier Province. We have seen that a responsible Minister of the Crown in Government service has been pleased to issue a circular banning two vernaculars from schools, both boys' and girls' institutions. I refer to the circular banning Hindi and Gurmukhi. Is not that a symptom of the same disease? Is that not a clear indication of the tyranny of the majority over the rights of the minorities. This is the spirit that must be changed. I personally do not mind whether the Legislature has more Muslims or Sikhs, or Hindus, but I certainly mind the mentality with which they come to the Legislature, whether Central or Provincial. It is the mentality with which they come that makes us fear; not the numbers. After all what are numbers? Every day communal questions do not arise, we do not go to the lobbies on communal matters. We go to the lobbies on certain political convictions and if the political convictions are sound, there can be no danger of excess in representation of one community over the other. What we are afraid of is the present mentality of Muslims both in the Punjab and in the Frontier Province. That mentality is more responsible for our fears than their numbers. Here, the other day, in reply to several questions, the Honourable Member in charge of the Department said that the Central Government have no control over the policies of the Provincial Governments and that they could not suspend the subvention which are given to these Provinces by the Central Government. This is a confession of weakness. Theoretically Orissa, Sind, and North-West Frontier Province

may be given provincial autonomy, but, so long as they are getting any subvention from the Central Government, they will have to submit to the will of the central authority. Why should we pay subvention to the Provinces, why should we be taxed to benefit another Province if we cannot control their idiosyncrasies and fantasies. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, feels nervous on this question. He was very happy in securing some lakhs for his province, but he does not know that he is bargaining away his conscience in the business.

Mr. B. Das: Never!

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): He has no conscience.

Sardar Sant Singh: Therefore, I suggest that the Central Government should take note and suspend this subvention to the North-West Frontier Province till such time when the province agrees to remove that circular from its official records.

Mr. B. Das: Is it merely a circular? Or has education in Gurmukhi and Hindi been stopped?

Sardar Sant Singh: It is yet in the circular stage; it has not gone beyond that.

Another point which I want to touch upon today in my speech is on the same subject which my Honourable friend, Sir H. P. Mody, so ably advocated today, that is, the industrial development in the country. What I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that unlike other countries whenever a new work of scientific invention is introduced in this country, no effort is made to develop side industries of that invention. Take the hydro-electric schemes that have been developed in various Provinces in this country. No effort was made to develop electric industry in that connection. Take the aeroplane, the motor cars and other modern scientific inventions. No effort has been made by this Government to develop side industries in order to provide all these things for the country by local manufacture.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Risk your own money.

Sardar Sant Singh: It is not corporations that are to make these developments but the Government. Apart from these bigger questions of policy, there are small matters in which the country is suffering. There is corruption in the public service. The other day, the Honourable the Home Member said that corruption cannot be removed unless public opinion is developed condemning both the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker. A very fine phrase: but whose duty is it to develop that public opinion? Is it the sole duty of the public or is there any duty cast upon Government as well, upon the Law Member. Of course, the Law Member has done his duty by providing sections in the Indian Penal Code punishing both the bribe-taker and the bribe-giver. There is no use of a good law if it is badly administered. It is for the executive now to administer that law.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Help us to catch them.

Sardar Sant Singh: That help is forthcoming in the country provided the Government are willing to accept that help. The difficulty is that if any allegation of corruption is made against a public servant, the superior officers consider it their duty to protect him rather than find out the truth about the matter. That is the trouble. That is the administration of law we complain against.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for more than fifty minutes.

Sardar Sant Singh: I will not take any more time of the House, and, with these words, I resume my seat.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Sir, yesterday afternoon, my esteemed friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, who belongs to the same constituency from which I come, made a great speech. He made a forceful speech and he tried to show that all the miseries of this unfortunate land were the result of British occupation. He tried to show that the fiscal policy of the British Government was responsible for the poverty of India, and that, as long as an Englishman holds his seat on those Benches, there is no hope of prosperity in this country. I was very much impressed with the speech of my learned and esteemed friend, and I was thinking that probably what he said was right. But what will my friend say, this afternoon, after hearing the speech of my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh? Who is responsible for the miseries of this country? Is it the British Government or is it men like my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh?

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. May I know how many times, during the six years that I have known my Honourable friend, he has walked into the popular lobby?

Sir Muhammad Yakub: That is not the point. What is the popular lobby? Popular lobby does not mean the lobby of men having the mentality of communalists like Sardar Sant Singh. I will always walk into the lobby in which my conscience will take me. Sir, we are always told that there is a third party in this country which is creating disputes between Hindus and Mussalmans.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But he is a Sikh.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What are Sikhs? If my Honourable friend is prepared to give the Sikhs to me, probably, I will be in a position to mend them. Fourteen lakhs of Sikhs in India,—what are they? But they know that 28 crores of my friends, who belong to the community of my friend, Mr. Desai, are at their back, and, therefore, all this is coming from the Sikhs. What are they? (Laughter.) Only a minority of 14 per cent. in one province, the Punjab; they have no stake in any other province in India. (Laughter.) Sir, I was saying, who is responsible for creating disunity in this country? Not the Government, but men with the mentality of my friend, Sardar Sant Singh. Sir, I have great respect for my Honourable friend, Mr. Desai, and I consider him to be a genuine leader and patriot. But I ask him, if we have got this mentality which my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, has displayed this afternoon, on

the eve of the new Reforms, do you think honestly that we are fit to govern this country and that we can turn out the Englishmen and take the reins of the country in our own hands?

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): We can, provided you help us.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: We, Muslims, have always tried, and my community is always ready, to fight shoulder to shoulder with you for the freedom of the country, provided you change your mentality and ask your friend, Sardar Sant Singh, to change his mentality. My friend has just spoken about the Communal Award. Under what circumstances was the Communal Award brought about? Who was responsible at the Round Table Conference for not coming to a settlement among the communities themselves? My friend, Sardar Sant Singh, and those who were present at the Round Table Conference know that at the Second Round Table Conference

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Sardar Sant Singh was not present there.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I do not think he is so ignorant as not to know anything about the Round Table Conference. The question is that he knows the proceedings of the Conference. Who was responsible for not coming to a settlement? We know that at the Second Round Table Conference the Mussalmans went to the farthest length to which they could go. About the Punjab they incurred the greatest sacrifice. They were willing to have a joint electorate with 49 per cent. seats for the Muslims; in the same way, in Bengal, they were willing to submit to a quota which was less in proportion to their population in that province. And, in order to avoid the stigma of the third party coming in, they were willing to undergo the greatest sacrifices. The late Sir Muhammad Shafi incurred the odium of his own community in order to come to a settlement with other communities, but he was not responsible for not coming to a settlement. The world knows who was responsible. It was the majority community, it was the Sikh community, who did not come to any settlement and that forced Government to give this Communal Award.

