

5th February 1937

**THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

**(Official Report)**

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**Volume I, 1937**

*(25th January to 19th February, 1937)*

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**FIFTH SESSION**

**OF THE**

**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,**

**1937**



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1937**

**M89LAD**

# Legislative Assembly.

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MR. M. GHIASUDDIN, M.L.A.

MR. MATHURADAS VISSANJI, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 5th February, 1937.

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.

### POSTAL CONCESSIONS TO NEWSPAPERS.

369. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that prior to 1931, newspaper press concessions by the Postal Department were offered to newspapers once for all and no renewals for application for such concessions were demanded;
- (b) if so, when the renewal of such application was asked for, and why; and
- (c) what are the conditions to be satisfied by the newspapers when such concessions are granted?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) and (b). The system of annual renewal of registration was in force up to 1928. It was then discontinued in order to reduce work in the offices of Heads of Circles. It was found necessary in 1932 to revert to it as some newspapers were found to be offending against the conditions governing their registration.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to rule 30 of the Indian Post Office Rules, the provisions of which are reproduced in clauses 74 to 76 of the Post and Telegraph Guide (April 1936, Edition).

### POSTAL CONCESSIONS TO NEWSPAPERS.

370. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if any new orders are issued insisting upon a minimum number of subscribers for each newspaper before postal concessions are granted to such newspaper;
- (b) if so, what that number is;
- (c) whether there has been any change in that number, and if so, what that change is; and
- (d) why any such change has been made?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) No.

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

**POSTAL CONCESSIONS TO NEWSPAPERS.**

**371. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the nature of the enquiry made to ascertain whether a newspaper has the prescribed minimum number of subscribers;
- (b) whether postal authorities above are expected to make such enquiries;
- (c) whether police authorities are also expected to enquire into it; and
- (d) whether they insist upon the newly started papers first of all to supply their issues at the usual postal rates to the prescribed minimum number of subscribers and then to expect help?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The applicant is asked to give a statement showing the names and addresses of his subscribers and a certain number of these are verified.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) No.
- (d) No. The concession is granted at once if the provisions of the rule are complied with.

**POSTAL CONCESSIONS TO NEWSPAPERS.**

**372. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that certain newspapers are denied the postal concession either for ever or temporarily because of their politics;
- (b) whether they are aware that such discrimination shown against certain papers causes much loss to those papers and results in placing them at a great disadvantage as opposed to other competing papers; and
- (c) if they are aware that such discriminating treatment towards newspapers, such as to the *Vahini* of Madras circulating in rural areas prevents the rural classes from getting the benefit of the postal concessions?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) No. The concession is granted if the provisions of section 9 of the Indian Post Office Act and of rule 30 of the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933, are complied with.

- (b) and (c). Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

**PROVISION OF POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS.**

**373. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many new post offices, post boxes and postal deliveries are provided since April, 1935, in rural areas, in which provinces, and to what extent;



- (b) whether it is their policy to provide telegraph and telephone conveniences also to rural areas;
- (c) if so, whether they are aware of the greater need of peasants and other rural classes for more postal facilities; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of first developing the postal facilities before undertaking to provide telegraphic and telephone services to the rural areas?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) Information relating to the increase in the number of post offices, letter boxes and postmen and village postmen in rural areas during the period from the 1st January, 1935, to the 30th June, 1936, has already been supplied to the Honourable Member in reply to his starred question No. 736 of the 30th September, 1936, and has recently been placed on the table of the House. I would refer the Honourable Member to these particulars. Information for the second six months of 1936 is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

I am presuming that by the term "post boxes" the Honourable Member means "letter boxes", and the information which is being called for, is based on this presumption. In connection with the new postal deliveries, the Honourable Member no doubt wishes to know what additional villages are now being served and not how far improvements have been made in existing services in rural areas. No information on either head is available, and Government do not propose to call for it as its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with its value.

(b) Yes, in due course.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. It is the policy of Government to provide the facilities which seem most needed in the areas they serve.

#### UTILISATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT.

374. **\*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have issued any instructions to Provincial Governments how to utilise the Rural Development Grant of 1935-36 and 1936-37, and if so, what they are;
- (b) whether the sanction of the Government of India is sought for by Provincial Governments before they expend their Provincial allotments;
- (c) whether they are aware of the fact that the various Taluk Development Committees, or District Economic Councils, created by Provincial Governments for the allocation and administration of the Rural Development Grant do not have any accredited representatives of Peasants Associations existing in those places; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of instructing the Local Governments to provide for adequate representation for Peasants Associations on all such District Economic Councils?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his question No. 822 on the 7th October, 1936.

(b) The schemes on which the allotments are to be spent are submitted for the general approval of the Government of India.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The Government of India are not prepared to interfere in the detailed arrangements made by the Provincial Governments.

#### ENQUIRY RE REVISION OF THE PRESENT SERVICE CONDITIONS OF THE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

**375. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Wedgwood Railway Finance Committee, which is now touring India, is called upon to make recommendations in regard to the revision of the present service conditions of the Railway employees?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether various Railway Unions in India and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation were invited to tender evidence before this Committee? If not, why not?

(c) What has been the method adopted by the Committee to invite memoranda and evidence from interested quarters? Have any invitations been issued? If not, why not?

(d) Did the Committee issue any questionnaire to the public? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to starred question No. 233 asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 25th January, 1937.

