

10th September 1937

**THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

(Official Report)

Volume V, 1937

(2nd September to 17th September, 1937)

**SIXTH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1937**



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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, 10th September, 1937.

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

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. Hugh Dow, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Commerce Secretary).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

†429*.

SHIFTING CHARGES OF A TELEPHONE FROM ONE HOUSE TO ANOTHER.

430. *Mr. Sri Prakasa : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour please state if it is a fact that the charge for shifting a telephone from one house to another even when the subscribers and the numbers remain the same, is Rs. 20 as in the case of new subscribers ?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of abolishing or reducing this charge in case of *bona fide* change of premises by individuals or business firms after a telephone has been with them for a minimum number of years in a particular house and is likely to continue for a long time in the new house to which they are shifting ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. The charge is Rs. 10 only.

(b) No. This charge, which is much lower than the charges made by other administrations for similar purposes, is levied to cover the incidental expenses connected with the removal of the telephone connection from one place to another, and is not susceptible of any reduction.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Is it not a fact that in Cawnpore the charge is Rs. 20 ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : I am informed that it is not.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : I will give detailed information.

†This question was not asked by the questioner.

(1449)

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH.

431. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande : (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands state why and at whose initiative a Central Advisory Board of Health has been inaugurated recently ?

(b) What are its functions and public utility ?

(c) How many paid officials are attached to this Board ?

(d) Will the member receive travelling and halting allowances, if so at what rate ?

(e) What will be the additional cost to the tax payer per annum of this Board ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) and (a). This information is given in the Education, Health and Lands Department Resolution No. F. 52-79/36-H., dated the 13th February, 1937, a copy of which is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Three clerks and two peons.

(d) A statement explaining the position is laid on the table.

(e) About Rs. 10,000 per annum from Central Revenues.

Statement.

The travelling allowance of Official Members is met from the source from which their salary is met at the rates admissible to them under the rules. Non-Official Members are entitled to mileage allowance (i.e., travelling allowance excluding daily allowance) at the rates admissible to Government servants of the first grade under the Supplementary Rules for a journey on tour, and to daily allowance at the rate of Rs. 15 a day for the days of the meeting subject to the condition that the meeting is held elsewhere than in the station where they are resident at the time. Members of the Central Legislature, who are members of the Board in their capacity as Members of the Legislature, are entitled to such rates of travelling and daily allowances as would be admissible to them for attending meetings of the Legislature. Such Members are not, however, entitled to any allowance for attending meetings of the Board or its Committees at Simla or New Delhi during the Session of the Legislature.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

RESOLUTION.

HEALTH.

New Delhi, the 13th February, 1937.

Establishment of a Central Advisory Board of Health.

No. 52-79/36-H.—The Government of India have been considering for some time past how best to ensure inter-provincial co-operation in the field of Public Health. The idea is not new. The Government of India in the days before Public Health became a Provincial Transferred subject occasionally convened Conferences of public health and medical experts. In 1921 they set up a Central Health Board composed of experts to advise the Central and Provincial Governments on technical matters which these Governments might refer to it. No provision was made for consultation between those responsible for medical and sanitary policy in the Government of India and in local Governments and the Board after one meeting came to an end, owing to financial stringency, in 1923.

The need for periodical consultation in the framing of common policies and for the interchange of information, the result of varying experience, is greater to-day than ever before. Neither the Government of India nor the Provincial Governments can adequately fulfil their responsibilities in the domain of Public Health without taking counsel with one another from time to time; and it falls to the Government of India to provide suitable machinery for such consultation. Their experience of its value in matters relating to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Education encourages them to hope that an advisory Public Health organisation such as is described below and whose establishment was announced by His Excellency the Viceroy in his address of September 21st, 1936, to the Indian Legislature, will evoke a like measure of Provincial and State co-operation and in due course provide Federal India with a valuable forum for the discussion and formulation of Public Health policy.

2. The functions of the Central Advisory Board of Health will be :

- (a) To act as a Central Information Bureau on all public health matters affecting India and as a clearing house for such information ;
- (b) To advise on any matters referred to it by the Central or by Provincial Governments ; and
- (c) To make suggestions to Government on any matters affecting public health in India to which the Board considers that Government's attention should be drawn.

The definition of the functions of the Board has been deliberately left broad to give the Board every opportunity of developing on lines dictated by its experience. Its recommendations will be entirely advisory.

3. The Board will consist of the following :

Chairman.

- (a) The Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

Members.

- (b) Representatives of the Government of India not exceeding three.
- (c) A representative of each local Government who shall either be the Minister in charge of Public Health (or his deputy) or the Director of Public Health (or his deputy).
- (d) One member elected by the Council of State.
- (e) Two members elected by the Legislative Assembly.
- (f) A representative of the Railway in India.
- (g) *Ex-officio* Secretary and member : the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.

In addition to provide for the representation of Indian States and Centrally Administered areas the Governor General in Council will have power to nominate such persons not exceeding five as he may think fit.

4. Representatives of the Legislature will cease to be members of the Board on ceasing to be members of the Council of State or the Legislative Assembly as the case may be. Official members of the Board will continue until they are replaced by others. The tenure of non-official members will be three years.

5. The Government of India hope to complete the necessary arrangements shortly to enable the Board to hold its inaugural meeting in June, 1937, which will be opened by His Excellency the Viceroy.

ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to all local Governments and Administrations and all Departments of the Government of India.

ORDERED also that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information.

M. S. A. HYDARI,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande : May I know, Sir, if the Government of India have advised the provinces to establish Provincial Boards in the provinces as well ?

Sr. Girja Shankar Bajpai : It is unnecessary for the Government of India to advise Local Governments to establish these Boards ; if Local Governments choose to do so, they will do so.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande : There are so many Central Boards here, and I should like to know what are the departments which this Central Board will control ?

Sr. Girja Shankar Bajpai : As its purpose states, Public Health.

Seth Govind Das : Did the Standing Finance Committee approve of this scheme ?

Sr. Girja Shankar Bajpai : Not only has the Standing Finance Committee approved of the proposal, but the House has voted the funds.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh : Was there any meeting of this Board ever held ?

Sr. Girja Shankar Bajpai : Yes, there was a meeting of this Board held on the 13th.....

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh : What are the decisions arrived at ?

Sr. Girja Shankar Bajpai : That does not arise out of this question.

REMOVAL OF DISABILITIES AND SECURING OF THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP TO INDIANS IN THE COLONIES.

432. ***Mr. G. V. Deshmukh :** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state what steps the Government of India propose to take to implement the Resolution passed at the Imperial Conference of 1921 to remove the disabilities and secure the rights of citizenships to Indians domiciled in the colonies ?

Sr. Girja Shankar Bajpai : As the Honourable Member is probably aware, the Government of India deputed Mr. Sastri in 1922 to visit the Dominions of Australia, New Zealand and Canada in order to persuade the Governments of those Dominions to implement the Resolution referred to by him. An account of the disabilities to which Indians resident in these Dominions were subject at the time of Mr. Sastri's visit will be found in the report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. As a result of Mr. Sastri's visit and subsequent representations, practically all the disabilities to which Indians in Australia and New Zealand were subject have been removed. Indians resident in British Columbia have not yet been admitted to the Dominion or Provincial franchise ; representations on this subject have only recently been made again. The representatives of South Africa expressed their inability to accept the 1921 Resolution. The position of Indians in that Dominion has formed the subject of interpellation or discussion in this House from time to time. For a broad statement of the position in that Dominion and the Colonies generally I would refer the Honourable Member to my statement on the cut motion discussed in this House on the 8th March, 1937, and to my reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 359 on the 7th of this month.

Mr. G. V. Deshmukh : Have there been no cases where persuasions or negotiations of the Honourable Mr. Sastri have failed either wholly or partly ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Is my Honourable friend concerned to record the failures of Mr. Sastri or the success of the Government ?

Mr. G. V. Deshmukh : Failures of the Government of India ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The information I have given has been the result of representations including those made by Mr. Sastri.

Mr. G. V. Deshmukh : And failures of Mr. Sastri's representations ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : In the Dominions which Mr. Sastri visited, there is only one case of failure and that is British Columbia.

Mr. G. V. Deshmukh : In cases of failures either of persuasions or negotiations what is the remedy left to the Government of India ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : That does not arise out of this.

Mr. G. V. Deshmukh : Do Government propose to introduce and pass Reciprocity Bills as well as a Bill to put an embargo on exports from such colonies in which persuasions or negotiations either by Mr. Sastri or by the Government of India have failed ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As my Honourable friend is aware, a Bill with regard to reciprocity either has been introduced or is about to be introduced, and the attitude of the Government in regard to that Bill will be made known to the House in due course.

Mr. G. V. Deshmukh : What about the other suggestion made by me, to put an embargo on exports from such colonies where negotiations or persuasions have failed ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Which particular colony is the Honourable Member referring to ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I know if the Government of India propose to publish an annual report on the position of Indians overseas ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : My Honourable friend is aware that for those colonies where the Government of India maintain Agents, reports are published annually with regard to those colonies, and I will consider the suggestion for a general review of the position of Indians in the colonies of the Empire as a whole.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Apart from South Africa, may I know what are the Dominions in the British Commonwealth which deny the political franchise to Indians resident or domiciled therein ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : South Africa, and one province of the Dominions, namely, British Columbia.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether, apart from the franchise, to the knowledge of the Government of India, there are any other disabilities cast on Indians as such, in the possessions within the British Commonwealth ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : It is a very large question, but I think I did make a general reference to the matter when the discussion on the cut motion took place on the 8th March.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : On the question of reciprocity, apart from the non-official Bill which has not yet been introduced, may I know whether Government themselves propose to introduce any legislative or administrative measure on the lines of reciprocity, with a view to vindicate the rights of Indians settled in the Dominions which do not give them fair and equitable treatment ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I think, Sir, I have answered that question over and over again.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will my friend consider the question of addressing His Majesty's Government with a view to amending the British Nationalities and Status of Aliens Act, so as to put India on the same footing as the Dominions with regard to conferring the status of British citizenship on people who come to India ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As far as I am aware, under the new Government of India Act it will be possible for the Government of India in regard to the nationals of the Dominions to impose any disabilities that they like.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Do Government propose to take any such action, with respect to citizens of South Africa and of British Columbia ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As regards the province of British Columbia, it would be rather premature to come to any such decision, because, as I said in the body of this reply, we have only recently made representations again to the Dominion of Canada, and I am not by any means hopeless of achieving success there. As regards South Africa, our attitude has already been explained to the Honourable Member.

INDIGENOUS BANKERS AND THEIR RELATION WITH THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

433. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government are aware that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have addressed the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank in India on the subject of indigenous bankers and their relation with the Reserve Bank ;
- (b) whether the Reserve Bank was asked to devise a scheme in which these indigenous bankers could be brought into direct relations with it ;
- (c) whether Government, in spite of the difficulties now put forward by the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank, propose to accept the opinion of the Federation and devise a scheme to link the indigenous bankers and the Reserve Bank, with a view to creating greater facilities in the economy of rural finance ;
- (d) whether Government have examined the proposals put up by the Committee of the Federation for this purpose and what their conclusion thereon are ; and

- (e) whether Government propose to take steps to see that the Reserve Bank carries out the recommendations of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee and also the provision in the Reserve Bank Act, and thereby help rural finance ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) to (e). I must, as on previous occasions, invite the Honourable Member's attention to clause (a), sub-section (1), of section 55 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The report which the Reserve Bank is statutorily required to make to the Governor General in Council, within the period specified, has not yet been received, and until the report is submitted Government do not propose to take into consideration the questions arising out of this subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have Government considered the particular recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India that the indigenous bankers cannot be brought into the system, until they accept what is considered to be the main function of banking, namely, the taking of deposit ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I still adhere to the last words of my answer, namely, " Until the report is submitted Government do not propose to take into consideration the questions arising out of this subject ".

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I take it that the Government will consider the question of not insisting on indigenous bankers to come into line with this main modern banking principle, in view of the fact that they form a very large part of rural banking, when they are considering the report ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I rather admire the Honourable Member's ingenuity in asking the same question in a variety of ways. He will excuse me if my ingenuity is not equal to doing more than repeating my answer in the same way. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti : This is also ingenious,—refusing to answer !

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROVINCES.

434. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

- (a) the latest figures of railway receipts for this year so far ;
- (b) whether Government have made any calculations on the basis of the Neimeyer Report in respect of contributions to the provinces, after the Government of India are sure of an income of 13 crores taking income-tax receipts and the railway contributions ;
- (c) whether Government propose to make any contributions this year to the provinces ; and
- (d) whether Government have considered or propose to consider the disastrous effect of accepting the Wedgwood Committee's recommendations that railways should make no contributions to general revenues on the prospects of Provincial Autonomy ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The approximate gross earnings from 1st April to 31st August, 1937, are 38.17 crores for State-owned lines.

(b) and (c). It is too early as yet to form a reliable estimate of the results for the full year and until such an estimate is made proposals for distribution to the Provinces cannot be formulated.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the pronouncement made on behalf of Government by my Honourable colleague, the Member for Commerce and Railways, in the course of his speech in this House on the 27th August during the debate on the Report of the Railway Enquiry Committee.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I take it, with reference to the answer to part (d) of the question, that the Niemeyer award will stand for the first five years under the Government of India Act, that is, of provincial autonomy, in spite of the recommendation of the Wedgwood Committee's report ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Niemeyer award has been enshrined, if that is the right word, in an Order-in-Council, and it cannot be altered except by the issue of another Order-in-Council. And I do not think that there is any intention of doing that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know—I am rather nervous about it—that the Wedgwood Committee's report will not get enshrined in a further Order-in-Council ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No.

Seth Govind Das : What were the railway receipts for the corresponding period of last year ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I do not know. You had better ask the Honourable the Commerce Member but my impression is that the receipts are something like 2½ crores better this year than at the corresponding period of last year.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : 2 crores and 62 lakhs better than for the corresponding period of last year.

LOSS TO THE REVENUES OF THE FEDERATION ON THE SETTLEMENT OF CUSTOMS QUESTIONS WITH INDIAN STATES.

435. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of India have made a calculation, at least on a rough basis, of the loss to the revenues of the Federation on the settlement of the outstanding questions on customs with the Indian States who may join the Federation, and if so, what the amount is ;
- (b) whether the Government of India propose to have one customs line throughout the whole of the Federation or whether they propose to allow other customs frontiers and other duties besides federal, and if so, why ; and
- (c) whether Government will consult the Assembly on this question, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : As a special case I will answer the question today.

(a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to give any information on this subject.

(c) I am unable to make any statement on this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know why the Honourable the Law Member, and not the Finance Member, answered the question? The question was, "Whether the Government of India have made a calculation at least on a rough basis, of the loss to the revenues of the Federation on the settlement of the outstanding questions on Customs with the Indian States who may join the Federation". Both these subjects, the revenues of India and Customs, are subjects in the special charge of the Honourable the Finance Member. I should like to know why the Honourable the Finance Member has not answered the question.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : My Honourable friend the Leader of the House is a greater authority than I am on the subject of Federation.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is not my Honourable friend the Finance Member a greater authority on finance than the Honourable the Law Member?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That is the arrangement.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : But it affects us this way. My allegation in this connection is that the Honourable the Finance Member has been completely sent out and his voice is not heard, (Interruption)..... that is, even the Honourable the Finance Member's voice. I am, therefore, asking the Honourable the Finance Member to get up tell us as a man of honour..... (Laughter.)..... I am not saying that he is not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member must not use that language. It contains a sort of implication.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : No implication, I assure you. I take him to be a man of honour, and therefore, I want his opinion. I am only repeating a truism. I am asking him whether he is being consulted, and what his judgment is, on the effect of these negotiations on the revenues of the Federation—whether he is at all in the picture.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : On the question whether I am being consulted on the financial issues arising out of the Federation, certainly, but beyond that I cannot add to the answer given by the Honourable the Law Member.

Seth Govind Das : Are the finances of the Federation going to be controlled by the Leader of the House?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That does not arise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know what is the present attitude of British India as such—I am not talking of the future, of the Federation—on the resulting loss of making over under customs crores of rupees, as compensation to these maritime States, in order to get them into the Federation?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think that comes under what the Opposition has described as the conspiracy of silence.

BROADCASTING STATIONS, TRAINING OF INDIANS IN BROADCASTING AND MANUFACTURE OF RADIO SETS IN INDIA, ETC.

436. *Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour be pleased to state :

- (a) the progress made in the development and building of the Broadcasting Stations throughout the country up to date ;
- (b) the approximate date when the scheme of short wave station will be complete ;
- (c) the number of Europeans and Indians employed in the higher ranks of the services under broadcasting, and whether the Europeans employed are training Indians to take their places ;
- (d) whether any attempt is being made for manufacturing in India receiving sets and if so the results thereof ; and
- (e) whether Government are considering or propose to consider allowing the use of broadcasting by leaders of political parties on the lines followed by the British Broadcasting Corporation, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House. In this connection I should like to correct a misstatement which I made a few days ago. In answer to a supplementary question by Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury speaking from memory, I said that the short wave station at Calcutta would be opening towards the end of this year. I wish to correct that statement by saying that it will open in or about June, 1938.