Sardar Sant Singh: They refused to play into Sir Samuel Hoare's hands.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: And they come here now and say that the Communal Award is a genuine grievance. My friend has said that the whole country is against the Communal Award. I may remind him that last year this very House, which is rightly considered to be representative of the people of this country, by its own vote, by an overwhelming majority accepted the Communal Award. Does it now lie in my friend's mouth to say that the country has rejected the Award and there is an agitation against it? It is no use advancing fallacious arguments like that.

Then, Sir, let us examine what the Muslims have got through the Communal Award. Has any favouritism been shown to them? You will find, Sir, that out of all the provinces in India, there are only two in which the Muslims are in a majority, namely, the North-West Frontier Province and the newly created province of Sind. In provinces in which they are in a minority, they have got less concessions than they have given, of their own free will, to the minorities in Sind and the North-West Frontier Province.

Sardar Sant Singh: What did you get in the United Provinces?

Sir Muhammad Yakub: There we are 14 per cent.

Sardar Sant Singh: We are 14 per cent. in the Punjab.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: And what have you got?

Sardar Sant Singh: 18 per cent. You have got 30 per cent. in the United Provinces.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: There is nothing in the Communal Award to show that any favouritism has been shown to the Muslims. On the other hand, if my friends did not come to any mutual agreement, Government found it incumbent upon themselves to give this award which they have given, and it has been accepted by the whole world. And nothing can be more ruinous to the country than to rake up feelings of ill-will again over this Communal Award. Now the time has come when we are getting, something like, provincial autonomy in this country. For God's sake I appeal to my friends to sink their petty jealousies and communalism. If the Muslims get a few more seats, they are still Indians as you are; if the Sikhs get a few more seats I will not grudge it because they are also after all Indians. And what are we fighting for? We are fighting for the rights of Indians, and not for the rights of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs.

Sir, we want real Swaraj in India, we do not want the domination of a majority community over the minorities, and, therefore, I appeal to you and say: "let us work in this spirit of unity and harmony, let us not show our unfitness, do not make us the laughing-stock of the whole country." What will the world say, when they see that even in discussing problems of finance and exchange and the Finance Bill, we talk nothing but petty things about our communal disputes? It is extremely shameful. I admit that the new Constitution is not a perfect constitution, I admit that it is not what we wanted, but something is better than nothing, and if we prove ourselves worthy of working the constitution that we have got, if we prove ourselves worthy of wielding the powers which we will possess under the new Constitution, if the majority can give an earnest of their goodwill to the minorities, if they show the same spirit which was shown by Zaghoul Pasha towards the minorities in Egypt, then the time will not be far off when India shall be free and my friend, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, will not be here to abuse my friend, Sir James Grigg. (Loud Laughter.) The Muslims have always shown a spirit of toleration and broadmindedness towards the people over whom they ruled. It is a matter of history, which everybody knows, how they treated the Indians when they were ruling over India, how they treated their subjects when they were ruling over Europe; and we have got the recent example of Egypt before our eyes. Zaghoul Pasha, the Leader of the Nationalist Party in Egypt, asked the Christians, who are in a minority in Egypt, like the Muslims of India, what their demands were, and gave them not only what they demanded, but even more, saying that they needed more protection. The result is that today, in Egypt, there is no question of Muslim *versus* Christian or Jew; they are all Egyptians. If the majority community in India shows the same spirit, I think very soon the Hindu-Muslim-Sikh question will disappear from this country, and we would all be Indians. But I say that the Muslims

are not responsible for the dissensions in India, the minority is not responsible for it; the solution lies in the hands of the majority. Let the majority give us an earnest of their goodwill, of their toleration, of their broad-mindedness, and then they will see whether the Muslims work with them shoulder to shoulder for the freedom of the country or not. We have already shown . . .

Sardar Sant Singh: Show the same courtesy to us in the Punjab.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I do not care for the vote of this House, I know what value to attach to the vote of this House. I may tell Sardar Sant Singh through you, Sir, that the mentality of a subject race is a slavish mentality. We are all slaves here, but some people have been slaves for 2,000 or 3,000 years, the poor Muslims have been slaves for only 150 or 200 years. So our slavish mentality is probably a bit less than the slavish mentality of the majority community.

Sardar Sant Singh: Ours is still less.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: They will never look beyond their nose and always talk like slaves. If we behave like slaves, we deserve to live like slaves, and if we continue to go on in this manner, the future of India is doomed.

Sardar Sant Singh: No, it is not.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: This much about the Communal Award.

Now, I will say something about the military policy of the Government of India. The military policy of the Government of India was formed about 150 years ago, when India was incessantly in danger of an invasion from Russia and Afghanistan. The Government, therefore, employed a very large number of land forces, but neglected our navy and air force. The whole problem of the defence of India has now changed. The Russian Empire is shattered; there is no danger of any invasion from Russia upon India. Afghanistan, today, is so weak that she could never think of invading our country. So, the danger of an invasion from the land side of India has now almost banished, and I do not know how the British Government can justify spending about Rs. 70 crores for keeping this army, I mean the land forces of the country. On the other hand, we find that the greatest danger of an invasion upon India is from the sea side. I am sorry that my Honourable friend, the Defence Secretary, is not in his place, but through the Leader of the House, I would ask him to tell me what progress we have made as regards the Royal Indian Navy. I would ask him to let me know the proportion which the Indian Navy bears in comparison with the navies, not of England, France or Germany, but of the small countries of Europe. If we do not want the army for keeping internal peace in the country—and Government have said more than once that they do not want to employ the Army for keeping order inside the country—I would ask them what justification there is for incurring such heavy expenditure, as they are doing, over the land forces of the country. We find that the whole sea frontier of India is exposed to danger and is unprotected, and it would be extremely impolitic on the part of the Government to neglect the sea frontier. The British are the most conservative people of all; once they have formed a policy, they would not listen to any advice, but would go on blindly following their own policy.

[Sir Muhammad Yakub.]