(b) The President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation asked the Committee for an interview and the Committee with the concurrence of the Government of India have agreed to meet them on February 1st.

(c) The Committee invited all Chambers of Commerce and other bodies interviewed by Members of the Railway Board when on tour to send in a memorandum of their views to be discussed at a subsequent interview with the Committee.

(d) No special questionnaire was sent to the public as such. Government considered that the views of the public could be adequately represented in the opinions expressed by the bodies referred to in the answer to part (c) of the question.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** With regard to part (c) of the question, may I ask whether the "interested quarters" includes the Unions of the Railways?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am afraid I am unable to follow the question. There is nothing to stop any Union from putting forward their views before the Committee.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am only asking about the expression "interested quarters". Am I to understand or even assume that the Unions were also included in that expression?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** The expression "interested quarters" was used by the Honourable Member himself in the question and not by me.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Has not the Honourable Member said that the opinions were invited from interested quarters? Does not the Honourable Member mean that?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I explained during the course of the debate the other day and also in answer to questions that so far as the Committee are concerned everybody who thought that he was interested in these questions was welcome to send his views to the Committee.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if the recommendations were invited with regard to the Divisional system being remodelled or reformed? We have, at present, Divisional Superintendents and their establishments and Agents and so on; I want to know whether the former system is going to be revised or considered by this Committee or not?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I explained during the course of the debate that the terms of reference were published and anybody who felt that they could put forward suggestions or views before this Committee bearing upon their terms of reference were welcome to put forward those views. I do not think any specific questions were formulated with regard to what the Honourable Member has mentioned.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** If this question of the Divisional organisation has already been raised and their attention has already been drawn to this fact, then may I know whether it can come within the purview of the Committee?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** I am afraid I cannot say. That is for the Committee to decide.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** So far, then, you have given to the Committee a sort of general authority to hear and not to hear what they choose?

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:** Would the Committee require any special authority to enable them to hear or not to hear?

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#### STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

*Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 802 to 810 asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya on the 5th October, 1936.*

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#### MONOPOLY FOR THE SUPPLY OF PAINTS ENJOYED BY CERTAIN FIRMS.

*Question No. 802.—(a) No.* The system of annual contracts was not in existence prior to 1926-27, and since that year contracts have been given to several other firms. The Shalimar Paint Works were given a contract for the supply of certain varieties of red oxide paint for the first time in 1926-27 and Jenson and Nicholson in 1927-28. The Shalimar Paint Works received contracts every year from 1926-27 to 1932-33 and in 1934-35 and 1935-36, while Jenson and Nicholson got contracts in 1927-28, 1928-29 and from 1931-32 to 1935-36. The rates will be found in issues of the *Indian Trade Journal*, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) No. Contracts for red oxide paints were given to Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works in earlier years but not in the year 1934-35. There were complaints regarding their supplies of Gulf Red Oxide paint in 1933-34.

(c) A contract for one variety of red oxide paint was given to the Napier Paint Works for the year 1935-36. There was no complaint.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f). The information asked for is given in the statement annexed.

(g) No. The paints accepted against tender No. M. 7344, were paints intended for application by spraying and therefore required the admixture of different ingredients. The paints quoted for in the previous tender were intended for application by means of a brush.

(h) Does not arise. I may add, however, that all other tenderers were given the same opportunity to re-quote.

*Statement referred to in parts (e) and (f) of the Question.*

	Jenson F. O. R. Calcutta.			Shalimar F. O. R. Calcutta.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Item (19) Gulf red stiff to ISD Specn. No. G/P-73—						
(a) in 28 lb. drums . . . . .	10	8	0	10	8	0
(b) In 56 lb. drums . . . . .	10	4	0	10	4	0
Item (20) Gulf red readymixed to ISD Specn. No. G/P-173—						
(a) In 28 lb. drums . . . . .	13	11	0	13	11	0
(b) In 56 lb. drums . . . . .	13	3	0	13	3	0

(f) The rates quoted by the firms mentioned against tender No. M.-7344, were as follows:—

	Jenson F. O. R. Calcutta or Naihati.			Shalimar F. O. R. Calcutta		
	Rate per cwt.			Rate per cwt.		
	For quanti- ties upto 400 tons.	For quanti- ties above 400 tons.	For quanti- ties upto 400 tons.	For quanti- ties above 400 tons.		
Item (1A) Red Oxide paint, stiff to ISD Specn. No. G/P-73 (oxide of Persian Gulf origin to B. S. colour No. 73)—						
(a) In 28 lb. drums . . . . .	9 11 0	10 15 0	9 11 0	10 15 0		
(b) In 56 lb. drums . . . . .	9 7 0	10 11 0	9 7 0	10 11 0		
			Jenson and Nicholson (India) Ltd., f.o.r. Calcutta or Naihati.		Shalimar Paint Colour and Varnish Co. Ltd. f.o.r. Calcutta.	
					Rate per cwt.	Rate per cwt.
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Item (3-B). Red oxide paint of artificial oxide to B. S. Colour No. 73- ISD Specn. G/P-73—						
<i>Readymixed.</i>						
(a) in 28 lb. drums . . . . .			12 10 0	12 10 0		
(b) in 56 lb. drums . . . . .			12 2 0	12 2 0		
(c) in 5 galln. drums . . . . .			2 0 0	2 0 0		
			per gallon.	per gallon.		
(d) in returnable 40/45 galln. drums			1 14 0	1 14 0		
			per gallon.	per gallon.		
(e) in non-returnable 40/45 galln. drums			1 15 0	1 15 0		
			per gallon.	per gallon.		