(c) There are only four posts in the All-India Radio held by Europeans. These are the posts of Controller, the Chief Engineer, the Station Director, Calcutta, and the recently created post of News Editor. All other posts are held by Indians. Indian officers serving in the All-India Radio are receiving training in the ordinary course of of their duties.

(d) I have no definite information. But the All-India Radio are doing their best to help manufacturers by publishing specifications of receiving sets required in India for " all-India " and " local " purposes. Specifications for receivers of a special type for use in villages were published in the *Indian Listener* of the 7th June, 1937, and the requirements in respect of other types of receivers have been explained in the *Listener* of the 22nd July, 1937. The Research Department of the All-India Radio are prepared to give any special advice which may be requested by any particular manufacturer.

(e) No, Sir.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Statement showing the Progress made in the establishment of the the New Broadcasting Stations and the Approximate dates from which they are likely to star operation.

Name of the Station.	Progress made in the Building of the Station.	Approximate date from which the Station is likely to start operation.
<i>Madras</i> , 10 K. W. S. W. 2 K. W. M. W.	A site for the transmitter has been obtained from the Government of Madras and steps have been taken for the construction of the transmitter building. A hired building for the studio has also been selected.	April 1938.
<i>Lahore</i> , 5 K. W. M. W.	A site has been purchased for the transmitter and the building is under construction. A studio has also been hired.	November 1937. *
<i>Dacca</i> , 5 K. W. M. W. . .	Negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of a site for the transmitter.	
<i>Trichinopoly</i> , 5 K. W. M. W.	A site has been provisionally selected for the transmitter.	Latter part of 1938.
<i>Lucknow</i> , 5 W. M. W. . .	A site for the transmitter has been purchased and sanction has been accorded for the construction of the building.	January 1938.
<i>Bombay</i> , 10 K. W. S. W.	The existing transmitter building is being extended to house the new S. W. transmitter.	February 1938.
<i>Calcutta</i> , 10 K. W. S. W.	The existing transmitter building is being extended to house the new S. W. transmitter.	June 1938.
<i>Delhi</i> , 10 K. W. S. W. 5 K. W. S. W.	The existing transmitter building is being extended to house the new S. W. transmitter.	December 1937.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to the answer to part (c) of the question, may I know whether these Indians who are being trained in the course of their duties are being specifically trained to take the places of those Europeans as and when such vacancies arise ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : That is the policy of the Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to the Honourable Member's answer to part (d) of the question, may I know whether, apart from publishing specifications, Government are taking any steps to encourage the manufacture in India of receiving sets ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : No. They have taken no steps other than publishing the specifications of the sets that are suitable for Indian conditions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether, in view of the need, which I hope my Honourable friend recognises, for spreading the habit of listening in in India, the Government will consider, from the

point of view of cheapness apart from others, a proposal to make, not on a commercial scale necessarily, but as a guide to private manufacturers, receiving sets in this country ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : I am afraid that small scale manufacture would be no guide to the trade. The cheapness of receiving sets depends entirely on the possibilities of mass manufacture.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will Government explore the possibilities of mass manufacture in India either by themselves or in collaboration with private individuals ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : Preliminary steps in that direction have been taken by the All-India Radio. The Research Department have been investigating the type of set that is suitable for Indian conditions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to the answer to part (e) of the question, namely, whether Government are considering or propose to consider allowing the use of broadcasting by leaders of political parties on the lines followed by the B. B. C., may I know whether Government will consider this question, not from the point of view of a foreign Government but from the point of view of a Government which is bound to be responsible sooner or later,—whether they will consider this question, in view of the success of the same under the auspices of the British Broadcasting Corporation ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : I have no doubt that as mentioned in the speech of the Honourable Mr. Clow on the 25th September, 1935, the matter will in due course be the subject of reconsideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will Government consult the leaders of political parties inside and outside this House on this question ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : From the Honourable Member's speeches in the past and from the questions that he has now put Government are already seized of the views of the leaders he mentions.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : May I ask the Honourable Member whether the employment of young men in the provinces will be taken into consideration when these broadcasting stations are established ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : I think I explained a few days ago that our recruitment was made for the most part through the Public Service Commission. Young men, both employed and unemployed, may make applications when vacancies are notified.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it that when so many provinces are obliged to go without any broadcasting station and several linguistic areas are starved of their broadcasting needs, broadcasting stations are being constructed for the Urdu speaking and Bengali speaking areas ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : Government are not prepared to admit that the scheme that they have formulated will fail to serve any particular area.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Do the Government propose to construct in the near future at least one broadcasting centre for every province and one at least for a major linguistic area ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : As at present advised, Government believe that the scheme that they have formulated will serve the whole of India without the necessity of building a station in each individual province.

RECRUITMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

437. *Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state :

- (a) the method of recruitment for scientific appointments under the Government of India ;
- (b) the reasons why sometimes these posts are not advertised at all in India ; for instance the Secretaryship of the Jute Committee ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Galloway was recently appointed Mycologist at the new Pusa Institute but he resigned his post, which has been filled by Dr. Paul, on a third of his salary ; and
- (d) the reasons why, when competent Indians are available who are willing to accept lower salaries, non-Indians are imported for these appointments ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) and (b). Recruitment for scientific posts under the control of the Department of Education, Health and Lands is ordinarily made by advertisement through the Federal Public Service Commission in India only. In special cases in which it appears that suitably qualified candidates may not be available in India, the posts are advertised simultaneously in India and abroad. The post of Secretary to the Indian Central Jute Committee referred to by the Honourable Member is not primarily a scientific post.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and that to the second part in the negative. Dr. Paul was appointed to fill the post of Imperial Economic Botanist and not that of Imperial Mycologist from which Mr. Galloway resigned.

(d) Competent Indians are appointed when available.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know whether it is a fact that the post of Secretary of the Jute Committee was advertised only abroad, and not in India ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The post of Secretary to the Jute Committee was not advertised at all. We filled it from the Indian Agricultural Service, because the duties belonging or appertaining to the post are primarily administrative.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I take it therefore that no new appointment was made, on account of the creation of this appointment of Secretary of the Jute Committee ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Except to this extent that the appointment itself was new and we took somebody from the Indian Agricultural Service to fill it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Was he an Indian or an European ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : This particular officer is an European.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Was he considered the most competent man for this job ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : We wanted somebody who had administrative experience as also experience of some area where jute is cultivated and he happened to be the only officer available with these qualifications.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Was there no Indian officer available ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Not with these qualifications.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to the advertisement abroad, does it mean England or other countries also ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : What happens is that when we wish to recruit somebody from abroad, we invite the High Commissioner to advertise in England, or for the matter of that, even to invite applications from candidates on the continent of Europe.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to clause (d) of the question, may I know whether the policy of the Government is to appoint competent Indians whenever they are available, and to appoint non-Indians, only when there is no competent Indian available ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : That is undoubtedly the policy and I might inform my Honourable friend that only recently, an appointment similar to that of Secretary of the Jute Committee, namely, that of Secretary to the Indian Central Cotton Committee, was filled by an Indian.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

438. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande :** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if the Fiji Government have amended the electoral regulations for 1937, depriving the Indian Justices of Peace of their rights in connection with getting themselves registered as voters for the coming elections ?

(b) Have the Government of India made any protest against this discrimination ?

(c) Is there a Bill before the South African Parliament introduced by the Minister of Lands, who is to be armed with " Undefined and Indefinite " powers to appropriate lands or farms that he considers non-beneficially occupied and non-productive of sufficient income to enable the Owners or Occupants of lands to adopt a reasonable standard of living, subject to three months notice ?

(d) Have Government seen this Bill ?

(e) Is the Indian community agitating against it ?

(f) Has the Honourable the Agent taken any action on it ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Bill omits the definitions of " Beneficial Occupation " and " Reasonable standard of living " ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (g). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by Mr. Hydari on the 30th August, 1937, to Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena's question No. 190.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Has this Bill been dropped now ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : This Bill has been passed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Has the Government been watching the working of the Act ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The Minister has given an assurance that if an occasion arises to apply it to an Indian the Agent, or some representative Indian Association like the South African Indian Congress, will be consulted first.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Are these Justice of Peace in Fiji of the same variety as honorary magistrates in India ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I hope my Honourable friend will curb his impatience till the proper question is reached.

BAR FOR SERVICE IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS IN MALAYA.

439. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande :** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if a decree has recently been passed by the Malaya Government to the effect that there will be no longer any colour bar to men in the Malaya Government Technical Services, such as Public Works Department, Posts and Telegraphs, Customs, Agriculture, Forest, Medicine, Law, etc. ?

(b) Does any bar still exist for administrative Posts and for Railways ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) No decree has been passed but a statement of the nature referred to by the Honourable Member was made by the Governor of the Straits Settlements in the Straits Settlements Legislative Council in June last.

(b) There is no bar against the admission of Indians into railway services but they are still excluded from the Malay Administrative Service in the Federated Malay States, a Service which is open only to members of the British and Malay races.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether people of Malayan races are eligible for the Indian Civil Service ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As far as I know, according to recent orders, No.

INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

440. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande :** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if six thousand Indians of British Guiana entitled to free and half free passages up to Calcutta have submitted a petition to the Secretary of State for Colonies for repatriation to India at the cost of Government ?

(b) Have these Indians fulfilled their part of the contract ?

(c) Are they no longer required there ?

(d) Did they apply for free land and money for cultivation ? If so, with what result ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) to (d). Enquiries have been made and the information will be laid upon the table of the House as soon as possible.

APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENT TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN BURMA.

441. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande :** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands, inform the House, if it is the intention of Government to appoint an Agent in Burma to look after the interests of the Indian community and Indian labourers settled in Burma ?

(b) Have any appointments been made so far ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) and (b). Government are considering this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know when the Government hope to come to a conclusion, in view of the fact that Indians have vital interests in Burma, and there is urgent need for an Agent there ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As early as possible. I cannot assign any precise date.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande : Is it a fact that the position of Indian labourers in Burma has deteriorated since the advent of separation ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I have no reason to think that the position of Indian labourers in Burma has altered materially since the separation.

APPRAISERS AND EXAMINERS IN THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, KARACHI.

442. ***Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

(i) the total number of Appraisers working at present in the Customs House at Karachi, and how many of them belong to each of the following communities :

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Parsis,
- (3) Christians, and
- (4) Muslims ;

(ii) the total number of Examiners working in the Customs House at Karachi, and how many of them belong to each of the following communities :

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Parsis,
- (3) Christians, and
- (4) Muslims ; and

(iii) the percentage of Muslim Appraisers and Examiners working in the Customs House at Karachi ?

(b) How many Christians, Parsis, Hindus and Muslim Examiners were recruited from outside, and how many were taken from the office during the last five years and what were their qualifications ?

(c) Were the posts of Appraisers and Examiners advertised in the Press ? If so, were any applications received from Muslim candidates ?

(d) How many appointments were filled through advertisement and how many otherwise ?

(e) Were any chances for the posts of Examiners given to Muslim clerks in the office ? If not, why not ?

(f) How many Appraisers are there whose educational qualification is only departmental examination and no other University degree ?

(g) Is the Honourable the Finance Member prepared to ask the Collector of Customs, Karachi, to submit to the Central Board of Revenue every year the list of Preventive Officers, Wharfingers, Assistant Wharfingers, Appraisers, Examiners and Clerks to be appointed hereafter showing the number of Muslims and non-Muslims required ?

Mr. J. F. Sheehy : I propose to reply questions Nos. 442 and 444 together.

The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

WHARFINGERS IN THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, KARACHI.

443. *Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the total number of Wharfingers working at present in the Customs House at Karachi, and how many of them belong to each of the following communities :

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Parsis,
- (3) Christians, and
- (4) Muslims ?

(b) Is it a fact :

- (i) that appointments of Preventive Officers are filled directly from outsiders ; and
- (ii) that Wharfingers, who are of long service and experienced in the line are not given appointment of Preventive Officers ; if not, why not ?

Mr. J. F. Sheehy : (a) According to returns received from the Custom House relating to the year 1936, there were 24 Wharfingers (including Assistant Wharfingers) on the 1st January, 1937, belonging to the various communities as under :

(1) Hindus	..	..	..	15
(2) Parsis	..	..	..	..
(3) Christians	..	..	..	2
(4) Muslims	..	..	..	5
(5) Others	..	..	..	2

(b) Appointments of Preventive Officers are made directly from outsiders as well as by promotion of suitable Wharfingers.

CLERKS IN THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, KARACHI.

†444. ***Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of clerks working at present in the Customs House at Karachi ;

(b) how many of them belong to each of the following communities and draw Rs. 125 and above per month :

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Parsis,
- (3) Christians, and
- (4) Muslims ; and

(c) how many of them belong to each of the following communities and draw Rs. 45 to Rs. 125 per month :

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Parsis,
- (3) Christians, and
- (4) Muslims ?

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF OFFICERS AND CLERKS IN THE SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE.

445. ***Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the communal composition of various officers of all grades and clerks working in Sind and Baluchistan Postal Circle ?

(b) How many vacancies in the clerical staff occurred in the above circle during the years 1934 to 1936, and how many of them were given to Muslims and how many to non-Muslims ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) and (b). Two statements giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member are placed on the table of the House.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 442.

Statement.

	Hindus.			Muslims.	Domestic Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Parsees.	Other communities.	Total.
	Europeans.	Other than depressed classes.	Depressed classes.							
1. Gasetted staff ..	2	2	..	3	6	..	..	1	1	15
2. Engineering Supervisors, General and Telephones and Electrical and Cable Supervisors.	..	6	..	..	9	..	..	..	1	16
3. Wireless Supervisors and Wireless Operators.	6	8	..	..	3	1	2	1	..	21
4. Telegraph Masters and Telegraphists.	..	18	..	1	43	1	15	5	5	88
5. Clerical staff ..	..	499	1	226	13	14	21	1	2	777
6. Line staff ..	..	56	..	209	..	..	..	..	..	265
7. Branch postmasters over-seers, reader, sorting, head, overseer postmen, postmen, village postmen and mailguards.	..	299	1	207	..	6	..	..	..	443
8. Miscellaneous superior staff ..	..	22	..	19	..	1	1	..	..	43
Inferior staff (to whom the communal orders apply).	..	276	1	197	1	1	..	..	1	477

Statement.

	Total number of vacancies filled.	Muslims.	Non-Muslims.
1934 ..	10	2	8
1935 ..	35	15	20
1936 ..	34	21	13

ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE.

446. *Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon : Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a majority of Muslims in the Sind and Baluchistan Postal Circle ; and

(b) whether the Honourable Member proposes to issue orders to the authorities concerned for an adequate representation of Muslims in the above department ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) Assuming that the Honourable Member is referring to the population of Muslims, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Government have already taken into account the high proportion of the Muslim population in this Circle and have accordingly fixed a 58-1 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. reservation for Muslims.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE MR. WADDINGTON AS AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

447. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar : (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if one Mr. Waddington has recently been appointed as an Assistant Superintendent of Archaeology ?

(b) Are there no competent³²⁴ Indians available with similar qualifications to fill that post ?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Waddington was fixed on an initial salary of Rs. 450, while the starting minimum salary for the post is only Rs. 300 ?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Waddington gets his usual overseas allowance besides his pay ?

(e) What are the special reasons which prompted the selection of such a costly officer in preference to Indians ?

(f) Was the post advertised before this appointment was made ? If so, how many Indians applied for it ?

(g) Did not, on a similar occasion previously, twelve Indians apply for the post ?

(h) Why was not one of them thought of for this post ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a), (b), (e), (f), (g) and (h). An officer with architectural qualifications was required for the post to which Mr. Waddington has been appointed. It was first advertised in India, through the Public Service Commission, who reported in June, 1935, that they had been unable to find a suitable candidate. The post was then advertised in England through the High Commissioner for India who was asked to give special consideration to the qualifications of any Indians who might apply in the United Kingdom. The best qualified candidate was selected.

(c) and (d). Mr. Waddington had to be given a higher starting pay because of his qualifications and his prospects. The overseas pay has been granted to him because of his non-Asiatic domicile.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar : May I know how the post was advertised in India and how many applications were received ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : It was advertised in India in the ordinary way, that is to say, a notice stating the qualifications and terms was put in the newspapers. How many candidates applied, I am unable to say.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the higher salary will carry with it priority in service ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : No, Sir. Not at all.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : When Government advertise for a post on an initial salary of Rs. 300 and then offer Rs. 450, why should they not advertise the post in India and in England again, in view of the fact that 50 per cent. more is offered on the initial salary ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As a matter of fact, in the body of the advertisement it is stated that Government may give a higher starting salary if the age and the qualifications of an individual justify this.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar : Is it a fact that another post of an Assistant Superintendent of Archaeology is sought to be filled in the near future by another non-Asiatic domiciled person, one Mr. Allan, on the same salary ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : That does not appear to me to arise out of this question, namely, the filling of another post.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar : May I ask if there is another vacancy ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : If my Honourable friend will give me notice of the question, I will answer it.

NEW IMPERIAL MUSEUM PROPOSED TO BE STARTED IN DELHI.

448. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the aims and ideals of the new Imperial Museum proposed to be started in Delhi ?

(b) What is its personnel ?

(c) Is it to be a sub-department of the Archaeological Department ?

(d) When will the scheme be put into action ?