I will now come to the question of the air force, and ask Government how many units of air forces we have in this country. What is our relative position compared to the position of the other civilized countries of the world? The war in Abyssinia, the war on the North-West Frontier of India and the war in other countries of the world have shown us that the future war is going to be a war from the air and not a war on land. It seems to me that probably the British Government are bent upon keeping the country unprotected against an invasion from the air, and, probably, they are going to follow the advice of my friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, and they will leave the country unprotected, and instead of having the freedom of our country, probably there will be a change of masters: probably instead of a white bureaucrat tomorrow we will be the subjects of a black bureaucrat from Japan, or other places, if the present defence policy of the Government of India continues. I submit that it is time that the Government gave their serious consideration to the modification of their defence policy and paid more attention towards increasing our navy and air forces and decreased the land forces. If the Honourable Member for defence were here, I would ask him how many battalions, how many companies of land forces have been engaged during the last ten years on any frontier expeditions? What is the use of keeping such a big army if there is no use to employ them? The army is, occasionally, employed for shooting armless Muslims in Lahore and Karachi: besides that there is no necessity for it. This policy of the Government needs very careful consideration and modification.

It seems to me, Sir, that the whole of the military policy of the Government of India is formed in order to please my friend, Sardar Sant Singh, and his community. The Sikhs are the favourite wife of the Government of India. All the big jobs in the army are going to the Sikhs. If you see the results of the Military Academy at Dehra Dun, you will find that, generations after generations of Sikhs, from grandfather down to the great grandson, they are all given commissions in the Army. What are after all the Sikhs, and why is this favouritism shown to them? The predominating position which has been given to them by the British Government is really responsible for the way in which my friend, Sardar Sant Singh, was talking on the floor of the House. As I said, they are the spoilt child of the Government. We see how they have behaved at Lahore in connection with the Shahidgunj mosque: and still they want to accuse the Mussalmans. My friend, Sardar Sant Singh, has spoken about the efforts which my esteemed leader, Mr. Jinnah, made, in order to settle this question. But may I ask from any of the Sikh leaders in this House, what response have they given to the efforts of Mr. Jinnah? Did he not go to the utmost length to which any nationalist in this country could go, even in this matter? Do they not know, I ask them through you, Sir, how friendly he was towards the Sikhs on the occasion of trouble about the Nabha State? We all know that he spent months and months of his most valuable time in helping the Sikhs in connection with the Nabha trouble

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): And we helped you in the Khilafat agitation!

Sir Muhammad Yakub: The Khilafat agitation was not in India, and I do not know what result your help brought about to the Muslims. I ask this. If the Sikhs say that Mr. Jinnah treated them with the utmost

generosity and kindness, what is the response they have given to his efforts in bringing about a solution of the Shahidgunj mosque? I leave the answer to them

Sardar Mangal Singh: What do you want from us? Will you please make that clear?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think the Honourable Member can discuss a question like that here.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: We all know that Mr. Jinnah is above suspicion in this matter. We all know that Mr. Jinnah is the greatest nationalist that India has produced today. We all know that Mr. Jinnah is not a fanatic Mussalman, and, therefore, in this question of the Shahidgunj mosque, I do not want anything: I say, you satisfy Mr. Jinnah and we will all be satisfied. I was saying that the military policy of the Government of India is all regulated in order to please the Sikhs, and to give them more jobs, and the result is what we have seen. Not only in the Army; but we find the same thing in other lines. Look at New Delhi. We have spent about 20 crores of our money in building New Delhi; and if you analyse the figures you will find that three-fourths of that money has gone into the pockets of Sikh contractors and Sikh engineers. 80 per cent. of the non-official palaces in New Delhi belong to the Sikhs. Where does all this money come from? From the Indian Exchequer. The poor Indian taxpayer has paid this money. Very poor Sikhs, not having even ten rupees in their pocket, came to New Delhi when it was being built, and they became either a sub-overseer or engineer or contractor, and after 20 years they are now millionaires. This is the favouritism which the Government of India is showing towards the Sikhs and which is responsible for the mentality which they are now exhibiting in this House. I would again appeal to my friends and say that we, the Muslims, may be in a minority, but I say we are prepared to lay down our lives, for the sake of the freedom of our country if your efforts are genuine and if you change your mentality.

An Honourable Member: We will give you everything.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Well, let us see. Here is the Shahidgunj question, and I say, you satisfy Mr. Jinnah, this will be an earnest of your toleration and goodwill towards the Mussalmans

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should now come to the Finance Bill.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I was going to discuss the Finance Bill in the spirit in which it was discussed by my friend, Sardar Sant Singh; and I was saying something about the military policy of the Government of India. My other grievance against the military policy of the Government of India is their bogey of the military classes. They have selected certain communities in India from amongst whom they take candidates for service in the army. I submit that this is fundamentally wrong. It is for this reason that they complain that they cannot get a sufficient number of qualified candidates for the military service. I cannot hold a brief for other communities, but so far as the Muslims are concerned, I am prepared

[Sir Muhammad Yakub.]

to say that the Muslims of every sect, whether they are Pathans, Sheikhs, Mughals or of any sect, are all as much qualified for the army service as any other community amongst the Muslims. We have led our armies under the leadership of slaves. The nobles of the Koreish, who considered themselves as having the best blue blood in their veins, have served under the banners of slaves. That was the teaching of Islam, the equality of human beings; and we follow the same thing: we do not recognise any military or de-military classes, or Harijans. Therefore, I say, leave this distinction alone, at least so far as Mussalmans are concerned, and enlist them in the army, irrespective of the sect to which they belong, and then you will not have any reason to complain that you do not get a sufficient number of qualified candidates for military service. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the discussion on the Finance Bill has unfortunately taken a new turn by the introduction of the discussion on the Communal Award. I do not want to say much on that particular aspect of the question, but what I feel on that point is that it is a matter that concerns ourselves outside this House, that it is a matter in which we, as Indians, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, have got our own responsibility, and it is for us to decide the matter ourselves. Government should have nothing to do with it.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Unfortunately, we ask the Government to interfere.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: That may be perfectly correct, but the fact is that from the very moment the Communal Award was announced, whenever any attempt was made to come to an agreement between the two communities, some interested third party intervened and that agreement was set aside. So, instead of wasting our time in this House over this question, if we spend half of that time outside the House and come to a common and lasting understanding, I think the day will not be far distant when there will be peace and amity in the country.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: From 1921 to 1934 we have done it.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Here, I say that we cannot but justify the attitude that has been adopted throughout by the Congress Party by always keeping themselves aloof from this discussion, and we today see the results of entering into that discussion. The result of entering into such a discussion has been a mutual duel between the Members of the Opposition themselves. It was a sort of short respite to the occupants of the Treasury Benches. We have been fighting for the Communal Award leaving the financial policy of the country to take care of itself, and this is really unfortunate.