**SUPPLEMENTARY TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF PAINTS INVITED BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.**

*Question No. 803.*—(a), (b), (c) and (d). Yes. But 0·8 per cent. in the last line of part (d) of the question should be 0·3 per cent.

(e) This was due to a change in the wagon painting programme which greatly increased the quantities of red oxide paint needed.

(f) Yes. All tenderers were given the same opportunity to re-tender for red oxide paint required for painting wagons, and all tenderers, including Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works, reduced their quotations generally.

**TENDERS INVITED BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT, CALCUTTA CIRCLE, FOR PAINT READYMIXED LEAD WHITE.**

*Question No. 804.*—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) A comparison of the tender prices was not made because all the tenders received against the second call were cancelled before the date of receipt of tenders in the office of the purchasing officer.

(e) Yes.

(f) The first and second calls for tenders were cancelled because they did not, owing to a misunderstanding, relate to the actual type of paint required by the indenter.

(g) There was necessarily some lapse of time owing to the cancellation of tenders, but Government have no information whether there was any importation by European manufacturers of raw materials during that period. The contract was, however, actually awarded to Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works, Ltd., at the price originally quoted by them, viz., Rs. 25 per cwt.

(h) This is the only instance of the kind and the circumstances under which fresh tenders were called were exceptional and involved no question of discrimination between Indian and European firms. The second and third parts of the question do not arise.

(i) No. Government do not consider any enquiry to be necessary.

**PURCHASE OF STORES BY INVITING TENDERS BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.**

*Question No. 805.*—(a) This is done whenever the approximate annual requirements are known and when the character of the articles handled by the Department makes bulk purchase practicable.

(b) and (c). The general rule is to invite tenders, unless the value of the order to be placed is small, or sufficient reasons which have to be recorded exist for not calling for tenders.

(d) No. Fresh samples against any item may be called for and tested and the previous standard sample treated as cancelled.

(e) No. The authority to grant price preference rests with Government.

(f) Yes, whenever such particulars are available.

(g) No. The Department reserves the right to purchase by competitive tender outside the annual rate contract when a demand for an article exceeds a certain value. The conditions of a rate contract are such that the contractor is bound to supply any quantity above or below the estimated quantities notified, if called upon to do so. No question of refusal can therefore arise.

### TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PAINTS INVITED BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

*Question No. 806.*—(a) and (c). Yes.

(b) The rate quoted by the Murarka Paint and Varnish Works, Ltd., was lowest in the case of item No. 20 Gulf Red Readymixed, but not in the case of the other two items if Railway freight is taken into account.

(d) No. Specification G/P-73 was framed in 1934 and used for the first time against tenders for supply only during the year 1935-36.

(e) The quantities given are correct but complaints were received regarding the shade of the paint supplied by Murarka, who held the contract in 1933-34, and their supplies had to be rejected and repurchase made.

### TENDERS FOR RED OXIDE PAINT ACCEPTED BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

*Question No. 807.*—(a) and (b). No practical exposure tests extending over three years were made in the case of these paints, but they have been used for several years in the past by some of the Railways with satisfactory results.

(c) No. The Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway, stated in his letter No. 1176-S., dated the 9th April 1932, that Murarka's black paint was still under test and appeared to be satisfactory, but until the experimental wagons painted therewith returned to shops for periodical overhaul and had been examined, he was not prepared to recommend it. Red Oxide paint has been used for the painting of wagons on certain Indian Railways for many years past with satisfactory results and for that reason trials were not necessary.

(d) Yes. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to question No. 1075, which was laid upon the table of the House on the 6th September, 1933.

(e) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the acceptance of paints without tests. This is very often done in the case of proprietary brands of paints demanded by indenting departments and a list, such as that contemplated by the Honourable Member, would simply be a list of all the firms on the approved list of suppliers of paints to the Indian Stores Department.

### TENDERS FOR PAINTS INVITED BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT, CALCUTTA CIRCLE.

*Question No. 808.*—(a), (b) and (e). Yes.

(c) The red oxide paint was purchased from Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson at Rs. 2-10 per gallon.

(d) Samples of the paints were sent to the indenting officer for trial and the purchase was made in accordance with his selection after test. The question of loss does not arise because the cheaper paint was found by the indenter to be less suitable as a result of the practical tests carried out by him.

(f) No. Government do not consider that there has been any preferential treatment.

### ANNUAL CONTRACT PLACED BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF PAINT BLACK READYMIXED FOR UNDERFRAMES AND WAGON BODIES.

*Question No. 809.*—(a) An annual rate contract No. M.6470, dated the 14th March 1936, for the supply of paint black readymixed was placed with Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works, Ltd., Calcutta, but it did not cover the entire annual requirements of the class of paints referred to.

(b) The opinion expressed by the Superintendent, Government Test House, in regard to the carbon black content of a sample of the indigenous paint to which his letter related was as follows :

"The pigment of the sample of black paint in question therefore appears to contain about 5 per cent. of carbon black."

(c) Yes.