(e) Do Government propose to import any foreign expert for the new Imperial Museum ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) It is not proposed to establish a new museum in Delhi. The present accommodation for the Central Asian Antiquities Museum which is located partly in the Imperial Record Office and partly in a temporary building at the junction of the Queensway and King Edward Road is both unsuitable and inadequate and the possibility of improving on this arrangement is being investigated.

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

PLACES VISITED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

449. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state :

(a) what all places the present officiating Director General of Archaeology visited after he assumed charge of the department ; and

(b) the purpose for which he visited those places ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) and (b). A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

Statement showing places visited by the Offg. Director General of Archaeology in India since taking over charge on 20th March, 1937, and the purpose of these visits.

Places visited.		Purpose.
26-3-37 to 27-3-37	Benares	.. Inspection of Sarnath Museum.
28-3-37 to 29-3-37		
28-3-37 to 29-3-37	Allahabad	.. Inspection of the site of Kosam, proposed to be excavated.
12-4-37 to		
14-4-37	Bombay	{ Joint inspection of Elephanta with Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department. { Inspection of the site of Sopara, proposed to be excavated. Inspection of the Prince of Wales Museum.
17-4-37 to		
18-4-37	Lahore	.. Inspection of office of the Superintendent, Frontier Circle, and of Central Museum, Lahore. Inspection of conservation work at Shahdara.
19-4-37 to 22-4-37	Taxila	.. Inspection of Museum, excavation and conservation works.
24-7-37		
24-7-37	Delhi	.. Inspection of Central Asian Antiquities Museum and Purana Qila.
27-7-37 to 28-7-37	Bombay	.. Joint inspection of Elephanta with Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department.
29-7-37 to 31-7-37		
21-8-37 to 22-8-37	Poona	.. Inspection of office of Superintendent, Western Circle. Inspection of Shanwar Wada, Poona City.
23-8-37 to 24-8-37		
23-8-37 to 24-8-37	Lucknow	.. Inspection of conservation work at Imambara ; Interview with Secretary, United Provinces Government.
23-8-37 to 24-8-37		
23-8-37 to 24-8-37	Patna	Inspection of office of Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Central Circle and Patna Museum. Interview with Secretary, Bihar Government.
23-8-37 to 24-8-37		
25-8-37 to 31-8-37	Calcutta	.. Inspection of office of the Archaeological Section, Indian Museum, and Archaeological Superintendent, Eastern Circle. Interview with Secretary, Bengal Government.
25-8-37 to 31-8-37		

POSSESSION OF ACCOUNTANCY QUALIFICATIONS BY INCOME-TAX OFFICERS AND INSPECTORS.

450. ***Mr. Sham Lal :** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Income-tax Enquiry Report, 1936, found that there was a complaint to the effect that with some Income-tax Officers there is lack of sufficient accountancy knowledge to enable them to deal with accounts broadly and intelligently, and that much time is wasted by the officers and the public thereby ?

(b) Is it a fact that most of the work of the examination of account-books of the assesseees is done by Inspectors of the Income-tax Department ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Income-tax Enquiry Committee Report, 1936, has recommended that in future Inspectors of the Income-tax Department and those who are put on the work of examining accounts should be recruited from among those who possess accountancy qualifications ?

(d) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the total number of Income-tax Inspectors and Assistant Income-tax Officers in the Provinces of Delhi, the Punjab and the North-West Frontier ?

(e) What is the number of those Income-tax Inspectors and Assistant Income-tax Officers who already possess accountancy qualification, that is to say, have passed some public examination in Accountancy, Book-keeping, etc., in these three Provinces ?

(f) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether Government have issued any instructions to Commissioners of Income-tax in this matter ?

(g) Have Government agreed to accept in this matter the recommendation of the Income-tax Enquiry Committee Report, 1936 ? If not, why not ?

Mr. J. F. Sheehy : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to Chapter XIV, section 5 (a) of the Income-tax Enquiry Report, 1936, copies of which are in the Library.

(b) Yes, under the supervision of the Income-tax Officers.

(c) The Report merely says that in considering candidates greater weight should be given to accountancy qualifications than is done at present.

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

(f) Instructions were issued in 1930, that candidates selected should be graduates with Honours and weight should be attached to the possession in addition of a degree in Commerce or Law or a Diploma in Accountancy.

(g) Yes.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE TO THE CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

451. ***Mr. Sham Lal :** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if the attention of Government has been drawn to the note appearing in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, dated the 4th April, 1937, that it is contemplated that the work of the Pasteur Institute may be transferred to the Central Research Institute ?

(b) Is the Pasteur Institute a private body financed by public subscription ?

(c) Do Government propose to consult the subscribers before transferring the Pasteur Institute to the Central Research Institute ?

(d) Was the question of transfer of the Pasteur Institute raised once before, and what was the attitude of Government then ?

(e) Is the Pasteur Institute able to meet its own expenditure and has more than six lakhs in its capital account ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) Yes.

(b) It is a non-Government institution. Its sources of income are treatment charges including sale proceeds of anti-rabic vaccine, an annual grant from Central Government, subscriptions from local bodies, interest on investments, and so on.

(c) No proposal regarding the transfer of the Pasteur Institute to the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, has so far been submitted to Government and this question does not arise.

(d) No.

(e) Yes, but with increasing difficulty. The capital account is just over six lakhs.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

452. ***Mr. Sham Lal :** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the financial position of the Central Research Institute at present ?

(b) Will Government lay upon the table a statement for five years showing the total budget allotments for each year and the expenditure against it, as also a comparative statement of its annual income for the same period ?

(c) If the Central Research Institute is running at a loss, do Government intend to make up the loss by amalgamating a charitable institution with a Government Institute ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) and (b). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The Central Research Institute, Kasauli, the primary function of which is medical research, is not run on a commercial basis and the question of running it at a loss does not, therefore, arise. No proposal to amalgamate the Institute with any charitable institution is at present before Government.

Statement showing the financial position of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli.

Year.	Budget estimate.	Actual expenditure.	Income from sale proceeds of vaccines, sera, etc.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1931-32 ..	2,13,600	2,03,763	2,81,802	
1932-33	2,09,500	1,88,188	1,28,448	
1933-34	2,07,400	1,98,717	1,17,713	
1934-35	2,08,000	1,90,163	1,56,023	
1935-36	2,05,500	2,17,797	2,14,384	

Mr. Sham Lal : Is there any proposal to amalgamate the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, with the Pasteur Institute and not with any charitable institution ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : That I have answered in the previous question, namely, that Government have no such proposal before them.

Mr. Sham Lal : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article which appeared in the *Civil and Military Gazette* ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I have answered that question in the affirmative.

Mr. Sham Lal : Are Government prepared to give an assurance that the Pasteur Institute would not be amalgamated with the Central Research Institute ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I cannot give an assurance in regard to a matter which has not been considered by Government and which is not before them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Consistent with the main object of research, will Government explore the possibility of making this Institute self-supporting, keeping in view the dominant object of medical research ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : My Honourable friend presumably refers to the Central Research Institute, Kasauli. He is a vigilant member of the Public Accounts Committee and probably knows that, in so far as the business or vaccine making side of this Institute is concerned, it is more than self-supporting. It actually makes a profit.

DEDUCTION OF INCOME-TAX ON DIVIDEND PAID TO SHARE-HOLDERS OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

458. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether it is a fact that income-tax on the dividend paid to share-holders of the Reserve Bank is deducted by the bank at the maximum rate irrespective of the share-holders' income ?
- (b) What was the total amount of income-tax so deducted ?
- (c) How much of it was refunded ?
- (d) Is it not a fact that a considerable portion of it remained unclaimed because of the difficulties and expense involved in making claims ?
- (e) Are Government prepared to issue instructions that in future income-tax should not be deducted by the Reserve Bank authorities and be recovered in the ordinary course ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to starred question No. 409 on the 16th February, 1937.

(b) Rs. 2½ lakhs approximately in the year ended 31st December, 1936.

(c) The answer can only be obtained from a study of a large number of proceedings in connection with assessments and this would involve an expenditure of time and labour which would be entirely incommensurate with the value of the results obtained.

(d) Government have no information.

POSTAL STAFF IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE.

454. ***Mr. B. B. Varma :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether he is aware that there are 64 selection grade appointments of Postmasters, Sub-Postmasters, Head and Sub-Records Clerk, to supervise the work of 1,850 time-scale appointments of clerks, Postmasters and sorters in the Bihar and Orissa Postal Circle ?

(b) Is it a fact that the above figure has a percentage of 3.45 and, whereas per *interim* report of the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Sub-Committee of 1931, there should have been the figure of eight per cent. in relation to the time scale cadre ?

(c) Do Government propose to raise the status of all the Head Postmasters and Sub-Record Clerks in junior selection grade to the senior selection grade and that of all the Deputy Postmasters, Supervisors and Selected Sub and Record offices to that of the junior grade to complete eight per cent. as desired by the Committee ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Committee had recommended that 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the first grade or Upper Division should be filled from men in the second grade, or Lower Division clerks and should be filled partly by direct recruitment and partly from amongst postmen, etc. ?

(e) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, are Government aware that undergraduates are recruited in the Second Division or Lower Division and not in the Upper Division, postmen are not appointed as second grade or Lower Division clerks, no Lower Division or Second Division clerk is promoted to the Upper Division or first grade and conv. per cent. vacancies are converted into those of the second grade or Second Division clerks in the Post Offices ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the figures of recruitment made in the first grade or the Upper Division by (i) promotion, (ii) direct recruitment, with qualifications, and (iii) promotion of postmen appointed in the Lower Division or second grade, clerks promoted to Upper Division since 1932 ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : Sir, the answer to this question is a long and complicated statement, and I suggest, with your permission and with the consent of the Honourable Member, that it would conduce to the expedition of business were I to lay it on the table of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Permission of the House is not necessary.

Statement.

(a) The number of supervisory staff in the posts mentioned is correctly stated by the Honourable Member, but they are required to supervise the work of 1,594 and not 1,850 subordinates of the clerical class.

(b) In arriving at this percentage, the Honourable Member has not taken into account all the selection grade appointments in the Circle, and, in his estimate of the time scale staff, has included the reserve clerks and sorters who do not form part of the operative strength. For the institution of a proper comparison between the supervisory and subordinate grades it is necessary to include, as the Posts and Telegraphs Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee of 1931 did, the Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices all of whom are in the selection grade. This raises the number of supervisory appointments to 109 and omitting the 307 reserve clerks and sorters selection grade appointments are approximately 6.75 per cent. of the time scale appointments. I may mention that the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Sub-Committee did not recommend that the percentage mentioned in the previous part should be 8. They merely indicated the proportions which existed at that time between the time scale and selection grade appointments throughout the service.

(c) No. The selection grade appointments are not fixed on a percentage basis but having regard to the importance of the duties to be carried out.

(d) The fact is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. The Committee recommended that the upper division of clerks should be recruited partly by promotion of men from the lower division and partly by direct recruitment and that a maximum of fifty per cent. of the appointments vacant in the upper division should be recruited from amongst men in the lower division. It may here be explained that the old upper and lower division of clerks are not the same as the present first and second grades of clerks, respectively. The former were two separate self-contained cadres, the duties of the lower division were those of a routine nature and direct recruitment was open to each of the cadres. In September, 1932, it was ordered that no vacancy in the upper division should be filled without the specific orders of the Director General and thus recruitment to the upper division was in effect suspended. With effect from the 1st April, 1935, the lower division was abolished and the clerical staff reconstituted into a single cadre divided between the first and second grades, the duties of which are interchangeable, and direct recruitment is open to the second grade only. Recruitment to the second grade is made by an examination which is open to departmental officials, such as postmen, etc., below the clerical grade; fifty per cent. of the vacancies are reserved for such candidates if an adequate number qualify.

(e) The reply to part (d) of the question explains why there is no direct recruitment to the first grade of clerks. Promotions from the second grade of clerks to the 1st grade can only take place when the men attain the requisite seniority.

(f) Government regret that the information asked for is not available and they do not propose to call for it, as it will involve an undue expenditure of time and labour to obtain the particulars required.

CLERKS AND SORTERS IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE.

455. *Mr. B. B. Varma : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour state if it is a fact that the Bihar and Orissa Postal Circle with its circle office at Patna was created in 1914 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) the total number of clerks and sorters in the Bihar and Orissa Circle and the total number of clerks in the Circle Office, as it stood on the 31st March, 1937 ;

(ii) the number of (1) Biharees, (2) Oriyas, (3) Domiciled in Bihar and Orissa, and (4) others in (i) time-scale, (ii) junior selection grade, and (iii) higher selection grade appointments, respectively, in the Circle Office, Post Office and Railway Mail Service Office ?

(c) Is it a fact that the representation of Biharees and Oriyas in each of the categories above is still very poor, in spite of the assurances given by Government from time to time to make it satisfactory ?

(d) Are Government aware that there exists lots of discontent among the Biharees and Oriyas as evinced in articles that appear from time to time in the local papers and also in the proceedings of the Provincial Legislative Council and Assembly ?

(e) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what measures they propose to take to remove this feeling of discontent ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) Yes.

(b) (i). The total number of clerks and sorters in the Circle and in the Circle Office on the 31st March, 1937, was 1,594 and 74 respectively.

(ii) The information is not available.

(c) Since 1926, all vacancies have been filled by persons domiciled in Bihar and Orissa. The composition of the staff cannot, however, become predominantly Biharee and Oriya until the full effects of this method of recruitment are felt.

(d) Government are aware of the existence of the feeling in the matter.

(e) Beyond ensuring a scrupulous regard for the orders already issued, Government regret that it is not possible to take any further measures to accelerate the recruitment of Biharees and Oriyas to the Posts and Telegraphs Service.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL OFFICERS IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

456. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member state :

(a) the financial effect of the appointment of the recently appointed additional officers in the Finance Department ;

(b) the reason for the appointment of these extra hands ; and

(c) how many of them were appointed permanently, and how many temporarily ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies I gave on the 25th August, 1937, to Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No. 107 and the supplementary questions thereto asked by the Honourable Member himself.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : But the financial effect of it was not given.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Excuse me, it was given.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : What is in the nature of the work done in the Finance Department which makes the possession of hands as a special qualification ? I thought they required at least a little brain.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think the Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. Of course, hands are necessary to wield the pen but before the pen is wielded in any particular sense, a good deal of brain is required.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With regard to the answers given by my Honourable friend the other day, may I ask how many of these officers were created as part of the original Budget, and how many of them were created in the course of the year ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I cannot answer that question off-hand. But the Honourable Member will be aware that he also asked a supplementary question on that occasion. In the course of the asking of that question he laid down certain general principles in this matter with which I expressed my general agreement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : But the reason for the appointment of these extra hands was not given then. The Honourable Member gave only one reason, namely, the Income-tax Inquiry Report. But there are several other reasons which he did not give.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I also said increase of work.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : That is no answer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : He had given the information.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : He did not give the information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : He said increase of work.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I ask under what heads of his own Department there is this increase of work ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Next question.

WITHHOLDING OF A TELEGRAM SENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED PROVINCES REGARDING FLOODS.

457. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour state if it is a fact that Messrs. Sarju Singh and Badan Singh sent a telegram to the Prime Minister of the United Provinces Government from the Moghal Sarai Railway Station Telegraph Office on the 5th August last, regarding floods in the village of Yusufpur in the district of Mirzapur, requesting investigation and assistance and complaining against the indifference of local authorities ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said telegram was detained by the Telegraph Office and not transmitted to the addressee and that the senders were informed that the telegram could not be sent, as it was objectionable and that the money paid for it might be recovered within a week from the Telegraph Office ?

(c) Why was this telegram stopped ? Under what authority did the Telegraph Office act ?

(d) Is there any rule giving power to the telegraph authorities to prevent communication between private citizens and the Provincial Prime Ministers regarding local troubles ?

(e) Are Government aware that there are still floods in many provinces and immediate communication may be necessary in the public interest between the sufferers and the Provincial Government, and are Government prepared to issue immediate instructions that such telegrams are not interfered with but transmitted immediately ?

(f) Do Government propose to take any steps and if so, what, in connection with the stoppage of this particular telegram ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : The question should be addressed to the Home Secretary.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : In view of the fact that the telegraph operators and Telegraph Masters work under the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour and it is they who take the initiative in sending these telegrams to the District Magistrates, how am I to go to the Home Secretary ? Is it not a fact that this particular Telegraph Master was working under the Honourable Member himself and has he not acted under instructions from the Honourable Member or his Department ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : The Home Secretary will explain the reasons why the question falls within his purview when he answers it.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : I want to know from the Honourable Member why this question does not fall within the purview of his department. Telegraph masters work under him and if they do something stupid ; if they endanger life and limb and if the Honourable Member in charge of this Department asks me to go to the Home Department for redress—I ask : why should I go to the Home Department at all ? The Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Labour is responsible for this.