Now, coming to the real question which is at issue. We no doubt have been suffering from depression and from economic troubles for a very long time, and I must say here that when we are told that prosperity has returned to this country, we feel delighted at the idea that after all we are to observe a ray of hope in a sky which we thought was completely clouded. Sir, I think that a messenger who brings to us such optimistic

news should be congratulated and thanked by all of us. But, as we are the actual sufferers from all these economic troubles, when we are told that there is an era of prosperity dawning, we pause to think if there is any truth in it. Now, what has been the real condition of the country for the last few years? Many phrases, many economic maxims may be cited either by this side or the other side to show that India is prospering, but the simple fact is that, at the beginning of this era, the prices of commodities decreased to a considerable extent in terms of silver coin which is current in the country as the standard of price. About 4½ years ago, the fall in prices of commodities in respect of silver rupee came down to about 50 per cent., and the Government of this country—which calculates its expenses not in terms of commodities which are produced in the country, and which represent the real wealth of the country, but in terms of the precious metals, i.e., silver coin,—found that due to this depression they would not be able to collect the same amount of money, the same amount of coin as they were collecting before the economic depression. Therefore, they resolved that they must have more of this coin from the people who were already suffering from the effects of the depression. The Government, therefore, decided on enacting a law for further taxing the people and this is called the emergency taxation. By this emergency taxation, Sir, we suffered in two ways. On account of the economic depression, we had already lost heavily, and we were pressed further, to meet the deficits of the Government of India and of the Provincial Governments. The public suffered, while the Government servants benefited. With the increase in the price of money, which was more than fifty per cent., the Government servants got their full salaries which meant an addition of 50 per cent. to the salaries. The expenditure of the Government was kept at the same high level, and, as a mere eye-wash, a ten per cent. cut was introduced in the salaries of Government servants. This was all that was done to relieve the poor people from the effects of the economic depression. Other countries like America took effective steps to alleviate the sufferings of the masses, to increase the prices of commodities, by decreasing the value of their currency, by putting embargoes on the export of precious metals, in order that the wealth of the country may not be drained away, but our trustees, the Government of India, kept absolutely silent, nay, to justify their conduct, they started ridiculing the attempts made by some of the big nations to alleviate the sufferings of the masses. What could the country do under such circumstances? The only recourse for India was that the poor people had to sell out all their hard earned money—which was kept in gold ornaments for their domestic purposes—to meet their own daily expenditure and the demands of Government, and the gold so sold is called distress gold. The Government, during the time of this depression, kept absolutely quiet, nay, they encouraged the export of gold from this country. The process went on for a period of 15 months. The people of India, during this period, sold off gold worth Rs. 107 crores, to meet their daily necessities of life and also to pay up Government dues. What happened then, in this very House? The predecessor of the present Finance Member came forward and started praising the wonderful power of resistance of the Indian masses. In his speech, he admired the wonderful power of resistance possessed by the people of this country in times of adversity. This is what he said in his budget speech:

"In the first place, the results as regards imports combined with the figures of Indian production of such articles as salt and kerosene and cotton piece-goods seem to

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re-inforce one of the points I emphasised last year, namely the *extraordinary power of resistance, in spite of diminished purchasing power*, which India shows in maintaining the consumption of certain standard necessities of the masses."

According to him, the standard of living of the masses was such that it could be lowered at any time. He probably never realised that the standard of living of the masses of India was already at the lowest level. It could not be further lowered down and the people could not exist unless they sold away whatever little gold they had in their possession. He himself has admitted, further on, that they have kept this standard by the sale of gold. He said:

"I must add in conclusion one obvious but most important point, *viz.*, that the really striking falling off in India's normal consumption has been in the case of precious metals. As is well known, India imported gold and silver of the average annual value of about 40 crores in the years 1920-30. The power to cut out this enormous margin has been a tremendous factor—equal in importance almost to *the actual sale of gold*, to which I shall refer later—in enabling India to go through this period of depression without being forced to cut down her normal absorption of those commodities which are needed for daily consumption."

So, he admitted that India was selling gold in order to meet her present necessities and the demands of Government. But, being
4 P.M. afraid that people would say that India was living on her capital, in the same breath he said that the sale of gold was not only to meet the necessities of life, but the proceeds of the sale were also being utilised for investment. I would not read the whole paragraph, but would only read the relevant portion in which he says:

"In the first place, I know that there are many who regard what is happening as a dangerous process of living on capital. I think it fairer to regard it, as indeed I pointed out last year, as a process partly of exchanging one form of investment in another, and partly of tiding over a period of abnormal difficulty by drawing on Reserves which had been accumulated in better times, reserves, moreover, which produce no revenue, so that their depletion does not bring about any decrease of income. To that extent we have regarded the process as a legitimate use of reserves, which has on the whole been beneficial to the people."

Then, he says:

"How long such a process can, without damaging the country, continue, is another matter."

In other words, he admitted that the process might prove dangerous at some time, though he thought that it was not dangerous at that time. This was the condition of India after fifteen months of the emergency taxation. Now, it is quite clear that the only troubles with which India is suffering are the low prices of the commodities. On account of these low prices the Indian cultivator and the Indian peasant cannot get sufficient return for their produce in terms of silver money to meet their own expenses and to meet the demands of Government, and that is why they have to resort to the sale of their little ever diminishing capital in the shape of gold.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

Therefore, if we have to consider whether prosperity has returned to India, we have to judge it from this point of view. Whether we have stopped the sale of gold and whether we are able to meet our expenses without the sale of gold. We find that the sale of gold has reached the figure of 260 crores of rupees and it continues still. Had there been normal years and had we imported gold to the extent of Rs. 40 crores a year as we had been doing before, then, in this period of 4½ years, we would have imported gold worth Rs. 180 crores, and this, added to the Rs. 260 crores, the value of gold which we have exported, the total loss in this direction alone comes to about Rs. 440 crores of rupees. And, in spite of this, we are told by the Honourable the Finance Member that prosperity has returned to India, not from 1985, but even from 1934. It is very difficult to believe it in face of the facts that I have given. As is wont with Government Members, the predecessor of the present Finance Member admired the Indian masses for their wonderful power of resistance and we now hear the present Finance Member extolling their wonderful power of recuperation from economic troubles. We have already lost Rs. 440 crores, and we are still burdened with heavy taxation, we are still meeting the demands of Government by selling our houses and our properties, and yet we are told by our kind trustees that we are returning to prosperity. My submission is that the Government do not care to know the condition of the people, what they care for is the realisation of their dues. It is immaterial for them whether these dues are paid out of the incomes of the people, or out of the sale of their property.