(d) The quantities stated of Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson's black paint No. 97½ were purchased.

(e) Owing to objection having been taken by the indentor to the brand of paint referred to in part (a) of the question, the purchasing officer, in order to meet the immediate requirements of the indentor, had to accept a superior quality of paint for which Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson's quotation was cheaper than Messrs. Murarkas' and which the indentor had previously found to be satisfactory. No question of loss therefore arises.

I may mention that a share of the indentor's requirements amounting to 1850 gallons was obtained from Messrs. Murarkas, as they subsequently agreed to reduce their quotation for their superior quality of paint from Rs. 2-13-0 to Rs. 2-10-0, the rate quoted by Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson.

(f) No. Government are fully informed in the matter and do not consider that any enquiry is called for.

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**INDIGENOUS SIGNAL RED PAINT MANUFACTURED BY THE MURARKA PAINT AND VARNISH WORKS, LIMITED.**

*Question No. 810.*—(a) No.

(b) The North Western Railway submitted a number of paints, indigenous and imported, to practical trials. The report in regard to the make of paint referred to in part (a) of this question was as follows:

*"Re. Murarka Enamel Signal Red Supr. 'A'.*—This is undoubtedly a very good paint, but it has two big disadvantages, viz., (1) the price per gallon is Rs. 16 and (2) the paint does not go as far as others. It is of a thicker consistency than Berger's and one gallon does not cover as many arms as can be done with Berger's, the proportion is, roughly, 3:2."

(c) The paint in question has been placed on contract for the years:

1934-35.

1935-36.

1936-37.

It has been reported that the paint in question develops cracks and is inferior to the best imported brands.

(d) For the reasons stated in answer to part (c) above.

(e) and (f). Yes.

(g) There is no question of any loss, as the imported paints, though more expensive as regards their initial cost, are cheaper in the long run, owing to their durability and the fact that a greater area can be covered by them bulk for bulk. The other parts of the question do not arise.

(h) Because they give better results and are more economical in the long run.

(i) No. No enquiry appears to be called for.

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*Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 931 and 932 asked by Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha on the 9th October, 1936.*

**TEST OF SAMPLES OF READYMIXED RED OXIDE PAINTS SUBMITTED BY CERTAIN FIRMS.**

*Question No. 931.*—(a) Yes.

(b) It was not possible for the Government Test House to determine the exact composition of the liquid components of these samples, but the results of certain tests indicated that it was not unlikely that they contained either stand oil or varnish.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The possible presence of stand oil or varnish in the samples in question was indicated when these were tested in the Government Test House against supplementary tender No. M.-7344.

(e) I am not prepared to lay the test reports on the table as those documents are confidential.

### DETERMINATION OF THE QUALITY OF PAINTS, VARNISHES AND ENAMELS, ETC.

*Question No. 932.*—(a) In the case of ordinary paints, yes. In the case of varnishes, enamels and bituminous solutions, no.

(b) The durability of the products referred to is determined either by laboratory exposure tests or by tests made under practical service conditions or by both methods.

*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 940 asked by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra on the 9th October, 1936.*

#### TENDERS FOR READYMIXED RED OXIDE PAINT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

(a) Yes.

(b) No. It had not been decided at the time when tender No. M.-7344 was issued whether paint in stiff form or in readymixed form would be purchased.

(c) Yes. The requirements of the North Western Railway had been already included in tender No. M.-6470 and no estimate was received from the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway for the supply of red oxide paint at the time of issue of tender No. M.-7344.

(d) and (e). The supplementary call for tenders was intended to include all requirements for red oxide paint. The quantities mentioned in part (a) of the question were in modification of the estimated quantities mentioned in the original call for tender No. M.-6470 and merely indicated certain modifications to quantities required by the particular Railway Administrations referred to. Rate contracts were entered into on the basis of the tenders received in response to the supplementary call for tenders and the requirements of paints referred to in part (d) of the question were drawn against the rate contracts, under the conditions of which there is no limitation as to the quantities to be drawn against them.

(f) No. Government are already fully informed in the matter.

*Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1103 and 1104 asked by Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha on 12th October, 1936.*

#### CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF RED OXIDE FOR RAILWAY WAGONS AND UNDERFRAMES.

*Question No. 1103.*—(a) Yes.

(b) Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson submitted their samples to the Government Test House on the 10th December, 1935.

(c) No. The decision to place a contract for ready mixed red oxide paint with Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson and Messrs. Shalimar Paint Works was made on the 4th June, 1936, while their samples were reported on the 23rd May, 1936.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The contracts were placed on the basis of tests carried out on samples submitted to and tested by the Government Test House and also the tests made at the East Indian Railway Workshops, Lillooah.

(g) No. Contracts for the supply of stiff red oxide paint for supply to the North Western Railway were placed in March, 1935, and it is to this presumably that the Honourable Member refers. The test report on Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson's sample of stiff red oxide paint was received by the Indian Stores Department during January, 1935, and that relating to Messrs. Shalimar Paint Colour and Varnish Company's sample during September, 1935.

#### TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF INSIDE BODY VARNISH APPROVED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

*Question No. 1104.*—(a) The Indian Stores Department invited tender No. H.-6040 on the 25th November, 1929, for varnish body best hard drying for inside work, but there is no Indian Stores Department specification for this particular varnish.



(b) No. Tenders were not invited because the indenting authority incorrectly ordered his requirements against an item which was on a current contract.