The President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It is decided by mutual arrangement between the Departments of the Government of India. I have got to accept the statement of the Member of Government when he says that he is not concerned with this subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I submit, Sir, that all the Honourable Members are supplied with a printed statement, which sets out the particular departments for which each Member of Government is responsible. In that statement, telegraphs are shown to fall within the responsibility of the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Labour. If internally the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour makes some arrangement with the Home Secretary that he will obey the orders of the Home Department, it is his job. I can't be running after people whom he imports into his own department, for doing the work of Posts and Telegraphs. The Honourable Member for Industries and Labour is responsible to answer all questions relating to Posts and Telegraphs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The position is this. Even in Posts and Telegraphs Department questions may arise which are dealt with not by the Member for Posts and Telegraphs but by another Department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : We want to have a clear statement from you, Mr. President for a clear understanding of the position. These questions are addressed according to the details given in the printed statement as

to which department deals with which subjects. The Government have not informed this House as to what they decide from time to time. If there is a change of procedure, it is up to Government to inform you and this House that wherever censorship comes in, the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour is not responsible and that that subject has been handed over to somebody else. It is unfair to the House for any Member of the Government to get up and say, "I will not answer this question because I have got somebody else to do this work".

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I did not understand the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour to say that he has asked somebody else to do this work. I understood him to say that this particular question which was asked would be more appropriately and properly answered by the Home Department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Why can't he answer ?

Mr. Sri Prakasa : I am labouring under another difficulty. I am afraid that the Home Secretary will say "Go to your Provincial Government because this is a matter concerning the District Magistrate of Mirzapur who is under the Provincial Government". My submission is that the fault was committed by the Telegraph Department for which the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Labour is responsible ; and as such he should shoulder some responsibility and not shirk it and pass it on to somebody else.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can perhaps, if he likes, give some information as to why he is unable to answer this question.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : The particular interception was under the authority of the Act and not of the Rules. It was an interception by the civil authority and not by us.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : My question is this : on whose initiative did this Telegraph Master send the telegram to the District Magistrate? If the District Magistrate took the initiative, then I have no complaint to make here ; but if the Telegraph Master himself took the initiative in this matter, then I have a grouse against the Department of the Honourable Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : What the Honourable Member says is that under some Rule for which the Home Department is responsible, the interception took place.

DEFACING OF STAMPS ON POSTAL ARTICLES.

458. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa** : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour state if it is a fact that in defacing stamps on postal articles the marks are so made that the date and time mentioned thereon are illegible ?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to ensure that these may be clearly read ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) It is possible that post-marks are sometimes illegible owing to careless stamping in post offices.

(b) Special instructions exist as to the necessity for ensuring clear date stamp impressions on postal articles. The attention of all concerned will again be drawn to these instructions.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : In view of the fact that no marks are made on postcards in the offices where they are received, will the Honourable Member take special steps to ensure that the offices which send out these postcards stamp them very legibly ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : I have already said that the attention of all concerned will again be drawn to the instructions in this regard.

LATE DELIVERY OF LETTERS, ETC., IN BENARES.

459. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour state if it is a fact that letters and other postal articles received from Calcutta by the Punjab Mail in the morning in Benares are delivered through the Benares Cantonment and Benares City Post Offices in the forenoon, while those received through the Lanka Post Office are delivered only in the afternoon ?

(b) Is it a fact that some portions of the city that were formerly included in the delivery beat of the Benares City Post Office have now been transferred to Lanka Post Office ?

(c) Are Government prepared either to re-include the said portions in the Benares City Delivery beat or arrange for quicker and simultaneous deliveries from the Lanka Post Office as well ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : Government have no information. As the matter is one that lies entirely within the competence of the Postmaster-General, United Provinces Circle, a copy of the question and of this reply will be sent to him for examination, and such further action as is possible and desirable.

EXPORT OF GOLD.

460. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member state :

- (a) whether the export of gold is still continuing ;
- (b) if so, what is the export of gold in the year 1936-37 ;
- (c) the reasons for this export still continuing ; and
- (d) the total export of gold since the rupee was linked to the sterling ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) Approximately 29½ crores of rupees.

(c) Because the world price continues to be attractive to owners of gold in India.

(d) Approximately 312 crores of rupees.

**COST OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENTS.**

461. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Will the Honourable the Finance Member state :

- (a) whether he has approved of additional personnel in any department of the Government of India since the 1st April, 1937 :
- (b) if so, in which departments and for what reasons ; and
- (c) what has been the increased cost consequent on the increased personnel ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.

462. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Will the Honourable the Finance Member state :

- (a) whether the Finance Department have examined whether, in view of many subjects originally administered by the Government of India after 1st April, 1937, being transferred to the Provinces, any retrenchment could be made in any of the Departments ;
- (b) if so, what has been the result of the examination ; and
- (c) whether any retrenchment has been effected ; if so, in which departments ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) No. It is too early yet to form any opinion as to whether, and if so, to what extent Provincial Autonomy will decrease work in the Central Departments. There has been no such diminution as yet : in fact, general experience has been to the contrary. The Honourable Member may rest assured that the matter will not be lost sight of.

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

PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ.

463. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani : Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of pilgrims to Hedjaz from every part of India ;
- (b) the amount of concession, if any, made to the Hedjaz pilgrims by the various Railway Companies ;
- (c) the personnel of all the Provincial and Central Haj Committees in India ; and
- (d) the number of special trains run on the occasion of the returns of Hedjaz pilgrims from Bombay in 1937 ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Enquiries are being made and the result will be communicated to the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CONVERSION OF UPPER DIVISION VACANCIES INTO LOWER DIVISION POSTS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

68. **Mr. Suryya Kumar Som** : Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that on the 3rd September, 1932, orders were issued by Government that all Upper Division clerical vacancies in the Postal Department should be converted into Lower Division clerical posts and that recruitment therein should be made in the proportion of 50 per cent. from postmen and the remaining 50 per cent. from approved candidates on the same scale of pay ;
- (b) is it a fact that all Upper Division clerical vacancies as well as new creation of clerical posts were converted and made into Lower Division clerical posts between 3rd September, 1932 and 31st March, 1935 ;
- (c) is it a fact that directly recruited clerks who are graduates and under graduates and officiated in permanent Lower Division clerical posts between 3rd September, 1932 and 31st March, 1935, without any break of service, have been transferred to second grade, clerical cadre from 1st April, 1935 and have been getting nearly three-fourth pay of their brother junior non-matriculate lower division clerks recruited from postmen ? If so, why ;
- (d) are not the duties of first grade and second grade clerks the same ? Is not the pay of the first grade clerks much higher than that of second grade clerks ? If so, why ;
- (e) are not the duties of the Lower Division clerks much less responsible than those of the second grade clerks ;
- (f) are not all the posts of the Lower Division clerks at present filled up by postmen mainly non-matriculate ; and
- (g) is not the pay of the Lower Division clerks higher than that of the second grade clerks ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) and (b). The facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) Clerks formerly designated lower division clerks have, with effect from the 1st April, 1935, been absorbed in the recently created second grade of clerks. Under the general order of Government only such officers as were in permanent employment on or before the 16th July, 1931, are entitled to retain the old rates of pay, those appointed later being eligible for the new and reduced scales only.

(d) The duties of I and II grade clerks are interchangeable. The I and II grade is a combined time-scale and until the II grade clerks attain by seniority and length of service a position in the time-scale which will enable them to draw the pay of a I division clerk, their pay must be lower than that of the I grade clerks who form the upper portion of the time-scale.

(e) The lower division has been merged into the II grade and there is no difference in the duties now performed by each.

(f) No.

(g) It is obvious that the pay of clerks entitled to the old scales of pay must be higher than that of clerks recruited on the new and reduced scales.

MAINTENANCE OF ACCOUNTS OF MONEY ORDERS, PARCELS, ETC., BETWEEN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

69. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhary :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour be pleased to state if it is a fact that accounts of money-orders, parcels, C. O. D. parcels and registered articles received by the exchange offices of India from foreign countries, or despatched to foreign countries by the exchange offices, are maintained by means of schedules ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state how accounts are maintained between India and foreign countries ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) No.

(b) By means of money order lists, parcel bills for both ordinary and C. O. D. parcels, letter bills and special lists for registered letters. Monthly, quarterly or half-yearly the results of these are summarised by the creditor administration. The debtor administration then accepts the debit and remits the amount due by cheques or drafts payable at sight.

SUPERVISORS AND CLERKS IN FOREIGN DEPARTMENTS OF CERTAIN POST OFFICES.

70. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhary :** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour be pleased to furnish the following information :

- (i) number of money-orders received from and despatched to Burma by the Foreign Money-Order Section of the Calcutta General Post Office during the months of April to August, 1937 ;
- (ii) number of money-orders received from and despatched to other foreign countries by the Foreign Money-Order Section of the Calcutta General Post Office during the months of April to August, 1937 ;
- (iii) number of selection grade supervisors, time-scale supervisors and clerks who worked in the Foreign Money-Order Section of the Calcutta General Post Office during the above period ;
- (iv) number of foreign money-orders received from and despatched to foreign countries by the Foreign Money-Order Section, Bombay, during the months of April to August, 1937 ;
- (v) number of selection grade supervisors, time-scale supervisors and clerks working in the Foreign Money-Order Section of the Bombay Foreign Post ;

- (vi) number of foreign money-orders received from and despatched to foreign countries by the Foreign Money-Order Section of Madura Post Office during the months of April to August, 1937 ;
- (vii) number of selection grade supervisors, time-scale supervisors and clerks working in the Foreign Money-Order Section of the Madura Post Office during the above period ;
- (viii) number of foreign parcels, C. O. D. parcels, and registered articles received from foreign countries (including Burma) and despatched to foreign countries (including Burma) by the Foreign Parcel and Foreign Registration Departments of the Calcutta General Post Office during the months of April to August 1937 ;
- (ix) number of foreign parcels, C. O. D. parcels and registered articles received from foreign countries and despatched to foreign countries by the Foreign Parcel and Foreign Registration Departments of the Bombay Foreign Post during the months of April to August, 1937 ;
- (x) number of selection grade supervisors, time-scale supervisors and clerks who worked in the Foreign Parcel and Registration Departments separately during the above period in the Calcutta General Post Office ;
- (xi) number of selection grade supervisors, time-scale supervisors and clerks who worked in the Foreign Parcel and Registration Departments separately during the above period in the Foreign Post, Bombay ; and
- (xii) total number of selection grade supervisors, time-scale supervisors and clerks working in the Foreign Post, Bombay and Foreign Post, Foreign Parcel, Foreign Registration and Foreign Money-Orders Sections of the Calcutta General Post Office separately during the above period ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : Government are not in possession of the information required and do not propose to collect it, as an undue amount of time and labour would be involved in doing so.

DIFFERENCE IN THE DETERMINATION OF STAFF IN THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENTS OF THE CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY GENERAL POST OFFICES.

71. Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour please state whether it is a fact that the time-factor fixed for the determination of staff in the Foreign Departments differs between Calcutta and Bombay ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why there is such difference ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state how many selection grade supervisors, time-scale supervisors and clerks are justified in the Foreign Money-Order, Foreign Parcel, and Registration Sections of the Calcutta General Post Office according to the Bombay standard ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) Yes.

(b) The reason why the time standards in the foreign post, Bombay, and the Calcutta General Post Office differ is that the character of the work to be performed at Bombay and Calcutta is not identical. In Bombay the foreign post functions apart from the Bombay General Post Office, while in Calcutta all activities in connection with the foreign mails are concentrated in the respective foreign departments forming part of the General Post Office.

(c) Does not arise. In view of the reply given to part (b) of the question, the Bombay standard cannot properly be applied to the work done in Calcutta.

IRREGULARITIES IN THE MONEY ORDER DEPARTMENT OF THE CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE.

72. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour please state whether it is a fact that the Assistant Presidency Postmaster in charge of the Money-Order Department, Calcutta General Post Office, has issued orders that the foreign money-orders received from Burma should be issued to the offices of payment after entering them in the schedule only but not after checking ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state how many checkers there are ?

(c) Is it a fact that many telegrams are received daily by the Foreign Money-Order Section for irregularities committed by the section ?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state how many telegrams were received and despatched by the Foreign Money-Order Section during the months of May to August, 1937 ?

(e) Will Government please also state how far the Assistant Presidency Postmaster is responsible for the working of the Foreign Money-Order Section of the Calcutta General Post Office and whether he will be responsible for any loss due to irregularities of his department ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) No orders of the nature referred to by the Honourable Member were issued by the Assistant Presidency Postmaster.

(b) Seven on an average.

(c) No.

(d) Received 193

Despatched 119

(e) The Assistant Presidency Postmaster performs such of the duties of the Presidency Postmaster in the Money Order Department as may be assigned to him, and would be responsible in cases in which it is established that he had failed to carry out his personal duties.

**SANCTION OF ADEQUATE STAFF FOR THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OF THE
CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE.**

73. Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour please state whether it is a fact that the clerks of the Bombay Foreign Post are required to work for seven hours only in view of their nature of duties while the clerks of the Foreign Money-Order Section of Calcutta General Post Office are compelled to work for more than eight hours a day ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the exact position ?

(c) Is it a fact that due to shortage of hands, many foreign money-orders were detained in the Calcutta General Post Office during the months of April and May and the position has not improved appreciably now ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state how many foreign money-orders are entered in the schedule by each clerk in the Bombay Foreign Money-Order Section against a clerk of the Foreign Money-Order Section of Calcutta General Post Office ?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the question of sanctioning adequate staff in the Foreign Money-Order Section of the Calcutta General Post Office as well as other Foreign Departments according to the Bombay standard ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart : (a) The fact is not as stated.

(b) In Calcutta and Bombay alike the staff is normally required to attend for eight hours and work for 7½ hours.

(c) Some inward foreign money orders were detained during May only as the introduction of the new procedure for dealing with money orders between India and Burma coincided with a heavy rush of traffic. Additional temporary staff was employed to clear the accumulation. Further enquiries are being made regarding the position both in May and at present and the information will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) The listing of money orders is confined to the compilation of outward lists both at Calcutta and Bombay. One clerk enters ninety orders daily in the lists prepared in Calcutta as against two hundred in Bombay.

(e) The Bombay standards cannot be applied to the work in the foreign money order or other foreign departments in Calcutta, because conditions differ. Government have no reason to believe that the staff provided for this purpose in Calcutta is inadequate for the work which has to be performed. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle, to whom a copy of the question and of this reply will be sent for such action as he may consider necessary.

REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Mr. President : (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I have to announce that I have received a report from the Chairman of the House Committee setting out the main recommendations of the Committee, together with a statement giving particulars of the recommendations made

and the action taken thereon by Government. As this report will be of interest to the Honourable Members of the House, I have decided that it should be laid on the table and incorporated in the Debates.

The House Committee was originally constituted in 1932 to look after the comforts and conveniences of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and to this end it has been meeting from time to time and has considered, *inter alia*, questions pertaining to the amount of accommodation provided for the Members in New Delhi and Simla, the improvements necessary in such accommodation, and the most suitable manner of allotting it to the many applicants.

2. Increase of Accommodation.—It was early realised that the number of orthodox

Orthodox, Delhi. residences provided by Government at Simla and New Delhi was inadequate, and in view of the fact that many orthodox Members who applied for accommodation could not be provided with any, one of the first recommendations made by the House Committee was that the Government should be asked to provide at least ten additional orthodox residences in New Delhi before the Delhi Session, 1933. Owing to financial stringency, Government were unable to give effect to this recommendation but in 1934 the construction of 33 new orthodox bungalows was taken in hand and the bungalows completed by the end of that year, the House Committee having, prior to their construction, inspected the plan and suggested certain alterations the majority of which were embodied in the buildings. The Committee also recommended the construction of another fifteen orthodox bungalows suitable for joint occupation by two single members, but this suggestion was not accepted by Government.

The accommodation for orthodox members in Simla was also considered inadequate

Orthodox, Simla. but as Government were unwilling to undertake any major construction works at Simla, the Committee recommended that of the sixteen rooms in the New Block at Longwood (which were originally intended for unorthodox members and entailed on the occupants the necessity of messing with the appointed Caterer) twelve should be converted into orthodox accommodation by the construction of separate kitchens to go with these rooms. The original recommendation made by the Committee in 1932 was for the construction of six kitchens only but after these had been built, orthodox accommodation was still found to be inadequate and, therefore, in September, 1933, a further recommendation was made for the construction of six additional kitchens. Government accepted these recommendations and there is now thus available in Simla accommodation for twelve more orthodox members than there was originally.

With regard to the unorthodox members, the main matters dealt with by the Committee pertain to the Western Court, New Delhi. The

Unorthodox. rooms here are divided among (i) Officials, (ii) Members of the Legislative Assembly, and (iii) Members of the Council of State. The House Committee has felt that the 31 rooms in the Western Court reserved for Members of the Legislative Assembly are not adequate to meet the demand and has been pressing on Government the necessity of increasing this number by at least four and correspondingly reducing the number of rooms reserved for officials, but so far it has not succeeded in getting Government to agree to this proposal. On the question whether the Western Court should be given up as a residential unit and converted into offices, the Committee was consulted by Government and informed Government that in its considered opinion such a proposal was definitely unacceptable, and that in view of the large increase in the numbers of members of the Federal Legislature and the inadequacy of hotel and other private accommodation in New Delhi, Government should on no account deplete the accommodation (orthodox and unorthodox) at present available for Members.

3. Improvements in Residences.—The House Committee has concerned itself also with the improvements necessary in the existing residences and on its recommendations certain improvements have been effected, chief among them being the provision of an extra bath and lavatory in all the Windsor Place residences, the provision of lights in the verandahs and entrances to all residences, the provision of extra windows in the residences on Perozhah Road and Queensway and the provision of dining tables in all orthodox quarters. The Committee also recommended the construction of an extra bath and lavatory in the residences on the Cart Road at Simla and the installation of modern sanitation there, but these recommendations were not accepted by Government. Another recommendation made but not accepted was with regard to the

fixing of iron bars or wire mesh to the windows and ventilators of all the residences, but the Committee has again pressed the matter and Government's further reply is awaited.