Now, what lies in the power of Government to alleviate the sufferings of the masses? They can do it in two ways,—by reducing expenditure, and by taking direct action for the help of the masses. Within the short time at my disposal, I do not want to go in detail into these matters, but as a matter of illustration let me bring to your notice the condition of their expenditure on army. In 1859-60, after the full establishment of the British Empire, when they had the most troublesome period, they wanted Rs. 19 crores for expenditure on the army. It may be said by the other side that the exchange at that time was about two shillings, and so at the present rate it would be more. Even if we made allowance for that, it would come to about Rs. 25 crores. It fell down in subsequent years to Rs. 15 crores and 13 crores, to rise again to the level of Rs. 27½ crores in 1881, probably due to the Afghan War. It fell again, to rise to about Rs. 29 or 30 crores in the early part of the nineties, and continued at that level up to the year 1913-14. In 1913-14, the Great War began. Every country which was not a participant in that war gained in every way. The present wealth of America, the position that America has obtained as a consequence of the war is only apparent. It became the creditor nation to which all the nations of Europe are indebted today. It was all because of the non-participation of America in the early years of the war. India would have been in the same position but for the misfortune of this British connection. Otherwise, she might have gained like other powers who were outside the pale of the war. In addition to contributing large sums of money as gifts, and sometimes as help to the United Kingdom, we see that imperceptibly—I do not know how and why—the army expenditure started to rise gradually. It started rising from the level of 30 crores to Rs. 37 crores in 1916-17, 49½ crores in 1917-18, and 66½ crores, after the War was over, in 1918-19. It might be said that the rate of exchange had something to do with the increased figure, but even then there is no doubt that the increase was a big one, and in spite of the fact that India

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need not have been a participant in the war, the expenditure on the army increased gradually from 30 crores in 1913-14 to Rs. 87 crores in 1920-21. From that year, it was on the decline. Probably these figures have also to be corrected a little on account of exchange, because I believe they were calculated at the rate of 2s. In 1930-31, the figure of army expenditure was 52 crores and today it stands at 45 crores. 45 crores means 1½ times the figure at which it stood throughout the whole period of 1900—1914. If we make the least suggestion to the Government that it must be decreased we are told that this 45 crores is only on account of the use of the surplus stores which they had got—and we should not expect that it is going to remain at that level, and that it is likely to rise again. This is what they have done with the Army. I do not want to dilate upon it. Similar is the case of the Civil Services. The least increase in prices is taken up by them as an opportunity for raising the salaries. Concessions are given but when the prices of the commodities resume their old level, there is no question of the withdrawal of those concessions. The index of the salaries and of the expenses of the Government is like the index of a thermometer which shows the maximum temperature. The least increase in prices or the existence of an emergency is taken advantage of, and the index of expenditure continually goes up, but when the prices fall, the index remains at that place and does not know getting down. This is the condition so far as their expenses are concerned, and we find that the Government are not prepared to reduce them.

Let us now see whether they are going to help the cultivator directly or in some other way. We know the condition of the indebtedness of the peasants and we know that the amount which they have got to repay to the money lenders is very large. Yesterday, Dr Ziauddin Ahmad went into some detail and described their troubles and I do not want to repeat them. I perfectly agree with the view which he has placed before the House, with the exception of one fact, which it will be necessary for me to place before the House. The reason that he has given for the accumulation of these debts is different from what it really is. In his speech, he said that, under previous monarchs, debts used to be wiped off after every two generations as a result of revolution, etc. But I beg to differ from him on that point and want to say that, prior to the advent of the British rule in India, there was no such wiping off of debts. They were always settled by mutual consent, and the relations between the creditor and the debtor were much better than they are today. This is a thing which appears to be new and I do not think this submission of mine is to be taken seriously by the Treasury Benches and for that reason I think it will be necessary for me to give you a short quotation from one of their own historians. So far back as 80 years ago, an investigation was made into the condition of the tenantry by Sir G. Wingate, Revenue Commissioner, and in 1852 he submitted his report to Government. Extracts from this report are incorporated in a book entitled "Mussalmans in the Punjab and the Moneylender" written by Mr. Thorburn of the Bengal Civil Service in 1886. I propose to read to you the extracts from that report given in the said book. It is a translation of course. I could not get the book here. I had personally translated it in Urdu sometime ago. I have now retranslated it. So far as the meaning is concerned, it is the same, though there may be some difference in the words. Sir G.

Wingate, after describing as to how, on account of the British laws, the creditor has got enormous power over the judgment-debtor says:

"Now, it remains to be described as to how in our province the money lenders have got such a great power over the tenants, of which no instance can be found in the Native States. It is quite clear to me that this power is due to our laws, according to which a creditor can get a decree against a judgment debtor on the basis of whatever is contained in the document and by executing his decree can realize the money by the attachment and sale of every kind of property belonging to the judgment debtor. In the times of our predecessors, that is the Mahrattas, the creditor had almost no legal remedy of realising his money from his debtor. In those days there was no such court to which ordinarily the creditor could resort to as a matter of right to get a relief against his judgment debtor."

This is also supported by para. 5 of the Report of Mr. Frair regarding the civil courts of Satara. Then, he continues:

"As a matter of fact, the creditor and the debtor used to settle their disputes themselves and in this matter they got almost no kind of help from the officers, so much so that even in Satara which had been considerably influenced by our policy, it clearly appears from the reports of Mr. Frair and Mr. Coxon that a creditor could rarely get an opportunity of executing his claim in courts. At first it was difficult to get a hearing at all but even if he succeeded in getting a hearing and obtaining a decree, yet to get an order for attachment of the property or an order for the arrest of the person of the debtor was more difficult than getting the decree itself and if he succeeded in getting such an order once, it was regarded as sufficient to finish the whole decree."