(c) Does not arise, because the special quality of varnish referred to was not included in contract No. H-6040 10, dated the 5th March, 1930, with Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson.

(d) A sample of varnish supplied by Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson was reported upon by the Government Test House in the terms referred to in the Honourable Member's question.

(e) Yes. I would in this connection refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 9th March, 1935, to part (b) of question No. 1019, by Pandit Nilakantha Das. The varnish in question was chosen by the indenting authority because he found it to be suitable for the particular purpose for which it was required.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes. Because Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson actually supplied what was required, as will be evident from my answer to part (e) of the question.

(h) No. If specific cases are brought to my notice, I will have them enquired into.

*Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1114 and 1115 asked by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra on the 12th October, 1936.*

#### INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT CONTRACT FOR CARBON BLACK READY MIXED PAINT.

*Question No. 1114.*—(a) Presumably, the Honourable Member is referring to contract No. M-4675/5. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The original estimate of 35,000 gallons was increased to 75,000 gallons in April, 1935, and further to 85,000 gallons in August, 1935.

(c) Yes.

(d) No fresh quotations were invited. I should, however, like to make it clear that the contractors for the supply of black paint ready mixed for wagon painting to the East Indian Railway for the year 1935-36 were Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Ltd. and Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson, both being manufacturers with works established in India. The rates were Rs. 3-1-0 and Rs. 2-13-0 per gallon in the case of Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works, Ltd., who supplied a total of 45,000 gallons,—25,000 at the original rate of Rs. 3-1-0 per gallon and 20,000 gallons at Rs. 2-13-0 per gallon. Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson supplied 98,560 gallons at Rs. 2-7-0 per gallon.

#### INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT CONTRACT FOR CARBON BLACK READY MIXED PAINT.

*Question No. 1115.*—(a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to contract No. M-4675/6. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes. The reduction in price was made by the firm on its own initiative.

(c) Such a rate contract was awarded to Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works, Ltd., and in addition a similar parallel contract was given to Messrs. Napier Paint Works, but no forecast of 3,000 cwts. was given for the North Western Railway.

(d) Yes. The Indian Stores Department called for fresh quotations for a particular demand for red oxide paint stiff. The order was placed with Messrs. Napier Paint Works, an Indian concern.

(e), (f) and (g). It is the general practice in the Indian Stores Department to reserve the option in certain classes of contracts covering a wide range of supplies (regardless of the nationality of the firms holding the contract) to invite supplementary tenders when demands in excess of certain values specified in the contracts are being handled and this option is exercised when circumstances justify such a course. The preparation of a statement of the number and details of such cases would involve the expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the result to be obtained.

(h), (i) and (j). No case of racial discrimination on the part of the Indian Stores Department has been brought to the notice of Government. If any such case is brought to the notice of Government, it will be investigated.

*Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 155 asked by Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya on the 16th October, 1936.*

PAY, HOUSE-RENT AND ELECTRICITY CHARGES, ETC., PAID TO ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Civil Assistant Surgeons.

Railway.	Scales of pay. (Old scale).		Revised scale of pay.	Other facilities.
	G. I. P. Ry. (Old).	State Railway.		
1 Great Indian Peninsula.	2	3	4	5
	Rs. 250—365 475 (Senior Assistant Surgeons).	Rs. 200—15—425 —25—450 with efficiency bar at 320.	Rs. 225 250 300 350 400	

Military Assistant Surgeons.

Railway.	Scales of pay.		Revised scale of pay.	Other facilities.
	G. I. P. Railway (Old).	State Railway.		
1 Great Indian Peninsula.	6	7	8	9
	Rs. 250—365 (with efficiency bar at 320).	Rs. 200—15—425 —25—450 with efficiency bar at 320.	Rs. 225 250 300 350 400	

*Electricity.*—Charges for electrical equipment are recovered. In Military Assistant Surgeons appointed prior to 1st April 1932, house rent is provided on the Capital Cost of electric installations provided in the quarters.

*Other privileges. Passes.*—Same as for all other staff.

*Leave.*—Those appointed prior to 1st July 1925 under the G. I. P. Ry. Company's Rules. Those appointed between 1st July 1925 and 31st March 1930 under F. R. and those appointed from 1st April 1930 under State Railway Leave Rules.

*Electricity.*—The charges for electric supply omitted and recovered and also paid on the capital cost of electrical installations provided in the quarters.

*Other privileges. Passes.*—Same as for other Railway staff.

*Leave.*—Leave on average pay under F. R. and (until under Military Rules irrespective of the date of their appointment).

Military Assistant Surgeons.

Other facilities.

Revised scale.

8

7

6

5

Old scale.

Other facilities.

5

4

3

2

1

Railway. Scales of pay applicable to staff appointed before 1-10-28 and 16-7-31. Scales of pay applicable to staff appointed between 1-10-28 and 16-7-31. Printed from 16-7-31.

East Indian	200—25—500	200—15—425	200—25—450	200—15—425	200—25—450	200—15—425	200—25—450
	with efficiency bar at Rs. 320.						