4. *Method of allotting residences.*—The Committee approved the prevailing practice of making allotments of accommodation to the various Members who apply by means of a ballot, but it has decided that those Members who attend the session accompanied by their family (i.e., wife and/or near female relative) should be given preference over those Members who do not, and that for this purpose a separate ballot should be held for Members coming with their family, and that after they have been provided for, the remaining accommodation should be balloted for separately among the single Members. In order, however, to prevent cases of abuse it was further decided that if it was subsequently brought to notice that a Member who had been allotted a quarter on the ground that he was coming with his family did not have his family residing with him, he should be asked to vacate the quarter in favour of the family Member next on the waiting list, and that if he refused to vacate the quarter he should be penalised by not being given quarters for the following session. The Committee also decided that if the Deputy President required a residence, the residence of his choice should be automatically allotted to him and that he should not be required to take his chance in the ballot along with the other Members.

Statement showing the important matters considered by the House Committee of the Legislative Assembly, 1932—1936.

Serial No.	Date of House Committee Meeting.	Recommendation.	Action taken by Government.
1	2nd March, 1932	That in view of the inadequacy of orthodox quarters Government should be addressed to provide 10 additional orthodox quarters for the next Delhi Session.	On 25th, June 1932, the Government replied expressing the hope that in view of the financial stringency the Committee would agree to defer consideration of the proposal. See also item No. (6) below as to later developments.
2	Do. ..	That in Simla, Members who take up Summer Hill Quarters should be given an additional conveyance allowance of Rs. 3 per day.	The Finance Department regretted its inability to agree to this proposal as it considered that Honourable Members should, like Government servants who draw daily allowance in Simla, find from their daily allowance the cost of hiring any conveyances required.
3	Do. ..	That Government be addressed that in Simla at least six rooms in Longwood Hotel, New Block, should each be provided with a separate kitchen and that the existing kitchen arrangements at Longwood Range should be improved.	At first Government gave the same reply to this recommendation as they did to the one that bears Serial No. 1, but on the 13th April, 1933, the Committee reiterated this recommendation and in August, 1933, Government agreed to effect minor improvements in the kitchen arrangement at Longwood Range and to build six temporary kitchens for rooms in the New Block for use during the next session and to make these permanent structures thereafter.
4	13th March, 1932	That certain improvements were necessary in the existing quarters, notably :— <i>Simla.</i> —An extra bath-room should be provided on upper floor of Cart Road Quarters. <i>New Delhi.</i> —An additional lavatory and bathroom should be provided in Windsor Place Quarters.	Government's reply to this recommendation was that the financial stringency precluded consideration at the time. Attention is invited, however, to Serial Nos. 11 and 14.

Serial No.	Date of House Committee Meeting.	Recommendation.	Action taken by Government.
5	24th September, 1932.	That suitable covered garages should be constructed near the Council House, New Delhi, for the parking of Members' cars during the session.	The Government's reply in January, 1933, was that financial considerations made it impossible to give effect to this recommendation, but, the following year, garages were built on either side of the Council House.
6	6th September, 1933.	That in connection with Government's decision to build 33 additional orthodox quarters in New Delhi, Government should be informed that these quarters should be separate independent quarters and not built in blocks like the Queensway quarters, and the Committee should be given an opportunity of seeing the proposed plan before construction was taken in hand.	Government agreed to construct these 33 new quarters as separate independent units, and Mr. Brebner, the Chief Engineer, and Mr. F. T. Jones attended a meeting of the Committee held on the 14th December, 1933, with the plans of the proposed buildings. The Committee suggested certain amendments and alterations in the plan the majority of which were given effect to when the buildings were constructed.
7	Do. ..	That at least 4 additional rooms in the Western Court be placed at the disposal of the Legislative Assembly Department for allotment to Members of the Legislative Assembly.	Government regretted their inability to accept this recommendation, and though the House Committee reiterated their recommendation at a meeting held on the 1st February, 1934, Government again declined to accept it.
8	Do. ..	That six more kitchens be constructed for rooms in the New Block, Longwood Hotel, making a total of 12 such kitchens.	In March, 1934, Government accorded their administrative approval to the construction of these additional kitchens, but as no funds then existed the construction was to have been completed in 1935. In the meantime the House Committee on the 23rd August, 1934, recommended that instead of the six additional kitchens originally asked for, ten extra kitchens should be constructed. Government were unable to accept this recommendation as they considered that the site was already overcrowded with buildings, and the six extra kitchens—for which sanction was accorded in 1934—were eventually constructed in 1936.
9	1st February, 1934	That Government be asked to construct an additional 15 bungalows in New Delhi suitable for joint occupation by two single Members.	Government considered that the acceptance of this recommendation would mean building in excess of demand, and therefore declined to accept it.
10	Do. ..	That an extra window be provided in the dining rooms of the end quarters in the blocks of quarters on Queensway, Berozshah Road and Windsor Place.	Government accorded their administrative approval to these recommendations and they have now all been given effect to.
11	Do. ..	That an extra bath and lavatory be provided in all the Windsor Place quarters.	
12	Do. ..	That a dining table, European pattern, be provided in all Orthodox quarters.	

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Serial No.	Date of House Committee meeting.	Recommendation.	Action taken by Government.
13	20th September 1935.	That iron bars or wire mesh should be fitted to all windows and ventilators of quarters in Delhi and Simla.	Government considered this unnecessary as protection of this kind is not given to officers' bungalows. This decision caused dissatisfaction and the matter was again pressed at the meeting of the 14th September, 1936. Government's further reply is awaited.
14	Do.	That an extra bath and lavatory be constructed for each of the quarters on the Cart Road at Simla.	In view of the decision that new construction work in Simla should be cut down to a minimum Government declined to accept this recommendation. At their meeting on the 14th September, 1936, the Committee accordingly decided not to press this question, but to ask, as an alternative, that the existing bathroom should be improved by the provision of a ventilator. No reply has yet been received to this alternative suggestion.
15	14th April, 1936	That the Western Court should be retained for the residence of Members and should not be converted into offices.	No reply has been received as yet on this question.
16	14th September, 1936.	That in all orthodox quarters where there are three lavatories, one should be of European pattern.	

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Before proceeding with the Resolutions, I should like to announce to the House that it has been agreed among the Leaders of Parties that the House will sit on Saturday, the 18th and on Saturday, the 25th September, 1937, so that the business of the Assembly can be finished by the 2nd October. So far as questions are concerned, there will be no questions on the 18th September, because ten days' notice cannot be given and as regards the 25th September, I understand that it is the desire of the Parties, or the Leaders of the Parties that there should be no questions on the 25th September, so that the whole day may be available for Legislative Business.

RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED INDIAN CADETS BY BRITISH NAVIGATION COMPANIES.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The House will now resume consideration of the following Resolution moved by Sir Muhammad Yakub on the 3rd September, 1937 :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to introduce, at a very early date, legislative measures in order to compel the British Navigation Companies to take qualified Indian cadets of the I.M.M.T.S. ‘ Dufferin ’ as officers on their ships.”

COMPANIES.

Mr. K. Santhanam (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly : Non-Munammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move :

“ That for all the words beginning with the words ‘ introduce at an early date ’ and ending with the words ‘ officers on their ships ’ the following be substituted :

- take, immediately, legislative and other measures to ensure the employment in adequate numbers of qualified Indian cadets of the I.M.M.T.S. ‘ Dufferin ’ as officers in their ships by the British Shipping Companies engaged in the coastal and foreign trade of India and also to reserve a majority of the posts of officers in the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets .”

The Resolution of Sir Muhammad Yakub reads thus :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to introduce, at a very early date, legislative measures in order to compel the British Navigation Companies to take qualified Indian cadets of the I.M.M.T.S. ‘ Dufferin ’ as officers on their ships.”

My amendment does not make any material alteration in the Resolution, but it tries to clothe it in happier words and expand its scope a little. I do not want to cover the ground already covered by the Mover of the Resolution, but, unfortunately, when he moved this Resolution the other day, this House was practically empty, and, therefore, it is necessary to recall to the House certain salient facts in relation to this matter.

Sir, the training ship “ Dufferin ” was started as a result of the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee which was appointed in 1923 and which reported in 1924. The terms of reference of that Committee were :

“ To consider what measures can usefully be taken :

- (1) for the liberal recruitment of Indians as Deck or Executive officers and engineers in the Royal Indian Marine ;
- (2) for the establishment of a Nautical College in Indian waters for the purpose of training Executive Officers and Engineers of ships ;
- (3) for ensuring the entertainment of Indian apprentices for training as such officers and engineers in the ships owned by shipping firms that enjoy any subsidy or other benefits from Government on any account and for the creation of an adequate number of State scholarships for providing instruction in the Nautical Colleges and Training ships in England pending the formation of a Nautical College in India ;
- (4) for the encouragement of shipbuilding and of the growth of an Indian Mercantile Marine by a system of bounties, subsidies and such other measures as have been adopted in Japan ;
- (5) for the construction of the necessary dockyards and engineering workshops in one or more ports.”

Soon after the war the British Government in India appeared to be a little more generous. They seemed to recognise that for a country like India with 2,000 miles of coast line it is a humiliating and disgraceful position not to have any mercantile marine worth speaking, and, therefore, it professed to sympathise with the desire of Indians to build up a mercantile marine, at least so far as the coastal trade of India was concerned. And this Committee was appointed with an influential personnel and as a result of the recommendations of that Committee this ship was started. It was then argued that there was no use having a mercantile marine unless you have officers to man the ships ; it was no use having

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your ships and indent for Britishers to man them as officers or engineers and, therefore, they would first start this training ship to train the officers and then build up a mercantile marine. Accordingly, this ship was started on the 1st September, 1927. I shall read to you one or two extracts to show under what auspices the ship was started. Speaking on the 6th December, 1926, before the starting of this ship, Lord Irwin, addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Cawnpore, said :

“ It is, however, no use training Indians in this way unless they have a career open to them. I hope, therefore, that British shipping companies will co-operate to make the training ship a success by giving fair opportunity of employment to Indian cadets.”

Then, Sir, on the 17th December, 1928, one year after the starting of this ship, the same Lord Irwin said :

“ On the same occasion I spoke of a question of vital concern to Indian shipping, the question of its personnel and the natural desire on the part of Indians to take a greater part in the transport systems of their country. To help to meet this claim the ‘ Dufferin ’ training ship was established, and I should like to acknowledge the assistance of British shipping companies in helping to start the ship and the interest that their representatives take as members of the Governing Body.”

Again, on the 17th December, 1934, Lord Willingdon said as follows :

“ The Government have received assurances from engineering firms and shipping companies in India regarding the workshop training and subsequent employment of the engineer cadets trained on the ‘ Dufferin ’.”

On the 26th February, 1936, the Honourable Mr. T. A. Stewart (now Sir Thomas Stewart) said in the Council of State :

“ I would remind the House and my Honourable friend, Mr. Sapru, that both here and in another place a promise has been given that before the mail contracts now held by the British India expire in March, 1937, the fullest consideration will be given to the possibilities of providing further occupation for ex-‘ Dufferin ’ cadets through the bargaining power that we enjoy in granting a contract.”

Therefore, Sir, from the beginning the Government of India had undertaken to find suitable employment for these “ Dufferin ” cadets. In fact, when you remember the conditions under which these cadets have been recruited and trained, even without the assurance of such employment, it will be not only a huge waste but it will be almost cruel to the cadets, their parents as well as the general body, to let them go unemployed. The cadets are engaged for three years for their training in the “ Dufferin ”. Afterwards they are put as apprentices for three more years. Then they have to take service and then go out to sea for 1½ years. So practically their whole course consists of eight years. And how much do you spend for this ? Government spend annually Rs. 2 lakhs and 64 thousand. Up to 1934 there were only 33 cadets under training ; now there are 25 executive cadets and 25 Engineering cadets taken each year ; that is to say, under the present arrangements 50 cadets come out of the ship every year. That means that the Indian taxpayers pay Rs. 5,000 for the training of each cadet, and the parents spend at least Rs. 3,000. Each cadet, therefore, costs Rs. 8,000 to the country ; and what is the fun of spending Rs. 8,000 and say, “ We are going to convert it into a public school ” ? We have heard much about the change in the

prospectus of this training ship. In the 1935 Edition, it was stated in the Prospectus :

" The following shipping companies have agreed to accept as apprentices, youths who have completed the course of the Training Ship, and the Government of India consider that apprentices who give satisfaction should be able to obtain employment on the ships belonging to these and other companies :

- (1) P. and O. S. N. Company's India-China steamers.
- (2) British India Steam Navigation Company.
- (3) Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited.
- (4) Asiatic Steam Navigation Company.
- (5) The Nourse Line.
- (6) The Moghul Line.
- (7) The Burma Oil Company, Limited.
- (8) Cowasji Dinshaw Bros., Aden.
- (9) Bombay Steam Navigation Company (Home Trade)."

By 1937 the Government of India had grown much wiser, and they changed their prospectus as follows :

" *Executive*.—The Government of India have arranged with the principal shipping companies operative on the coasts of India to grant facilities to ' Dufferin ' cadets to proceed to sea as apprentices as vacancies occur. Many of these have also agreed to accept as Officers in their Companies such apprentices who have passed through the ' Dufferin ', completed their apprenticeship at sea with satisfaction and obtained the necessary certificates of competency.

Engagement of apprentices and the employment of officers in after life is, however ", *Mark here* : " dependant on many factors, such as, conditions of trade, number of vacancies and the rules and regulations of each individual company."

Ten years after starting the ship, Government come round and say it

12 Noon.

is not our business to secure, at least to ensure, employment for these cadets : it depends upon individual companies, and all we shall do is to train them and give them the necessary S. S. L. C. certificate. I know, Sir, that many of the cadets of " Dufferin " are already holders of S. S. L. C., and after three years you want to say we have given you general education and are sending you with a S. S. L. C. certificate. Now, Sir, the first batch of cadets were available for employment in 1933. Therefore, only four batches have hitherto been put on the market, that is to say, only 132 cadets have passed out of the training ship and 88 cadets have got their competency certificates. How have they been employed ? Nine have joined the Bengal Pilot Service, 32 have been employed as officers by the Indian Shipping Companies—of these 29 are employed by the Scindia Company alone—and 14 have been employed as officers by the non-Indian shipping companies of whom eight are employed by the B. I. S. N. and two by the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company. There are now 30 cadets who are waiting for employment, and each year there will be 25 engineering cadets and 25 executive cadets who will be available for employment. Now, if you allow for wastage and allow for each Indian 20 years' service, at the rate of 50 for each year, you will have a thousand cadets for whom Government will have to find employment. The total number of officers employed by all the shipping companies in the coastal trade of India—I have not been able to ascertain the exact number, I have put questions in the House, but the Commerce Department have for some reason or other stated, ' We have not been able to gather the information ', and it ought to be very easy to collect information as regards the number of officers employed in the entire coastal trade of India,—but my estimate is that about 1,200 to 1,500 officers are employed in the coastal trade. The " Dufferin " ship has already been at work for

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ten years, and in about 15 years a thousand Indian officers will be available for employment, and unless all the officer posts in the entire coastal shipping is reserved, a large number of them will become unemployed. It is a question for the Government of India to solve, it is no use saying that we shall convert it into a public school. We do not want Government to spend Rs. 5,000, we do not want parents to spend Rs. 3,000, in order to turn out a public school boy. In fact we have already got one, a big swell institution at Dehra Dun. I do not see why the Government of India should spend taxpayers' money on the "Dufferin" training ship to send out merely public school boys. In reply to a question the other day the Honourable the Commerce Member said, that if it was the opinion of the House that the ship should be closed, they were willing to close it. The Party to which I belong is not frightened by such threats. I say, let them honestly try to find employment for the cadets, or let them by all means close the ship. After all, what will happen if they close the ship? The Indian public will have one more charge against the Government, there will be a wave of indignation, a wave of resentment, I shall also say a wave of hatred towards the country which compelled the Government of India to close the ship. There will be a demand for the nationalisation of the coastal shipping so that there will be no more the question of British and Indian ships, and not only all "Dufferin" cadets, but many more will be able to find sea employment in this country. With these words I move the amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Amendment moved :

"That for all the words beginning with the words 'introduce at an early date' and ending with the words 'officers on their ships' the following be substituted :

'take, immediately, legislative and other measures to ensure the employment in adequate numbers of qualified Indian cadets of the I. M. M. T. S. "Dufferin" as officers in their ships by the British Shipping Companies engaged in the coastal and foreign trade of India and also to reserve a majority of the posts of officers in the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets.'

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, I move :

"That after the words 'British Navigation Companies' insert the following :

'and shipping companies of other countries enjoying the benefit of Indian trade and contracts with the Government of India.'