Then, Sir, he describes the result of this particular procedure, and says:

"For these reasons, the money lender used to advance loan to his debtor on the strength of his trust and honesty and the loans were advanced in a smaller degree on a pawn of ornaments or jewellery or mortgage of houses or standing crops. In villages there was mutual trust and confidence between the peasants and the money lenders."

This is the testimony of an English officer himself: He further says.

"For these reasons, the money lender used to advance to the peasant only such a sum of money as he understood the peasant will be able to re-pay and used to give him no more. The rate of interest could not be higher than the customary rate. If the money lender laid claim to an interest higher than the customary interest, which would be against equity, then neither his debtors would pay the instalments regularly nor the money lender could realise his money, because he had no other means of realizing his loan. In this way the money lenders and the peasants of the villages used to co-operate with each other with trust and confidence and were the participators of each other in days of prosperity and adversity."

Then, Sir G. Wingate gives the result of the British rule and says:

"Under our administration, these good relations have been absolutely finished. Now, for the prosperity of the money lender, the prosperity of the tenant is no longer necessary. Now, the money lender need not depend upon the honesty and trust of the peasant. Mutual toleration and trust have been replaced by distrust and enmity. The money-lender has got the power of taking possession of the person and property of the debtor by bringing a suit against him at any time. Now the interest of the money-lender lies in so much over-burdening the peasant with debt as cannot be easily repaid by him, because when the peasant would reach such a state, then the money-lender would become the owner of all the fruits of his labour, and would leave with him only so much, by which he can hardly keep himself alive. There is not much difficulty for the money-lender in reducing the peasant to such a condition. As long as the peasant is not indebted much, the money-lender continues advancing him money easily for all sorts of extravagant expenses, and does not even talk of the return of his money. The simple, foolish peasant thus easily falls into a trap, and he comes to know of his

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foolishness only when it is impossible to get out of the trap. After this the peasant becomes a slave of his money-lender. The money-lender takes care that the maximum concession that is made to the tenant should be only this much that some reduction may be made in the interest. Whatever the peasant may do, he cannot pay back the principal amount. He works hard so that the money-lender may pass his life in comfort and luxury, he sows the seed in the land so that the money-lender may reap the matured crop. He becomes tired of his life—hope leaves him for good, the virtues of a free man depart from him, and he becomes possessed of the evils of slavery. He considers himself to be aggrieved and wants to take vengeance from his oppressors by cheating them. He feels that he cannot fall below the level to which he has been reduced, the sense of right and wrong leaves him, the attempt in which he indulges is to defraud his creditors by taking more and more from them. When he has taken the utmost from one money-lender, he considers it to be a great success if he can get something more from another money-lender by speaking a falsehood and making false promises."

Then, in the end, he says:

"When thus he succeeds in getting two creditors, and an occasion arises for a dispute amongst them, then, if he succeeds in getting goods in such a dispute, he considers it to be his great success."

He summarises the description and writes:

"This mean struggle between the money-lender and creditors is debasing for both. The money-lender due to this becomes avaricious, heartless and an oppressor, and the debtor becomes a crafty liar, dishonest and a slave."

And, Sir, this is the state of affairs which is prevalent today. We do not find any change in the position during all this time. As to who is responsible for this condition of affairs, Sir G. Wingate further says:

"This is a very sad state of affairs. But if we were not to state it, then it would be a great weakness on our part, that our Government and our laws are the cause of this animosity between two bodies and their daily-increasing downfall. This bad state of affairs is rapidly progressing in the country. The debasement of the morality with the increasing poverty of the masses, with the increment of the wealth of a few persons, has increased in some districts with appalling rapidity and is spreading in others, and in my opinion this is clearly due to that power which our laws have given to the creditors."

This was a clear admission, so far as the conditions of the peasants were concerned, in the year 1852. Now, what steps did the Government take to improve their condition? The first step they took, after this report, was to repeal, in the year 1856, the Usurious Loans Act. Previous to that, the Courts had discretion to reduce excessive interest and to reduce the amount of the decree that was to be passed against the debtors. Now that Act was repealed by the Government and it was placed beyond the authority of the Court to reduce any interest, and the interest was to be paid at the contractual rate. This is the cause of the utter ruin of the peasantry of this country and their indebtedness, and I ask, what steps are the Government proposing to take with a view to relieving the poor peasants from their pitiable condition?

Now, Sir, I think I must finish this long story, and I want to curtail it, but I wish to submit for your consideration one question: Are Government satisfied that all is well by their merely making certain concessions here and there and allocating say a crore or two of rupees for the so-called village uplift? Sir, that village uplift programme is not, I am afraid,

being pursued in the right spirit in the country at all. I am afraid it is being utilised by interested persons for political purposes. Will you much improve the condition of the poor cultivator by letting him hear dances and dance music through the radio, which you are proposing for the general advancement of India, or will the villager be much relieved by seeing us fly in the air? (Laughter.) Sir, I do not want to ridicule these things, but I only wish to impress that these surely are not the directions in which any relief can be brought to the poor peasantry that is suffering from the great reduction in the prices of commodities. Sir, their problem is a very simple one. Do not, if you like, reduce the taxation. They do not so much want reduction of taxation. What they want only is that the commodities that they are producing must bring their proper price. If you cannot help them in this particular direction, if you cannot come to their rescue in increasing the prices of their produce, no amount of wordy declarations, no amount of economic discussions and speeches is going to better the condition of the peasants or of the Indian masses. With these words, I only say that this continuous increase of taxation, this continuous overburdening should be stopped, and I say that the time is not far off when the proverbial feather may break the camel's back: and I would appeal to the Government to save us from that misery, to save us from the misery by not extracting too many eggs of gold from this hen which, to the misery of us here, if it continues to be treated in that fashion, may, instead of giving eggs of gold, give bullets of iron, for their condition is getting desperate. (Hear, hear.) You, Sir, are driving them mad by all your actions, and you are bringing misery on yourselves and ourselves. So, in the end, I finish with this appeal to the Government and to the persons who are in power, that they must take steps to reduce the price of their currency, to increase the price of the commodities, and take practical steps in these directions and follow the advice of Sir Tracy Gavin Jones which is contained in the Unemployment Committee's Report, and in which he said:

"I believe that Government will eventually have to devalue the rupee. Economic circumstances will compel them to do so."