Rent free quarters or house rent in lieu.—These in permanent ser- vice prior to 1st October 1932 are entitled to free quarters or house allowance in lieu of free quarters. 4th class . . . 200 plus an allow- ance of Rs. 50. 3rd class . . . 275 2nd class . . . 350 1st class (with 20 450\* years service). Senior Assistant Surgeons with the rank of— Lt. . . . 500 plus an allowance of Rs. 75. Capt. . . . 650 Major . . . 700

Rent free quarters or house rent in lieu.—Are entitled to rent free quarters or house allowance in lieu thereof. 200 250 300 350 400

Electricity.—Rent of electrical installations and fittings and the cost of consumption of electric current is recovered.

Other privileges.—President, Fund, Gratuity and Passes.—Are treated in the same way as other subordinate staff.

Other privileges.—They being pensionable employees are not eligible for the benefits of the State Railway Provident Fund and gratuity rules. They are granted passes under the same rules as other railway staff and those holding commissioned rank are given 1st class passes.

Leave.—These appointed by the East Indian Railway Company prior to 1st January 1925 under the East Indian Railway Com- pany's Rules.

Leave.—Their leave is regulated by the provisions of Fundamen- tal Rules.

Those appointed between 1st Jan- uary 1925 and 31st August, 1928 under the Fundamental Rules and those appointed from 1st September, 1928 under the State Railway Leave Rules (vide Rule 1A(iii) of Annexure II of the State Railway Rules).

\* Applies to those who entered the service before March, 1908.

**Eastern Bengal Railway.**

**Civil Assistant Surgeons.**

Railway.	Old scales of pay.	New scales of pay.
1	200—15—425— 25—450 with efficiency bar at Rs. 320.	200—15—425— 25—450

Other facilities.

4

5

6

7

Military Assistant Surgeons.

Other facilities.

Railway.	Old scales of pay.	New scales of pay.
1	200—15—425— 25—450 with efficiency bar at Rs. 320.	200—15—425— 25—450

Rank of—	Rs.
4th class	200
3rd class	275
2nd class	350
1st class	400
1st class (over 20 years of service)	450

Senior Assst. Surgeons with

Rank of—	Rs.
Lieut.	500
Capt.	650
Major	700

*Rent free quarters or house rent in lieu.*—Military Assistant Surgeons are entitled to rent free quarters or house allowance in lieu thereof. But they are required to pay rent on electrical installations at 4 per cent. on the capital cost thereof where such installations are provided.

*Electricity.*—Electric charges are recoverable irrespective of whether they occupy rent free quarters or not.

*Electricity.*—Same as in the case of Railway Assistant Surgeons.

*Other privileges.—T. A. and passes.*—They are treated in the same way as other subordinate staff.

*Other privileges.—T. A. and Passes.*—They are treated in the same way as other subordinate staff except that in the case of Military Assistant Surgeons, holding commissioned ranks, they are treated as officers for the purpose of travelling allowance and passes.

*Leave.*—Those appointed on and after 1st September, 1928 are governed by the State Railway Leave Rules. Those appointed prior to that date, viz. 1st September, 1928 are subject to F. Rules.

*Leave.*—Leave on average pay under F. Rules and furlough under the Military Rules irrespective of the date of their appointment.

Civil Assistant Surgeons.

North Western Railway.

Railway.	Scales of pay.		Other facilities.	Old scale.	Scales of pay.		Other facilities.
	Old scale.	Revised scale.			Revised scale for those posted to railways since 1-4-31.	If appointed before 16-7-31.	
1	2	3		5	6		8
North Western	Rs. 200—15—425 —25—450 with efficiency bar at Rs. 320.	Rs. 180 200 230 260 300 360 400					

Military Assistant Surgeons.

Railway.	Scales of pay.		Other facilities.	Old scale.	Scales of pay.		Other facilities.
	Old scale.	Revised scale.			Revised scale for those posted to railways since 1-4-31.	If appointed before 16-7-31.	
1	2	3		5	6		8
North Western	Rs. 200—15—425 —25—450 with efficiency bar at Rs. 320.	Rs. 180 200 230 260 300 360 400					

*Rent free quarters or house rent in lieu.*—They are entitled to rent free quarters or house allowance in lieu thereof.

*Electricity.*—Charges for electric energy consumed are recovered, but no rent on electric, water & sanitary fittings is charged.

*Water Supply.*—This is free except in the case of Military Assistant Surgeons holding commissioned rank.

*Conservancy charges.*—Free conservancy services is permitted.  
*Free Railway Passes.* *Gratuity, Provident Fund, Bonus and Educational Allowance for children.*—*Free Passes.*—Same as other Railway Staff.  
*Gratuity, Provident Fund and Bonus.*—They are pensionable staff.  
*Educational Facilities.*—Same as other Railway staff.

*Leave.*—Leave on average pay under F. Rs. and furlough under Military rules irrespective of the date of appointment.

\* Plus an allowance of Rs. 50.  
† Applies to those who entered the service before March, 1908.  
‡ Plus an allowance of Rs. 75.

Senior Asstt. Surgeons with the rank of—  
Lieut. . . . . 500  
Capt. . . . . 650  
Major . . . . . 700

*Rent free quarters or house rent in lieu.*—Assistant Surgeons appointed before 1st August, 1928 are entitled to this concession; those appointed after that date are not so entitled.

*Electricity.*—Charges for electric energy consumed are recovered from Assistant Surgeons as from all other Railway employees, but rent on electric fittings is recoverable only from those who are in occupation of free Railway quarters.