One thing we must remember when we talk about the employment or unemployment of "Dufferin" Cadets is that we are not talking about a thing which concerns these cadets alone, but about a matter which is of national importance, for with it is concerned the development of the Indian Navy and Indian mercantile marine. Sir, in this matter I would like to quote a few lines from His Excellency the Viceroy's address to this House on the 24th January, 1927 :

"I now turn to the announcement made by my predecessor on the 9th February, 1926, in the Council of State conveying the decision of His Majesty's Government to reconstitute the Royal Indian Marine as a combatant force, thus enabling India to enter upon the first stage of her naval development, and ultimately to undertake her own naval defence. Lord Reading pointed out that much constructive work had to be

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done before the Royal Indian Navy could be inaugurated. I am glad to be able to say that considerable progress can already be recorded. The Bombay dock yard has been busily engaged on the equipment of the Depot Ship and only one sloop remains to be acquired in order to complete the initial strength in ships, etc., etc."

Over this matter a question was put in the Assembly to which the following answer was given. The question was put by Dr. Moonje :

" In view of the announcement made by H. E. the Viceroy in his address to the Members of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th January, 1927, that considerable progress has been made in the matter of reconstituting the Royal Indian Marine as a combatant force, for enabling India to enter upon the first stage of naval development and ultimately to undertake her own naval defence, will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) what arrangement, if any, has been made for imparting education to Indian boys in the art and science of naval warfare ? "

To this the reply was given :

" The arrangements for training Indian boys for the Royal Indian Navy will be generally on the lines recommended in paragraphs 8, 10 and 11 of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the reorganisation of the Royal Indian Marine. A copy of the report is in the Library. Some of the details are still under consideration, but the training of the boys as deck and engine room ratings has already been started on the Depot Ship established at Bombay, in advance of the inauguration of the Royal Indian Navy."

Sir, when this announcement was made with so much flourish of trumpets, the public of India should have exclaimed ' Our own Royal Indian Navy, our own mercantile marine are going to be inaugurated '. But what happened after a few years. Government's enthusiasm cooled down. On the 20th February, 1936, the question was asked :

" Is it a fact that some of the cadets trained on the S. S. ' Dufferin ' are suffering from unemployment ;

Were some of them refused employment by the steamship companies trading in the Indian ports ? "

I refer to page 1261 of the proceedings of the year 1936. The following reply was given :

" Since the establishment of the ' Dufferin ' 181 cadets have completed their training and taken their passing out certificates. As regards the number of *ex*-cadets who are unemployed, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (a) of Mr. Asaf Ali's starred question No. 456 on the 14th February. So far as Government are aware only one cadet has complained of neglect in the matter of employment.

So far as Government are aware shipping companies engaged in the coasting trade of India have not refused to employ *ex*- ' Dufferin ' cadets.

Representations have been received by Government from one or two Indian commercial bodies at Bombay urging them to introduce a condition regarding the employment of *ex*- ' Dufferin ' cadets as officers in their agreements with shipping companies who are in receipt of payments for the carriage of mails."

A definite suggestion was made that when contracts for postal service or for any other purpose were made, a condition should be introduced in the contracts that they would take as part of their contract under their employ " Dufferin " cadets. But the replies to these questions that have been put have been extraordinary. For two years the Government have been giving the reply that they have not received communications from

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

the various companies. Here I refer to a question put by my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, who is now the Chief Minister of the United Provinces : the question was :

“ Did the Government address the various shipping companies after they gave this assurance on the floor of this House ? ”

The answer was :

“ Yes, on several occasions.”

The question was then put :

“ Have they received any replies from the companies concerned ? ”

The answer was :

“ Yes, on some occasions.”

The next question was :

“ Have they met with the wishes of the Government ? ”

The reply was :

“ Not completely : Government are still pursuing the matter.”

This was on the 24th February, 1936. We come to this year, and this year the Government have not progressed much further.....

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad (Member for Commerce and Railways) : They have gone very far.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Let us see how far they have gone. There was a question by Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji :

“ Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or propose to take to see that the P. and O. Company employ *ex-‘Dufferin’* cadets as officers on their steamers, in the words of the previous Commerce Member, Sir Joseph Bhore, in ‘adequate numbers’ ? ”

The answer given by Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan was :

“ It is a fact that the P. and O. Company do not employ any *ex-‘Dufferin’* cadets as officers and that both Government and individuals in India make use of the facilities provided by the Company.

The P. and O. Company have agreed to take a certain number of *ex-‘Dufferin’* cadets as apprentices, but have not undertaken to employ them as officers.”

That is the distance we have traversed. Previously it was intended to train officers for the coming Royal Indian Marine, but today they say the prospectus has been amended and it is equal to a public school certificate. I can assure the Honourable Members of this House that boys sent to this training ship are not sent to get public school training : if they want public school training, we can do something else, but that is not the purpose with which the boys are sent to this training ship : they are sent there with the specific purpose that, not only will they get employment, but they will be developing a line which is new in this country and which the Government have to this extent falsified. They have promised, but the promise has not been carried out, and to that extent it has been a fraud upon the parents and upon the public in this country that their expectations have not been fulfilled. I say, the ways of this Government are rather mysterious. If I could use a stronger word, I would say that, to the extent they do not want to exercise the power they have got, they are impotent. There are many cases in which companies enjoying the contracts of the Government of India dare not go against the wishes of

the Government if they insist upon their employing *ex-“Dufferin”* cadets in their ships as officers ; but they would not do anything of the sort : they are pleased to get evasive replies, and so I say that in this matter the Government have been guilty of not taking seriously a matter which they themselves have started, and it is high time that they took some steps, if necessary even legislative, to compel ships which trade in this country and companies which have contracts with the Government of India, not only to employ *ex-“Dufferin”* cadets, but that these cadets should form a nucleus for the Royal Indian Marine and the Royal Indian Navy. Sir, I move.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Indian Marine, not Royal !

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Amendment moved :

“ That after the words ‘ British Navigation Companies ’ insert the following :

‘ and shipping companies of other countries enjoying the benefit of Indian trade and contracts with the Government of India ’.”

The combined effect of these amendments would be that the Resolution, as amended, would read like this :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take, immediately, legislative and other measures to ensure the employment in adequate numbers of qualified Indian cadets of the I. M. M. T. S. ‘ Dufferin ’ as officers in their ships by the British shipping companies and shipping companies of other countries enjoying the benefit of Indian Trade and contracts with the Government of India engaged in the coastal and foreign trade of India and also to reserve a majority of the posts of officers in the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets.”

Both the Resolution and the amendments are now open to discussion.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to support the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. The question of the Dufferin cadets has now developed into nothing short of a political scandal. We, in this House, are aware of the circumstances under which this training ship Dufferin was started in this country. It is indeed a truism to say that the question of developing an Indian mercantile marine is indissolubly linked up with the question of training the personnel, the people who will man and officer the future marine of this country. This case of the Dufferin is one other glaring instance of the way in which the Government of the country have broken to the heart the promises they have made to the ear. It was on the floor of this Legislative Assembly and in pursuance of the insistent demand of all sections of the Indian public that the Government was compelled to accept a sort of halting policy for the development of an Indian mercantile marine ; and, in order to train Indians to man and officer the Indian marine successfully, the Government agreed to start a training ship and it was started in the year 1927. From the very beginning the Government of the land, through its administrative heads, gave assurances to the country that full opportunities of employment would be given to the qualified cadets so that after having completed their training they could go in for a sea career. My Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, has referred to two occasions when the Viceroy gave assurances to that effect. In fact that great Viceroy, Lord Irwin, had made fervent appeals to all the shipping companies engaged

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

in the coastal and overseas trade of India that they should co-operate with the Dufferin ship to make it a success by employing its *ex*-cadets as officers in their different mercantile ships plying in and outside India. Later on, Lord Irwin went so far as to declare that this Government would not hesitate, if need be, to initiate legislation to compel the shipping companies to take Indian cadets. In fact, depending on that kind of assurance from Lord Irwin, the Government spokesman gave an assurance in identical terms before this House, and stated that Government wanted to emphasise the opportunities which were open to the Indian cadets from the Dufferin when they wanted employment in British ships. That assurance was given by no less a person than Sir George Rainy in 1928. Sir, assurances after assurances were repeated on the floor of this House and outside, and yet what do we find today? The Governing Body of this Training Ship Dufferin made a thorough and searching investigation into the question of employment of Dufferin cadets in the different mercantile marine ships, and it reveals a deplorable state of things. During the first three years of its operations, they found that as many as 99 cadets were turned out. Of these 15 quietly drifted away into civil life, of the rest about seven or nine, I am not sure of the exact number, were taken in by the Bengal Pilot Service, and 29 were taken by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company. I want the House to remember that the British India Steam Company, which enjoys the monopoly of coastal shipping trade in this country, took only four *ex*-cadets of the Dufferin, and the British India Steam Navigation Company has on its fleet no less than 75 ships, and I want Honourable Members also to remember that from the coastal and overseas trade of India these foreign shipping companies are making a profit of no less than 50 crores a year. I believe, it is also known to the House, that Government stores, Railway stores, telegraph stores, Army, Marine and other stores are conveyed to this country by these British Navigation companies. There have been questions in this House and also in another place, from time to time, asking the Government to patronise the Indian shipping companies and to give them an opportunity to carry the Government, railway and other stores, from ports outside India to Indian ports, and the Government committed themselves to the principle that, in future, if the quotations of Indian shipping companies were even approximate to those quoted by foreign shipping companies, preference would be given to Indian Shipping companies, but Government as usual violated their promise. So we find that by virtue of an agreement which dates back to 1906, the British India Steam Navigation Company has been carrying Government stores, Railway and military stores, etc., and practically monopolising the coastal trade of India since that date, wiping out of existence a large number of Indian concerns which sprang up from time to time and stood in their way. Therefore, these foreign companies are benefiting enormously at the expense of India, but when we ask them to employ the *ex*-cadets of the Dufferin, they look askance at it and refuse to do what is but an elementary act of justice and fairplay. When we urge the Government to put pressure on these companies, Honourable Members of the Treasury Benches stand up and say that they have made requests to these shipping companies to take in Indian cadets, that they have been pursuing a policy of sweet reasonableness, and that as a result thereof some of the foreign shipping companies have been persuaded to take on a few more Indian hands. Sir, for the last 1½ years or more this

question of employment of Dufferin cadets has been agitating the minds of the Indian public, for, it matters little if you give them training only as apprentices. If you cannot provide them with employment as officers on board the ship, after they have served their apprenticeship, all their training is wasted. The crux of the whole thing is providing employment for these trained *ex-cadets*. Sir, I am surprised at the name of this training ship 'Dufferin'. I believe those who christened it spoke with a tongue which had different meanings for different people. Probably they thought that those who would join the Dufferin Training Ship would only be duffers, and I won't know if that was the intention of the Government. After all, Sir, we have been treated as duffers. We know Government always make pompous promises whenever they are in a delicate and embarrassing position and that at the very earliest opportunity they try to wriggle out of the inconvenient and uncomfortable situations created by those promises.

An Honourable Member : Why do you believe those promises ?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Those who join the ship by believing those promises are duffers. Therefore, Sir, I believe the time has now come when we cannot any longer sleep over the matter. It is a matter of 'momentous consequence' to this country ; and, as I have said, if we have to develop a mercantile marine in this country, this question should be the most absorbing of all questions. We must now force the hands of the Government either to initiate legislative measures or some other measures to compel these British and other foreign shipping companies to employ *ex-cadets* of the Dufferin as officers on their ships ; and so long as they enjoy the monopoly of contract for carrying stores and mails in this country, we can compel them, Government can compel them, if they like, to meet the demands of the public to take *ex-cadets* as officers. Therefore, I strongly feel that steps should be taken for that purpose without delay, and we want to see that something tangible is done by Government in this matter.

Sir, the other day my Honourable friend, Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad, the Commerce Member, made an observation, which was rather assertive. He stated that if Honourable Members thought that this training ship served no useful purpose, Government would be prepared to close it down. Have matters reached such a step that he thought it necessary to make a suggestion like that ? Does he think that we, on this side of the House, who want a thoroughly equipped national mercantile marine in this country, would suggest that we do not want a training ship ? All that we mean by this Resolution is that people who get training in a ship which is maintained at a cost of about two lakhs of rupees per annum should have suitable sea careers thrown open to them by shipping companies plying on the coast of India and elsewhere, and when I say shipping companies I include in that not only the British India Steam Navigation and the P. and O. companies but also companies like the Moghul and Asiatic lines and also the ships run by Japanese concerns, which make enormous profits at the cost of India. Sir, it has been found from figures published that these Japanese are controlling 71 per cent. of the coastal trade. Now, we understand that trade negotiations are going on for the past 1½ years behind our back.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : That is not correct.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Yes, you are secretly carrying on these trade negotiations behind our backs, we are not in the know of things.....

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : What I suggested was that 71 per cent. of the coastal traffic is not in the hands of the Japanese.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I am sorry, I meant the coastal trade that is carried on between India and other ports in the East. I meant the eastern trade. The Japanese are monopolising 71 per cent. of the eastern trade. If that is so, Government can use their great bargaining powers with the Japanese Government, at least to see that their shipping companies take a sufficiently large number of Indian *ex-cadets* in the posts of officers on board their ships. Sir, after the pompous promise made by one of the Viceroy's, there came another promise from Lord Willingdon. I believe at a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce held in Calcutta in December, 1934, Lord Willingdon waxed eloquent over the training ship Dufferin.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : He said that he was surprised at the phenomenal success that the Dufferin Training Ship had achieved, but he also made an important announcement that there would be a further development and that in the engineering side so that *ex-cadets* of the Dufferin would find careers not only in the executive side but also in the engineering side, but we do not know even now where exactly these matters stand. I am just now in receipt of a long telegram narrating the grievances of the Dufferin cadets and the new changes in the prospectus.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member's time is up.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Therefore, with these words, Sir, I support the amendment.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Which amendment ?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I am supporting Mr. Chettiar's amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I am afraid I was under the impression that the second amendment was an amendment to the previous amendment. That is not so. It is an amendment to the original Resolution, that is to say, its object is to extend the obligation of British Shipping Companies carrying on the coastal trade to other shipping companies.

Mr. H. Dow (Commerce Secretary) : I rise to oppose this Resolution and both the amendments. At the same time, I admit that, if the facts were what my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, said they were, and what apparently Honourable Members opposite who have spoken suppose them to be, I should agree at once that the House had a very reasonable cause for indignation and that something ought to be done about

it, though I might not be able to support the particular remedy which is put forward in this Resolution. Sir Muhammad Yakub's case is this, that the "Dufferin" scheme is about to break down owing to the fact that the British shipping firms have withdrawn their co-operation or refused to tender it; that, in consequence, there are very large numbers of *ex-cadets* who are without employment; that in order to cover this failure Government are insidiously trying to change the character of the ship and turn it from a training ship into a sort of public school; and that, lastly, as a first step in this direction, they have already made certain changes in the prospectus.

Government have absolutely nothing that they wish to hide with regard to their administration of the "Dufferin" and they see no reason whatever why they should make a journey to Canossa or stand in a whiter sheet over this matter. A later speaker will deal in detail with the employment situation with regard to the cadets and will give you the true facts regarding the extent to which these cadets are employed or unemployed. I will say very little about that point, but I must say straightaway that the figures given by the Honourable the Mover are almost fanatastically incorrect. For example, he has told you that British India employ only four cadets and that none of the other British firms employ any. Actually, according to the latest figures we have, the British lines are now employing 23. We told you that altogether there were only 29 officers serving afloat. Actually there are 63, and I am not including in this, people who are employed in other sea services, such as the Bengal Pilot Service, or in the various river surveys. Instead of there being the number of 34 out of employment, the actual number, as far as we can ascertain, at the moment is only two or three.

At this stage Dr. DeSouza rose in his place to put a question.

If I am to be interrupted, I should have to ask for extra time.

When the Government started the "Dufferin", they were perfectly aware that they were going to train more boys than the Indian Mercantile Marine was likely to absorb. There is no doubt about that fact whatsoever. It was at the time anticipated that year by year we might be able to find employment for ten or twelve boys, and in spite of that, Government deliberately undertook to train a very much larger number. I will give you the reasons. The first important reason was the expectations of wastage. If you will cast your minds back to 1927 you will recall that it was a matter of very great doubt then whether Indian boys of the middle class would show any aptitude for a sea career or would be prepared to stick to it. As memories are short, I would like to refer to paragraph 8 of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee's Report. I do not propose to waste your time in reading it, but you will find the opinions on both sides set out. Many of you have always hoped that Indian boys would prove fit for a sea career, and with some of you it may have been a matter of passionate conviction that they would. But my point now is that actual knowledge was not available, and, therefore, it was very sensible of Government, in my opinion, to allow for a considerable wastage. Actually that wastage has not occurred and I will give one or two principal reasons for the same. First of all, the qualities of the boys themselves. These boys turned out to be pretty much like English boys or the boys of any other country, when they were caught at the right

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moment and given proper training. That I think is the principal reason why the wastage has not eventuated. I would give as a second reason, the excellent choice which Government made of the Captain Superintendent, and as Captain Digby-Beste is on the eve of retirement, and is not in good health, largely due to his devotion to duty, I would like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to him. He has identified himself with the life of the ship, and the welfare of the cadets and I am perfectly sure that every member of the Governing Body and anybody else who knows anything about the ship, whatever their views may be on this Resolution, will agree with me that he has done excellent work and has made a great success of the ship. (Cheers.) Another important reason for deliberately increasing the number was that it would improve the actual training of the boys on the ship. There are probably several Members in this House who have had something to do with running schools or other educational institutions, and I am sure they will realise that for the success of any such institution a certain number of boys is necessary. Boys do a great deal towards educating themselves, and the recognition of this fact is one of the reasons for the success of the English public schools. They rub corners off each other; numbers too are necessary for the organisation of games. Thirdly, the ship which we were going to use was big enough to take in a larger number. The running cost of the ship was going to be pretty much the same whether there was a small complement of boys or the full complement. That meant that the more boys were trained the greater the reduction in the cost per head; and since the parents had got to pay for it, that was a very important consideration; my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, has told you that it costs a parent about Rs. 5,000. He displayed the same carelessness in this figure as he did in dealing with the numbers of those who were unemployed. The actual cost is nearer Rs. 2,000 spread over four years. I am afraid my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, has not much head for figures. I suppose that other speakers besides myself must have noticed that since he has been on the Committee of the "Dufferin" he has developed a certain nautical roll in his gait. I suppose at the same time he is trying to live up to the tradition of sea services that "Sailors don't care". (Laughter.)