And, lastly, Sir, my suggestion is that India should expand her currency issue by fifty crores of rupees immediately, without cover, and issue it to the provinces for agricultural uplift, on condition that the money is expended within the year of issue. These are bold steps, but you must take them if you want to save the peasantry of this country. You must take these steps. Otherwise, we must leave them to their fate, and then you will see what happens. (Applause.)

Dr. F. X. DeSouza (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I should like to intervene in this debate for a very few minutes, in order to draw the attention of the Government of India to the deplorable condition in which the growers of rice and the growers of cocoanuts in Southern India find themselves, and the urgent need of some measure of relief on their behalf. This morning, Sir, I was treated to an extraordinary sight in this House when the lion from Kumaon lay with the lamb from Bombay—I must say the Bombay lamb bleated pretty loudly for a lamb—anyhow the lion from Kumaon and the lamb from Bombay lay down together and cried for the industrialisation of India. It was an extraordinary thing that neither of them, not even the lion of Kumaon, who stands for agricultural interests.

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pleaded for the interests of agriculture. The result will be that if agriculture continues to be neglected as it has been in the past, the countryside will be converted into a desert. I am speaking with a full sense of responsibility and I know what I say. If we refer to the official publication we find that the price of primary commodities produced by agriculture, in this country, of crops of all denominations, has fallen by 53.6 per cent as compared with 1929. That means, according to that authority, that the value of the principal crops grown in India fell by the staggering figure of 547 crores and 26 lakhs which is nearly half the national debt of the Government of India. To that fall rice has contributed the following proportion. The price of rice grown in Madras has fallen by 52 crores and six lakhs, in Bengal by 103 crores and 81 lakhs, in Bihar and Orissa 61 crores and 48 lakhs, in Burma 36 crores and 39 lakhs. Obviously this represents the staggering extent to which the purchasing power of the masses in India has been reduced. Side by side with this crash in prices, it must be realised that the fixed charges to which the masses in India are subject have proportionately increased in terms of the commodities. The rent which they have to pay, the interest on their debts which they have to pay, the assessment which they have to pay and last but not least the tribute of 34 crores which my Honourable friend, Sir H. P. Mody, mentioned this morning as the tribute which the masses pay to the manufacturers of Bombay

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian, Urban): He was only quoting the Honourable the Finance Member's figures and trying to contest their accuracy.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I maintain the figure.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: The Honourable the Finance Member does maintain that figure. If you remember that, you cannot say with any show of plausibility that the masses of India have turned the corner and the dawn of prosperity has come upon the masses of India. Is it right to draw inferences from the fact that the revenues of the Government of India show a surplus that the masses of India have benefited by that surplus? The Customs show a considerable surplus. Do any articles imported into India ever reach the masses? The income-tax has benefited. But do the masses pay income-tax? The sugar customs and excise have benefited. If there is a larger consumption of sugar by the masses of India, it is probably because *gur* which used to be formerly available is no longer available going to the factories to be converted into sugar. I respectfully submit to the Honourable the Finance Member that the conclusions which he has drawn that the masses have turned the corner and that there is a dawn of prosperity coming for the masses of India cannot be justified by the evidence he has placed before us.

With regard to the catastrophic fall in the price of rice, it is due not only to the general depression to which all primary commodities have been subjected, but it is due to other causes. First the outlet which hitherto existed for the export of rice has been closed by the policy of national self-sufficiency which countries in the East have adopted. In pre-war years, the amount of export of rice from India was two million 398 thousand tons. In 1934-35

Mr. B. Das: Does it include Burma or it is only India?

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: India and Burma. In 1934-35, exports fell to a million and 593 thousand tons. Not only has the outlet for the export of rice been closed owing to the policy of self-sufficiency adopted by the nations in the East, by China, by Indo-China, by Siam and Java, but those nations helped by subsidies and bounties from their respective Governments are enabled to dump their rice into India. From the *Review of Trade Returns* for 1934-35, the figures of dumping for 1933-34 were 84 thousand 24 tons; for 1934-35, 394 thousand 51 tons. The imports came from Siam and French Indo-China. What is the natural result of this catastrophic fall in rice? The natural result would be first and foremost a contraction in the area under cultivation of rice. Honourable Members will hardly believe, but these figures are taken from the official publications. In 1931-32 the area under rice was 84 million acres; in 1934-35, the area fell by three million acres to 81 million acres and the out-turn fell from 33 million 200 thousand tons in 1931-32 to 27 million 719 thousand tons in 1933-34, a fall of 18 per cent. Can any Member of the Government with a sense of statesmanship contemplate with complacency the consequences of these figures? I said the area under cultivation fell by three million acres. What does that mean? Assuming that two acres maintain, say, a family of five persons, then three million acres would maintain $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions people and these have been now thrown out of work having been driven to unemployment in consequence of this contraction of area. Then what about the loss of land revenue for provinces? If you study provincial budgets, you will find that all provinces have been affected by the fall in the acreage under cultivation. They show a huge deficit. Why? Because land revenue has fallen. Why has it fallen? Because land has fallen out of cultivation. Because it does not pay to cultivate lands. Where is this boasted return of prosperity to the villages?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In the air.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: As my Honourable friend says it is in the air. I quite agree with him. Add to that the growth of debt. Every Provincial Council shows that they are busy passing laws for reducing debt due by agriculturists. This loss of revenue and the growth of debt,—are they indications of growing prosperity? Sir, I respectfully suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member that however rosy a view he may take with regard to the urban population, I do not think his conclusion applies to the agricultural masses. It is possible and I think it is very probable that owing to the growth of industry incomes have improved in urban areas, that the rich have grown richer. But I certainly maintain that the poor have grown poorer in the course of the last few years. I cannot say that the Government of India themselves have turned a deaf ear to our complaints with regard to rice. There were insistent demands from Madras that some sort of protection should be given to rice. The protection asked for was for whole rice which is the staple food, but in their wisdom the Government of India gave a protection of 12 annas a maund on broken rice. Sir, when the Bill was under discussion in this House, I said that the people of Madras asked for bread but Government gave them a stone. Why this discrimination against broken rice? The Honourable Member representing the European community in the Madras Council, Mr. Langley, said that this protection to broken rice was a

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cowardly act on the part of Government; because broken rice was imported mainly from Siam while whole rice came from Indo-China. Government felt that behind Indo-China there is the mighty power of France which would retaliate, but Siam is helpless, and that is why a duty of 12 annas was put upon broken rice. Has it done any good? I will quote the figures. So far as Madras is concerned, in the year 1934-35 there were 99,290 tons of rice imported, and this year, upto January last, the amount of rice imported is 82,682 tons for the ten months. Really speaking, broken rice does not come into competition with whole rice; broken rice, in my part of the country, is food for cattle and poultry. In Madras broken rice is the food of the very lowest classes. I challenge any Honourable Member from Madras to say whether he has ever eaten broken rice except, it may be, in the form of *idlis*.