*Water Supply.*—Free water service is permitted.

*Conservancy charges.*—Free conservancy service is permitted.  
*Free Railway Passes.* *Gratuity, Provident Fund, Bonus and Educational Allowance for children.*—As admissible to other Railway employees.

*Leave.*—Staff appointed prior to 23rd August, 1927 are subject to F. Rs. and those appointed after that date are governed by the State Railway Leave Rules.

*Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 265 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 16th October, 1936.*

**WIRELESS WHEATSTONE SYSTEM FOR WORKING BETWEEN RANGOON AND MADRAS.**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) It lasted for about seven years and was abolished with effect from the 15th September, 1934.
- (ii) Because it was found possible owing to new inventions to replace it by a more economical and efficient system.
- (iii) Yes, the Baudot-Verdan system.
- (iv) The additional expenditure involved in adopting the Wireless Wheatstone system was approximately, initial Rs. 50,000, recurring Rs. 30,000 per annum taken on the average over the period during which it was worked.
- (c) (i) The new system was brought into force by modifying existing apparatus and the work was carried out by existing staff without additional expenditure.
- (ii) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The last part does not arise.
- (iii) No loss was incurred. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b) (ii) of the question.
- (iv) The experiments were sanctioned by Government.
- (d) The conditions were the same as those given in the attached copy of the Director-General's special Circular No. 24/18/3, dated the 19th September, 1934, except that in the case of the station service telegraphists it was further ordered that the selection of such men would carry with it temporary transfer to the general service from the date of posting to Calcutta for training and that they would revert to their original scale of service if they ceased to be employed in the Wireless Branch. It was further stated that the special course of training as Wheatstone operators would not qualify for ordinary service as Wireless operators.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.
- (g) With the conversion of the experimental scheme into a permanent measure the pay of the establishment automatically became chargeable to the Budget head "Pay of permanent establishment". There was no special decision of Government on the point nor was any such decision called for.
- (h) Because they were no longer required for the special work for which they had been appointed temporarily as General service telegraphists.
- (i) There was no separate cadre of Wireless Wheatstone operators. Certain telegraphists were specially trained to work on the system and on the abandonment of that system, they reverted to their substantive appointments.
- (j) Government are unable to trace any such announcement.
- (k), (l) and (m). No.

**POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

**(TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING)**

**(TELEGRAPH TRAFFIC)**

*(Instructions relating to Department Offices)*

*(Wireless Branch)*

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SPECIAL CIRCULAR NO.  $\frac{24}{18}$ .

Friday, 19th September 1934.

*Conditions governing the selection, training, employment and pay of Telegraphists from Traffic Branch transferred to the Wireless Branch.*

In future, vacancies for Civil Operators occurring in the Wireless Branch will be filled by volunteers from General Service Telegraphists in the Traffic Branch, who will be trained at the Posts and Telegraphs Wireless Centre, Karachi.

2. The following conditions which have been approved by the Governor General in Council will in future govern selection for training at the Posts and Telegraphs Wireless Centre, Karachi.

- (a) *Maximum Age*.—At the time of attachment to the Wireless Centre for training, age must not exceed 25 years.
- (b) *Minimum Service*.—At the time of attachment for training, men must have at least 3 years' service as Telegraphists.
- (c) *Minimum Speed of Operating*.—Telegraphists must be able to send and receive at a minimum speed of 20 words per minute.
- (d) *Telegraphists before Selection* must have a clean record in their character Rolls and must be in the General Scale of Service.
- (e) *Telegraphists before being attached to Karachi for training* will be required to signify in writing their willingness (i) to proceed on Field Service within India or Burma as Wireless Operators, if called upon to do so, during any period of mobilisation or emergency, *vide note on page 113 on page 59* of Director-General's (Telegraph Engineering) Special Circular, No. 55, dated the 18th March 1922, and (ii) to transfer to the Wireless Branch, as Civil Operators, at the end of the period of training, which will not exceed six months, provided they are recommended for transfer.
- (f) *Telegraphists Attached to the Wireless Branch* for training will retain their lien on their former appointments during the period of such training but will be required to relinquish all claims to those appointments before being employed permanently in the Wireless Branch.
- (i) *Telegraphists at the end of the period of Wireless training* who are not recommended for transfer will revert to the Traffic Branch.
- (g) *Seniority*.—Entrants into the Wireless Branch, through the Wireless centre at Karachi, will enter at the bottom of the Wireless Branch cadre, seniority of each entrant in a batch being governed by position in Examination, irrespective of seniority in the Traffic Branch.

3. *Pay and allowances*.—The pay and allowances including Travelling Allowance of Civil Telegraphists undergoing a course of wireless training in the Centre at Karachi, will, in future with the approval of the Governor General in Council, be regulated in the manner indicated below :