So, for various reasons, Government deliberately increased the numbers on the ship. This decision did not involve any sacrifice of the character of the training. It was fully in accord with the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee themselves, that stress was laid on the necessity of a sound general education. I will quote on this subject from the old edition of the prospectus, not the new one to which exception has been taken. Let me, first of all, read from the Report of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee. They say:

"We suggest that the curriculum of training on the training ship proposed should be similar to that in vogue in the English training establishments, which is a sound general and mathematical education in addition to one in the practice and art of navigation and seamanship. A sound general education, apart from being necessary for the profession of the sea, prevents a boy from falling behind his contemporaries on shore, so that should he for any reason give up the idea of a profession at sea, he will not be placed at a disadvantage when seeking employment in other walks of life."

We laid stress on this in the first edition of the prospectus. No. 2 of the Aims and Objects is thus set forth :

"to bring each cadet to an educational standard so that should he elect not to follow the sea, his education on board will stand him in good stead, whatever profession he desires to follow."

You will find the same point insisted on later on at page 10 of the prospectus.

Now, I come to deal with the changes that Government have recently made in the prospectus. Those that have been objected to are mainly two in number. The first is that Government have omitted these words :

"The Government of India consider that apprentices who have satisfactorily completed their preliminary training should be able to obtain employment on the ships belonging to the principal shipping companies in India."

This has been omitted because, in spite of frequent disclaimers by the Government of India, our hostile critics have constantly tried to read into this a Government guarantee that all *ex*-cadets would obtain sea employment. Now, if it is open to this construction, I say that it is only fair to the cadets, and to their parents and guardians who have got to pay for them, that we should not have it in the prospectus. Government have not given such a guarantee and are, obviously, not in a position to do so. We have made it perfectly clear that removing these words does not in any way connote any relaxation of Government's efforts to obtain them employment, or of Government's obligations to use all their efforts in that direction. Actually, of course, the plain wording does not convey a guarantee. It gives a statement of Government's opinion. I, for example, knowing well that the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party opposite is not the hard, narrow, bitter little man that he sometimes pretends to be, may consider that, having listened to the Government's case in this debate, he should be able to withdraw his support from the Resolution, but, Sir, I should not like to have to guarantee it. (Laughter.)

The second change we have made is that we have set out rather more fully the nature of the general education on the "Dufferin" and the extent to which the value of this examination has been recognised by other institutions. We consider that the cadets and their parents and guardians, who pay for their education, are entitled to this information. Now if it is true, as the Mover of this Resolution has alleged, that the prospects of employment at sea are very poor, and that the *ex*-cadets will have to rely on shore occupations, why do those people who affect to believe this insist that we should continue to delude parents and guardians into believing that the position is otherwise? We have made it very clear, both to the Governing Body, and in answers in this House and in the Council of State, that no change whatever has been made or is involved in the curriculum or training and that the object of the ship remains, as it always has been, the fitting of the boys that wish to go to sea for actual service afloat, and I can challenge anybody, on the Governing Body or out of it, to point to a single suggestion made by or on behalf of Government which points to anything else than that.

Now, Sir, we are told that the Dufferin is turning out large numbers of boys who have no chance of employment at sea. Yet those who

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affect to hold this view steadfastly set their face against any reduction in the number of boys to be entered. They object to us making it clear that we do not give them a Government guarantee of employment and they object to Government drawing attention to possibilities of other employment ashore. After this long sustained propaganda about the widespread unemployment of cadets, it is sought to blame Government because the entries to the Dufferin show a tendency in recent years to fall off. Sir, it is true that the entries do show a certain tendency to fall off, and I anticipate a further falling off this year. I do not know on whose shoulders I can place the responsibility for this, except on the shoulders of those who, knowing very well the facts to be otherwise, have by ceaseless propaganda in the Press exaggerated the state of unemployment amongst the cadets and done everything they can to undermine the confidence of the public. Government are doing their best to meet this propaganda, but as you all know, a lie can go half way round the world before truth can get her boots on. All this propaganda has its source in and gets its chief support from the largest Indian company, which hopes eventually to supplant the British India Company in the monopoly on the coast. Now, Sir, why should this company which itself derives the greatest benefit from the expenditure which Government incurs on training its cadets, proclaim loudly that cadets have no chance of employment at sea, object to their being informed of opportunities of employment on land, and object to the entries into the Dufferin being restricted. (Interruption.) I do not know what inference I am to draw except that they themselves desire a large pool of unemployed officers. By so doing, they hope for a double advantage. In the first place they can resist the demand for better terms from their own officers. But principally they want a stick to beat their rivals. They want you to draw the conclusion that the only way to get rid of this unemployment is to transfer a greater share of the coastal traffic from British to Indian ships.

There are signs that this propaganda is already over-reaching itself.

Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces : Muhammadan) : Sir, Today, being Friday, I request you to adjourn the House now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has already taken more than fifteen minutes and I should like to know how long he will take.

Mr. H. Dow : I will finish in half a minute. I should like to close with a word of warning. If this propaganda is so successful that boys do not come forward to join the training ship in sufficient numbers, then the first to suffer from the absence of trained Indian officers will be those whose propaganda has brought this state of affairs about.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, we on this side perhaps were not so very anxious to make speeches on this Resolution of Sir Muhammad Yakub, but ever since we have heard the speech on the Government side, I am afraid that our minds have been disturbed to a very great extent. This "Dufferin" question may seem to Government to be a very small matter, but on this ship we had placed our great hopes. Our idea was that by the introduction of this "Dufferin" ship, a career will be open for our young boys, and that was the hope given by two great Viceroys of India. Even Sir George Rainy gave great hopes to this very House, and, therefore, we Indians on this side thought that in future a great career would be open for the Indian boys. But the speech which we heard today from the Honourable Mr. Dow has been not only discouraging, but it has been heart-rending to a great extent to all of us. Sir, it is very easy to threaten us by saying that if this propaganda which the Indian companies and the Indians have taken in their hands—according to Government it is propaganda and nothing else—is carried on and if the Indians go on agitating over this "Dufferin" ship, the result might be rather disastrous. This very morning I remember Pandit Maitra having put a question to the Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad, the Member in charge of the Railways, and he was kind enough to say that the other day he did not threaten anything about the "Dufferin". But I am sorry to find that Mr. Dow has, to a great extent, threatened that if this propaganda is carried on, it may be not to the benefit of the Indians, but it may lead to the abolition of something of the kind of the "Dufferin" ship.

Mr. H. Dow : I made no such threat or suggestion.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : By the word propaganda or something of that kind, we understood that the Honourable Member was threatening us. It may not have been said expressly, but we on this side think that this is a sort of implied discouragement. This Legislature has been sanctioning every year about two lakhs of rupees to be spent on this "Dufferin" ship. If we count that amount from the year 1927 up to this year—a period of 10 years—it will come to about 20 lakhs. If the result of this expenditure of 20 lakhs is that only four or six cadets have been taken by the British Shipping Companies, I must say that all the money that we have spent on this "Dufferin" ship has surely been wasted.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : That has been contradicted already.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : My idea was that my friend said that the figures quoted by Sir Muhammad Yakub were absolutely incorrect. One does not know really which figures are correct, whether those given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, or those given by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub. But the fact remains that the present Government is not much inclined towards encouraging the cadets of the "Dufferin". Unless and until Government are prepared

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to threaten these British Shipping Companies by saying that the Indian coastal trade and the Indian coast is a preserve of the Indians and it cannot be the monopoly of the British companies and the British people alone, I am sure, nothing will be done for the good of the "Dufferin" cadets. The question of the employment of Indians is at present engaging the minds of the people of this country. We not only want that higher posts should be reserved for Indians, but that employment for our young people and for our younger generation should be found by hook or by crook. I shall be much obliged if our Honourable friend could supply to this House, after making a complete inquiry from the British Shipping Companies, as to what is their programme now in regard to the cadets of the "Dufferin" ship. I may inform the House that last year one Indian student, whose name is Muhammad Asif, passed with great credit and stood first in the examination of the "Dufferin" cadets of India. When Indian students are prepared to qualify themselves, why should not the Government also come to their help? I am glad to inform the House that the boy, whose name I mentioned just now, belonged to a charitable institution of Bombay, with whose assistance he has gone to England and is being trained there. Under those circumstances, can it be said that Indians do not really want to work on this "Dufferin" ship? I can assure the Government that if proper arrangements are made and if the boys have a good chance of their training, hundreds and thousands of boys will offer themselves to be trained for the Indian Mercantile Marine. This side of the House is always pressing for the employment of boys in the army and navy, but unfortunately the reply of the Government is not very encouraging. I will, therefore, ask the Government to reconsider their position. Supposing, God forbid, there comes a time when we may not be in a position to get enough British protection, it is for that eventuality that we want the Government to take our warning, and just as they are training Indians for the Indian army, so should they also train Indians for the Indian Mercantile Marine. My Honourable friend said that it is not the natural desire of the Indian boys to serve on Mercantile Marine. That is not the case. Every Indian wants that, if he gets an opportunity, he should serve not only the Government, but also his own nation. Unless and until we can find more employment for the cadets of the "Dufferin" ship, it will be very difficult for Indians to be trained. With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras : Indian Commerce) : Sir, I have listened very carefully to the unrivalled speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, who has come to this House probably for the purpose of opposing this motion and the motion with regard to the Indo-British Trade Agreement. His speech was unrivalled for its speciousness. I thought the game of adroit construction of argument and facts in order to combat the popular demand has gone on far too long, and I am surprised whether there are still on the Treasury Benches today Honourable Members who think that with that kind of game they can possibly bamboozle the Opposition (Hear, hear) and cover the awkward truth of the situation in which the Government are finding themselves.

Sir, the country had agitated for a long time for the construction of an Indian Mercantile Marine. The Government, with their usual methods

of avoiding, delaying and postponing, at last appointed a Committee, namely, the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee, who recommended certain proposals out of which one was that there must be an arrangement whereby young men could be enabled to take this line of employment and thereby completely fulfill the personnel required for a proper mercantile marine. The "Dufferin" was, therefore, ushered in as a sop to the crying child for an Indian Mercantile Marine. Sir, certain young men have been trained in this teaching ship. I dare say that when they inaugurated this scheme of educating our young men in the art of navigation and also of nautical engineering, they really intended that these young men must find employment in this country. Otherwise, there would have been no reason, no logic in educating persons only to swell the ranks of the unemployed in this particular line also. As a matter of fact, Viceroy after Viceroy has assured the country that the Government would use all the powers which they have of bargaining with the shipping companies to take up these young men who are turked out of this "Dufferin" ship after undergoing the necessary training. We are quite aware, Sir, that the Government have no legal right, no legal power to impose upon any shipping company the condition of recruitment of the Indian youths for their concerns. But, certainly both the Government and the people are aware that though the Government had no statutory powers, they had still the power of bargaining with these shipping companies who trade with us and who take our custom and persuade them to take these young men in their shipping companies.

Now, Sir, the very power which the Government have in giving contracts for the conveyance of mails, etc., to these shipping companies can be invoked and pressure might be brought to bear on these shipping companies in favour of these young men being taken in as apprentices and as employees in these concerns. My Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, at one time said that the figures quoted by the Honourable Members on this side of the House were fantastically incorrect and that, as a matter of fact, only one or two persons were now out of employ. The question that I ask is whether there is unemployment or no unemployment. Does the Honourable Member, Mr. Dow, mean seriously to suggest to this House that if there had been unemployment of only one or two cadets, there would have been such a heavy agitation in regard to the unemployment of "Dufferin" cadets. He merely wants to throw dust into the eyes of the public by saying that there are only one or two persons who have not got employment.

Well, Sir, so late as January last in Delhi, the Honourable the Commerce Member said, in answer to an interpellation, that he has been in correspondence with the shipping companies in regard to the employment of these young men. If there had been only one or two young men who were out of employment, why should this mighty Government trouble themselves with corresponding with these shipping companies in order to get those one or two persons employed? The fact is that till early this year, there were as many as 26 who were unemployed. Is it that my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow's visit to Bombay during the last one or two months has had some considerable effect in relieving this unemployment? Was he not successful with these shipping companies in persuading them to take perhaps as many as 10 persons as apprentices

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty.]

in the shipping companies? If that was so, he was merely trying to burk the issue and take credit for a situation which is nearly correct as depicted by Honourable Members on this side of the House.

There is another fallacy in this argument of my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow. He said that there were only one or two cadets. Perhaps it is only one or two cadets who are actually now crying for employment. But does my Honourable friend forget that there have been young men who have lost all hopes of employment in Shipping Companies and who took to other lines of business and that they are not now employed in the shipping line, but have been taken in other lines. Even among the young men who have been employed by the Shipping Companies or by the Port Authorities, might I know how many of them are actually on the technical side of navigation and how many are merely officers on the shore organisation? Therefore, the object with which these young men have been trained in this ship is practically frustrated. Apart from that, instead of frankly admitting that they did their best with regard to these Shipping Companies to take these young men, but that they were adamant and that their rules did not permit the Shipping Companies to take these men, and, therefore, the arts of persuasion of Government could no longer have any effect with these Shipping Companies, that they should come to this House and tell us that the Shipping Companies kept up their word and that there had been no unemployment among these young men is simply clouding the issue entirely. Far from encouraging and far from giving credit to that single Indian company which has taken as many as 21 young cadets into their service, the Honourable Member, Mr. Dow, had the temerity to condemn their action in making this propaganda. What can I say of this other propaganda which suits my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, to carry on when he regretted the decision, in no doubt very euphemistic terms, of the previous Government in having admitted as many as 15 young men to be trained. The previous Government, according to Mr. Dow, had thought that there would be greater wastage than what had actually occurred, and, therefore, it was, instead of reducing the number of trained young men to 10 or 15, that they had provided for 15, and that was, therefore, the reason why there was the cry of unemployment. Probably if Mr. Dow had been connected with the Government of India as he is now connected in this particular Department, he would have advised the Government to reduce the number. But, somehow or other, I know that Government were not perhaps very sympathetic towards India in over-estimating that there would be as large a number as 50 persons to be trained in shipping. I know that it is just possible that the Government of India had really intended that this experiment must be a failure, but the Indian being a tenacious animal, having absolutely no other avenue of employment to look to, has adhered even to the rigours of the line of navigation, and, therefore, it is that there is not as much wastage as was expected by the Government. But whatever that may be, whether there is wastage or not, what is the position now of the Government? If they are not going to close down this "Dufferin" training ship, they must do their best to provide employment for these young men. (Hear, hear.) There is no use of your saying that the Shipping Companies would not agree, and, therefore, I have no means of supporting these young men. I wish those companies would refuse to take our young men so that that point itself

might be an incentive for this Government to institute an Indian Mercantile Marine for the full employment of our youths. (Hear, hear.) Apart from that, there is no use again of throwing the responsibility upon other shipping concerns which are after all mercantile concerns. What about the Government of India itself? Have you not got provision for some of these young men at least to be taken in the Royal Indian Navy? The average vacancies which occur in that navy is about six a year, and how many of these young men have been taken into this Royal Indian Navy? Will Government now give an undertaking that from today all the vacancies that might happen in the Royal Indian Navy will be recruited from these youths. Also what have they done with regard to the Bengal Pilot Service? How many of them have they taken from these youths? So far, I am told, only seven have been taken; and I am sure that as long as the view of Government is in consonance with the views expressed by the people that the young men trained in this institution should be employed, there must be no difficulty for Government to give an undertaking so far at least as their departments are concerned, namely, the Bengal Pilot Service and the Royal Indian Navy, whatever may be their arts of persuasion with regard to other companies. Even with regard to other companies I am not going to believe that Government cannot influence them to take young men from this ship; it only depends upon the manner of bargaining. There may be hesitation to take in the first instance, but if there is a compensating advantage in the shape of retention of the custom of the Indian Government, I am sure the English companies will be the first to oblige the Indian Government just for the sake of keeping the business which the Government of India are in a position to give them. I am sure, the Government of India will take early steps to get this thing done.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie (Defence Secretary) : Sir, in rising to oppose the Resolution and the two amendments, I must first say that, to my great regret, I was unavoidably detained and could not enjoy the advantage of hearing the speech of Mr. Santhanam. I gather that that small part of the amendment with which I am concerned was not dealt with by him in any detail; that is, that the majority of vacancies in the Royal Indian Navy should, in future, be filled from the "Dufferin". In the first place, Sir, it is obviously desirable to throw our net as wide as possible in recruitments for the young Royal Indian Navy. The "Dufferin" is not a Royal Naval College but is designed to supply the needs of the mercantile marine. It would, I submit, be entirely wrong to limit our field of selection to so small an institution. However, the results of the open competitive examinations have been, in recent years, so disappointing that in the first place, it was suggested that "Dufferin" cadets should sit for the open examination. That suggestion was turned down, as it appeared impossible for boys who had received the specialised training on the "Dufferin" to compete on equal terms with young graduates from the University. An alternative suggestion was, therefore, made which was more welcomed and that was that a proportion of the vacancies in any year should be reserved for the "Dufferin" and that they should compete for them among themselves. That has since been done. In the first year, 1934, we had eight candidates from the "Dufferin", but only two qualified; in the second year, 1935, we had nine candidates but none-qualified; and last year we had eleven candidates and one qualified. The one who qualified got a vacancy. Sir, I

[Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.]

think from what I have said it will be clear that up to the present, at any rate, even if we had desired to fill all our vacancies from the "Dufferin", we should have been unable to do so.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Sir, I do not belong to a martial race and I am a pacifist, and I do not propose to rouse the anger or excitement of the House. I feel very happy that Government have got this opportunity to clear up many misunderstandings and many misapprehensions with respect to the "Dufferin". The first question that was raised was the change in the prospectus. The House will remember that a motion for adjournment was attempted by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, sometime ago, which I opposed. The reason for that opposition was that the adjournment motion does not give us sufficient time to discuss the various implications of the motion, and I was anxious that there should be sufficient opportunity for the discussion of an important matter like this. I hope, that at least Mr. Dow's speech, has satisfactorily established one point, and that is that the change in the prospectus did not, in the least, involve a change of policy with respect to the "Dufferin".