Sir, all that this protection of 12 annas a maund on broken rice has done is to make the food of the poor dearer without helping the real rice-grower to any extent whatsoever. The Crop Conference, held in Simla, recommended that a protective duty of Rs. 1-4-0 on whole rice as well as on broken rice and a duty of 15 annas on paddy should be imposed, otherwise the fate of the rice-grower in Madras would be very serious indeed.

I next come to the grower of cocoanut. Sir, you are aware that owing to the slump in the price of rubber Ceylon took to growing coconut on a very extensive scale by mass production and she can produce cocoanut very much cheaper than the cultivators of Malabar and Travancore and Cochin can. Honourable Members who are familiar with those parts will realise that cocoanut is grown there by cultivators in small homesteads of one acre or two acres, and it has been calculated by careful investigation,—I do not want to go into details but this is expert calculation,—that the cost of cultivation of one thousand nuts is Rs. 42. Sir, what are the prevailing prices? On the 3rd of this month the price at Cochin for one thousand nuts was Rs. 34, *i.e.*, Rs. 8 below the cost of cultivation. The average price of the last three years on the basis of Government tariff valuation is Rs. 26. On this basis the duty should be at least Rs. 15 on a thousand nuts and that was the duty recommended by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on a thousand fresh nuts, Rs. 70 per ton of copra and Rs. 125 for a ton of oil. Instead of that, what have the Government of India done for us? First, you will remember that Ceylon being an Empire country and under the Ottawa Agreement is entitled to mutual preference with us. But she has given us no preference whatsoever. She gives us no preference on our textiles, on our cement or on any of our products. But, although she is our greatest rival so far as coconut goes, our Government in a fit of quixotic generosity extended to her a preference of ten per cent. What is the result. The result is that the duty she has had to pay was about Rs. 2-4-0 and the duty has been raised by the action of the Commerce Member in January, from Rs. 2-4-0 per thousand to Rs. 4-8-0. Why was Ceylon given this preference although she refuses to give us any preference? Why is not this preference denounced? Even so sober a journal as *Statesman* of Delhi in its issue of the 16th August, 1934, wrote:

“The Home Government appear to have committed the inexcusable folly of wavering between pandering to Ceylon and the application of the jackboot.”

And why does the British Government hesitate to apply the jackboot? I venture to make a suggestion—I may be wrong—but it seems to me very probable, that here we see the cloven hoof of the industrial manufacturer, both of Lancashire and of Bombay. Ceylon is a very wide market for textiles and for steel and iron products.

Mr. B. Das: But Bombay has nothing to lose.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: But, then, Ceylon does not export anything else; she can only export her cocoanut to provide a balance for her trade, and the Government of India, under instructions from the Home Government, are giving her facilities to dump cocoanut into this country in order to find her balance for the textiles of Lancashire and for the textiles from Bombay. That the Government in England is particularly anxious to allow Ceylon facilities for balancing her trade will be clear from her action, only at the end of last year, in imposing a tariff duty on soya beans imported from Japan, much against the protests of the British farmer. Why did she do so? Because the British Government wanted to help Ceylon to export as much cocoanut as she could, in order to balance her trade in textiles and other manufactures, as there was a competition between the trade in soya beans and cocoanut. So serious is this conflict between the manipulations of the industrialist and the helplessness of the agriculturist that it has found an echo even in a country like England. I find in the debates in the House of Commons on the 21st May, last, that the Honourable G. Lambert, representative of the agricultural industry, said:

“Why, as all other industries had tariffs, were they denied to the agricultural industry? Agriculture has been sacrificed on the altar of imperial trade. The agricultural industry could not be expected to shoulder not only the textile trade of Lancashire but the debts of Australian bondholders . . . Unless they could get fair play, there would be a great sense of hostility in Imperial trade in the country district.”

Mr. B. Das: You are giving out home truths.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: Sir, that is the opinion of an English Member of Parliament representing English agriculture. The same thing has happened in this country. At the last general election in the great agricultural province of Madras, the protagonists of industry, as represented by the Ottawa party, received such a terrific collapse that not one of them was returned to the Assembly. That, Sir, was the only a landslide of parties, but as described by my Honourable friend just now, the condition of agriculturists in Madras has grown much worse since then and as the Honourable the Home Member has more than once showed, communism raises its ugly head from the villages and from the country side. God forbid, that at the next election, from being merely a landslide of parties, it should become a cataclysm of orderly Government.

Sir, in pleading for protection, I feel as if I was speaking with my tongue in my cheek. I read the other day in a well-known English review that there is now existing in this world a trinity of learning—the only survivors of an almost extinct species of free traders—and that trinity consists of Lord Snowdon, Sir Walter Layton and Sir James Grigg. (Laughter.)

Mr. B. Das: How do you come to picture him?

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: Fortunately for their country, Lord Snowdon and Sir Walter Layton have no power to influence the policy of their country. But, fortunately for us, Sir James Grigg is the Mussolini of our finance, armed with powers of certification. He is the complete autocrat of our finance and it is because he has autocratic powers that I ask him to exercise it in favour of protection for agriculture.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I have no hesitation in doing so, because here his two bugbears do not exist, first, protecting Indian agriculture will not hurt the British manufacturer; secondly, by protecting Indian agriculture, he would not as he once interjected while I was speaking, be taxing the food of the people, because unlike his country, we grow our own food. Foodgrains in a way represent the currency of the country, because it is by the price of rice, the price of wheat, that the standard of values is determined.

With these words, I earnestly hope that the Honourable the Finance Member will extend protection to rice and to cocoanuts in the manner have suggested.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the House is adjourned, it may be mentioned that it has been suggested to the Chair that it might dispense with the question hour tomorrow and the day after, so that more Honourable Members may have an opportunity of taking part in the discussions on the Finance Bill. If this meets with the general approval of the House, the Chair is prepared to do so, especially as it is possible to dispose of the questions of which notice has already been given this Session, even if the Chair dispenses with the questions tomorrow and the day after. Does that meet with the general wishes of the House?

Honourable Members: Yes.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 18th March, 1936.