- (a) Civil Telegraphists selected for such training in the Wireless Centre at Karachi will be granted the usual joining time before moving from the Station at which employed at the time, to Karachi.
- (b) The pay and allowances granted while under training will be at the rate drawn by them (prior to their training) at the offices from which they were sent for such training, *i.e.*, local and house rent allowances as were drawn by them in their former stations. In addition, house rent allowance may be drawn at the rates admissible to unmarried Telegraphists at Karachi for a period not exceeding three months. Compensatory and house-rent allowance will however be governed by supplementary Rule 6 and Note 2 of Rule 7 respectively. Their last Pay Certificate should be forwarded by those Offices to the Divisional Engineer, Wireless, Experimental Division, Karachi, on whose rolls the officials will be borne and paid from the date they report to him at Karachi. The charge on account of their pay and allowances for the period of such training will be debited to the Wireless Branch.
- (c) After training if in occupation of free quarters at the stations from which they may be sent to Karachi for training will, on relinquishing such quarters, be granted house rent allowance in lieu thereof at rates admissible at their old stations.
- (d) After training at Karachi, Civil Telegraphists will be posted to any of the wireless stations for a practical course their last pay certificates will be granted by the Divisional Engineer, Wireless Experimental Division, Karachi. No joining time will be admissible on such journeys.
- (e) While undergoing their practical training at wireless stations such civil Telegraphist will receive the wireless allowance only, Rs. 14-0 per diem; and on successful completion thereof, provided he is recommended and permanently transferred for employment in the Wireless Branch, he will be styled "Civil Operator" and will be granted in addition the Lower Proficiency

allowance of annas fifteen diem in the first instance. Officials disqualified or found unfit for service in the Wireless Branch after their course of training will be returned to Traffic side of the Department.

- (f) No daily allowance will be granted to a Telegraphist undergoing wireless training. Travelling allowance will be granted to the Civil Telegraphists concerned only from their old stations to Karachi as on tour, i.e., at the rate of  $1\frac{2}{5}$ ths fare of the class of accommodation to which they are entitled; no charge whatever on this account will be admitted for their families. When posted from the Training School at Karachi to a Wireless Station for their practical course, they will draw similarly for such journeys the Travelling Allowance at the same rates, and under the same conditions.
- (g) Travelling Allowance for their families if any, will be granted at the ordinary rates indicated in Rule 116 of the Supplementary Rules only from their old stations to the Wireless stations at which the Civil Operators may finally be posted on completion of their practical course of training. The operator should also be allowed  $1\frac{2}{5}$ ths fare of his class from his old station to the new permanent station by the shortest route.

H. A. SAMS,

*Offg. Director General of Posts and Telegraphs.*

*Information promised in reply to question No. 222 asked by Mr. Sri Prakasa on the 25th January, 1937.*

**RESERVATION FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF THE DUFFERIN BRIDGE NEAR THE KASHI RAILWAY STATION FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.**

- (a) 28 trains each way daily.
- (b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (a) of starred question No. 237 in the Legislative Assembly on the 9th September 1936.
- (c) No.

*Information promised in reply to parts (c), (d) and (f) of Mr. Sham Lal's starred question No. 226, asked on the 25th January, 1937.*

**RELEASE OF MR. HIRA LAL DAS GUPTA, MR. MANORANJAN DHAR AND MR. HUNAJORANJAN DHAR, DETENUS IN THE PUNJAB.**

- (c) Two petitions for leave in order to see his father were received from the detenu; these were rejected.
- (d) No.
- (f) The medical officer's report is that he is suffering from hæmorrhoids but otherwise there is nothing abnormal in his constitution.

*Information promised in reply to part (d) of starred question No. 265 asked by Mr. Sri Prakasa on the 26th January 1937.*

**FRAMING OF TIME TABLES FOR THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

- (d) The Agent, East Indian Railway, states that the alterations in the time table made in December were intended to cater for the heavier traffic moving generally during this time of the year and the exceptionally heavy traffic to and from the Bengal and North Western Railway via Mokameh Ghat.



MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE IN THE BUDGET OPEN TO DISCUSSION BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The following Message has been received from His Excellency the Governor General:

*"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 67-A as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, and brought into force by paragraph 4 of the Government of India (Commencement and Transitory Provisions) (No. 2) Order, 1936, I hereby direct that the heads of expenditure specified in that sub-section, other than those specified in clause (v) thereof, shall be open to discussion by the Legislative Assembly when the budget for the year 1937-38 is under consideration.*

(Sd.) LINLITHGOW,  
Governor General."

2nd February, 1937.

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STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Leader of the House): Sir, with your permission I will make the usual statement of business. On Monday next leave will be asked to introduce a Bill to amend the Naval Armament Act. The next item of Government business will be the consideration of the draft amendments to the Indian Legislative Rules, as reported by the Committee. Motions will then be made to take into consideration and pass the following Bills, namely:

1. The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill,
2. The Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill,
3. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment)—*Insertion of section 44A*—Bill, as reported by the Select Committee for the second time,
4. The Arbitration (Protocol and Convention) Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, and
5. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment)—*Amendment of section 60*—Bill, as reported by the Select Committee.

On Tuesday, any unfinished business left over from Monday's list will be taken up first. Thereafter, the Resolution relating to the Road Fund will be discussed. If time permits a motion will then be made to refer to a Select Committee the Manceuvres Field Firing and Artillery Practice Bill.

On Wednesday, the first item of business will be the motion for the election of Members to the Standing Emigration Committee. Further business on Wednesday will depend on the progress of business set out for Monday and Tuesday.

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

I may add, Sir, that should new Bills be ready for introduction the necessary motions for leave to introduce them will also be made on these days.

Thursday and Friday are allotted for non-official business.

(Mr. President then called out the names of the Honourable Members in whose names the Resolutions stood, but none of them was present in the House.)

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 8th February, 1937.