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : Why change it then ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : For the simple reason that we wanted to be more honest to the boys, to the parents and to everybody. We wanted to remove all doubts.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City ; Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Then you were not honest before !

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : I never thought really that any assurance was needed that Government were exceedingly keen on the development of the Indian Mercantile Marine and was equally keen that there should be no lack of officers in order to man that Marine. Government are also very anxious that if, for some reason or other, some of the *ex-cadets* are not absorbed in service on sea they should not be stranded altogether, that they should receive such education which would enable them to find employment on shore. And that was the reason why Government come into contact with Provincial Governments as well as the various universities in India and got a recognition of the training received by the "Dufferin" boys. I do not want to say more and cover the ground which has been covered by my Colleague, Mr. Dow ; I will take up the Resolution as it stands and deal with the various points involved in it. Since this Resolution was tabled and even before that I found that at least in this House there was undoubtedly some anxiety, in fact alarm, with respect to the position of the *ex-cadets* of the "Dufferin". And I often wondered to myself as to what was the cause for this anxiety or alarm, whether there was any foundation for it, or whether it was simply engineered by some self-seeking persons outside. So far as the latter part is concerned I do not know myself whether there are other people interested in trying to down the efforts of the Government of India so far as *ex-cadets* were concerned, but, after the speech of the Honourable the Mover last Friday, I have become convinced that most of the agitation against Government's attitude or against what is being done with respect to "Dufferin" is due mainly to ignorance of facts. Once the facts are placed before the House I have absolutely no doubt

as to what the feeling of the House will be. If any assurance were needed, we can give the assurance that we propose to stand by the certificated boys of the "Dufferin" and we will not allow them to be stranded and walk and roam about unemployed in the streets of Bombay or for the matter of that anywhere else. We are exceedingly anxious, just as anxious as you are, that they all should find employment, and Government of India will not fail in their efforts to secure employment for them. Now, I suggest, that much of this anxiety on your part and on the part of the people outside is due perhaps to correct information not having been conveyed here or outside. If the facts, as stated by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, were correct even by 50 per cent., I should think there would be cause for great anxiety, and I can very well understand his desire, your desire and everybody's desire to adopt extreme measures. He stated more than once in the course of his speech that the British India Steam Navigation Company have only taken four cadets as officers. He being a Member of the Governing Body of "Dufferin" if he makes a statement, it is bound to be accepted by my Honourable friend, Mr. Maitra. I do not blame him for that, but the statement is absolutely untrue : in fact 16 cadets of the "Dufferin" have been employed by the British India Steam Navigation Co.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : As what ? As officers ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Yes, as officers. That is exactly the point : let me go on and I am sure I will be able to convince the House....

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I want to know when these sixteen people were taken.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Annually four or five. Every statement that I make will be supported by record.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : I have 372 cadets.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : That also I will be able to explain to you. You may also have been misled by the speech that has been made. Then he further suggested that not a single cadet was taken by the Moghul Line and the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : There are four now.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : I shall give you the figures later. That also is incorrect. These facts are absolutely untrue, but when we are considering the fate of the boys and their future career let us have the true facts before us. He also stated that only 29 "Dufferin" boys are serving as officers afloat. But that statement again, is absolutely fantastic.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : How many are there ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : I will give you the figures now. He got the figures from a speech made on the floor of the House sometime in the beginning of 1936 with respect to the position in

[Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad.]

September, 1935, and applied them to September, 1937. Now I will give you the figures :

As regards actual employment :

B. I. S. N. Company	..	..	16
Asiatic Steam Navigation Co.		..	5
Moghul Line	.. ..	..	2
Total			.. 23

Indian Shipping Companies :

Scindia Steam Navigation Co.		..	40
Bombay Steam Navigation Co.	..	..	1
Cowasji Dinshaw Bros	.. ..	..	1
Eastern Steam Navigation Co.	..	..	1
Total			.. 43
Total			.. 66

Out of that total of 66, 23 were employed by British companies. I should, however, explain that owing to uncertainties of sea life we are not certain whether all these are serving in the companies I have mentioned. Perhaps two of the B. I. S. N. Co. may have gone to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company or to the Moghul Line. Similarly some from the Scindia Steam Navigation Company may have gone to the Bombay Steam Navigation Company or to any other. But the result is 23.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : It is the story of "We are Seven."

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : We are 23 ! Then, Sir Muhammad Yakub gave another set of figures where again he has gone completely wrong and misled the whole House. The figures given by him for the 99 Cadets who joined the ship from 1927 to 1930,—there were 99 cadets altogether—were—15 gave up sea career, 21 went into other services, 29 were serving as officers afloat and 34 were out of employment, total 99. The first mistake he makes is this, that he makes no distinction between those who have obtained certificates and those who actually joined the ship, because, as the House knows, after training in the ship, they have to serve as apprentices in various companies and after they get the certificates they are eligible for employment for sea service. Now, we have just received a letter from our Captain Superintendent, to whom very rightly a tribute has been paid by Mr. Dow, and he says that the utmost he could get from inquiries was that there may be two or three cadets out of employment. Now, consider the position. 34 mentioned as out of employment by the Honourable the Mover while the fact is that there are only two out of employment and are awaiting ships.

An Honourable Member : May I know, Sir, who appointed him to the Governing Body ? (Laughter.)

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I just ask one question ? If two only are out of employment, what has happened to others ? Have they got employment on shore or what has happened to them ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : I will give the latest figures we have received up to the 5th of September : officers at sea are 63. In the Bengal Pilot Service 9—and I may inform the Honourable Member, as the last speaker but one inquired as to what we are doing with respect to the employment of these cadets by the Bengal Pilot Service—that all the officers taken recently by the Bengal Pilot Service are boys from the “ Dufferin ”. 63 officers at sea, nine in the Bengal Pilot Service, eight in the river surveys and seven in the Navy—altogether 87. Two or three at the most are out of employment. It must amaze Honourable Members when a statement is made on the floor of the House by the Honourable Member who moved this Resolution, that 34 were out of employment and only 29 were serving at sea, though the facts are that there are only two or three out of employment, while the rest are all absorbed as officers at sea or in the Bengal Pilot Service or in the river surveys or Navy.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I just ask one more question ? I take it that 87 are employed and only two are unemployed. Does it mean that 89 have received certificates out of 99 cadets altogether ?

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar : Non-Muhammadan) : Does the Honourable Member accept the figure of 99 cadets as correct ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : May I first of all answer Sir Cowasji Jehangir ? As a matter of fact there are some who are in the river surveys who have not got certificates.....

An Honourable Member : Why ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Because they failed. In fact, as far as we know there are only 76 certificated officers up to the 5th September—63 up to the end of June and 76 altogether up to the 5th September. 63 certificated, nine in the Bengal Pilot Service—that makes 72. Another four are certificated, and the balance uncertificated : I hope I have made the position clear.....

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I ask one more question ? In that case, two entering the Navy are without certificates ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Yes, quite right. That is a fact.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : It is a non-certified Navy : so there is no harm done. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Now, compare the figures for which I have got records, and compare the figures given by the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution which naturally excited the ire of this House : The reason why Sir Muhammad Yakub made that statement.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The Honourable Member has already spoken for 20 minutes.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Very well, Sir. I have no objection to sit down : I thought I was entitled to half an hour.

Some Honourable Members : Go on !

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : If that is so, then the Honourable Member is entitled to half an hour. I thought two other Members had already spoken.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : As I have already stated he got the figures from a statement made in this House in February, 1936, with respect to the position in 1935. Within the last two years, there have been various developments and a fresh impetus has been given : and I will give later on figures which I am sure will be received with a certain amount of gratification. (Interruptions.) I have got very little time and I will place the facts before you. It has been suggested that the British companies have done very little to take the "Dufferin" cadets. I have already given you the figures and I hope Honourable Members are satisfied that it is not correct to say that only four were taken by the British companies, while as a matter of fact 23 have been taken. Now there are many other small Indian companies doing coastal work in India, such as the Malabar Steam Navigation Company, the Indian Co-operative Company, the Merchants Steam Navigation Company, National Steamship Company—they do not take our cadets at all : I do not blame them for that because they are very small companies to begin with, and apart from that they train their own serangs and make them officers, but I just wanted to mention that there are other companies also where a cadet can be taken but has not been taken. The present position is, as I hope I have clearly established before the House, that with the exception of two ex-cadets who were eligible for appointment, all have been employed and they have received their appointments. Now, fresh developments have taken place within the last four months. It so happens that they coincide with my time, i.e., since I have been here, but please do not give me any credit for them, because all that has happened is due to the earnest efforts of other people and not myself....

Mr. S. Satyamuri :and the pressure of this House also !

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Now, the British India Steam Navigation Company, as Honourable Members are aware, had agreed to take only five cadets as officers annually. They have now agreed to increase their annual in-take of officers from the "Dufferin" from five to eight ; every year they are going to take, instead of five officers, eight officers on their ships

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : It is a very trivial figure.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Everything according to my Honourable friend is trivial, but let us try and approach this question in a dispassionate spirit ; where credit is due it must be given. Now, Sir, we have been hearing recently, and rightly too, that the P. and O. Company have refused to take our cadets. This matter has agitated this House many a time. The question has been raised in this House by various Honourable Members on previous occasions, and I am sure it will be a great gratification to the House if I announce that, the P. and O. Company have now agreed to take four cadets.....

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Only four ?

An Honourable Member : Is it yearly ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : No, I said four cadets.

Some Honourable Members : Oh, oh !

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : The question is not the number. I do hope that Honourable Members will appreciate this that, after serious efforts, the P. and O. have at last recognised the claims.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : How much money do you pay them for mail contracts ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : I shall come to it presently. The Honourable Member should not think that he alone knows about these mail contracts, there are others as well who know something about them. I do suggest, Sir, that this is a very satisfactory arrangement, and I must pay a tribute to the officers of the British Companies in India, because it is mainly through their good offices that this result has been achieved. I may tell you that, so far as these officers are concerned, they have spared no pains in writing to their Home Board whenever the occasion arose, telling them that it was exceedingly desirable that more *ex-cadets* of the "Dufferin" should be employed on their ships. And while I am on this question, I must not overlook the good offices of our Honourable Colleague, Sir Leslie Hudson..... (Applause.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti : What does he get out of us every year ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : So far as the British India Steam Navigation Company is concerned, I must also, in fairness to my department, mention one fact, and that is, that Mr. Dow by personal interviews and persistent correspondence impressed upon the company's officers in India the necessity of employing the *ex-cadets* of the "Dufferin"; and for the recognition of our claims by the P. and O. Company, the greatest credit must go to our friend, Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, who during his stay in London, by his persuasive eloquence, managed to secure this recognition. But, Sir, when I have paid all this tribute, I should not be misunderstood. I do not mean to suggest that this is all that had to be done and we have finished. No, certainly not. We all feel that we must always be on the alert and see that our boys from the "Dufferin" get employment in every company whenever chances occur.

My friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, at the end of his speech.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The Honourable Member's usual time is up. I said his usual time, but if he wants a little more time, I have no objection.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Thank you, Sir. Sir Muhammad Yakub at the end of his speech stated that about the end of this year, that is 1937, there would be at least 30 cadets without employment. Now, Sir, we have received a report from the Captain of the ship

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on this point also, and he says that the position is as I have stated,—namely, there may be two or three out of employment. At the end of 1938 there will be 19 vacancies available for the cadets, and we have already secured promises from the British India Steam Navigation and the P. and O. Company to absorb seven more, which means, 26 vacancies for the two who are out of employment and the new officers who will be available, and thus I hope that there will be no unemployment at all till the end of 1938. Therefore, I respectfully submit to the House that the whole basis of this Resolution completely disappears. Now the gravamen of the charge was that there were 34 *ex*-cadets out of employment, and 29 only had been employed, and the position at the end of 1937 will be that there will be 30 *ex*-cadets out of employment. These facts, I submit, having proved to be absolutely unfounded, I submit to the House that there thus is no foundation at all for this Resolution.

As I said before, there is no question on which you can claim a victory or I can claim a victory or I can say you are defeated or you can say I am defeated ; all of us are out to do the best we can for our “Dufferin” boys, and I can give you the assurance that the Government of India will do its very best for them. (Applause.) I have examined the various papers on the question and the assurance given by the Government. I assure the House that I have not been able to put my finger on any paper where to show that we have given a guarantee for giving employment, but whether we have or we have not given this guarantee, I am prepared to repeat now, as was stated before, that we will do our best for these boys.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will they all become sea officers ?

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : We will do our best for sea officers as well, but more than that we cannot do.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Yes, you can.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, mentioned about the mail contracts. This is not the first time that the point has been raised ; it was raised before in this House, and, as a matter of fact, Government did examine the position and they found that it would be impossible unless we modified considerably the financial terms of the contracts. (*Some Honourable Members :* “ Oh, oh ! ”) They could not force the companies concerned to employ a certain number of “Dufferin” boys unless the financial terms of the contracts were substantially modified. We would be prepared to take that course provided there was a necessity for it. I submitted to the House a few days ago, on another occasion, that we believed in non-violence (*Some Honourable Members :* “ Oh, oh ! ”), while Honourable Members on the other side believe in violence. Therefore, Sir, in the interest of these boys, I submit the better course to adopt is to carry our point by negotiations and persuasions, and, so far, I am glad to say, we have succeeded. If the time comes to adopt some other measures, the Government of India will not fail to do so, but no such question arises.....

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab : Muhammadan) :
By means of persuasion..... ?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : There is no cause for alarm or anxiety, and I can repeat what I have said before, that the Government of India will do their very best for them and take all reasonable measures to secure employment for them. There were various inaccuracies in the speech of my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, as regards the expenses of the boys and so on. He was probably inclined to be poetical. He said that each cadet gets from his parent Rs. 5,000. In fact, this was reduced to Rs. 3,000 by my Honourable friend, the Mover of the amendment, Mr. Santhanam. The fact, however, is that it should not go beyond Rs. 2,000 in four years !

Mr. K. Santhanam : No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : I think he has got his son there.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : I think he must control his son. Before, I finish, I will say only this, that I am not at all surprised at the extraordinary stories going round about the "Dufferin" when even a member of the Governing Body was so ill-informed about its affairs. I hope that this debate has cleared up all misunderstandings and misapprehensions and has created that healthy atmosphere which the "Dufferin" so urgently needs. (Applause.)

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : Mr. Deputy President, during the short time that my Honourable friend, who has just resumed his seat, has been here, I am sure he will see, in the quietness of his evening, contemplation of the day's events, if not later in his retirement, that he has not had a worse case to present to this House. I quite agree that he has attempted to teach us arithmetic more or less as was taught to him by others. But I wish he had taken a little more trouble to appreciate what I am going to bring out about the "immense" services that have been rendered to this House by two of the largest vested interests in the matter of shipping in this country. I speak with bated breath in the presence of my Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, but I wish that he would look at himself sometimes or at least the company which he once so ably represented, as I see them for quite a number of years now, not as a legal adviser but as a public man. Instead of trying to beat the air and trying to find out whether Sir Muhammad Yakub, whom my Honourable friend or his predecessor assisted in putting on that high pedestal—if instead of trying to show that he was the most ignorant member of that Body—let us see the actual issue before the House. I may even confess my Honourable friend has succeeded in proving that Sir Muhammad Yakub knew less than what he ought to have done, but let him remember that by proving that Sir Muhammad Yakub is ignorant he does not prove what this Resolution requires should be done has been done. Let us, therefore, turn our attention to the Resolution. The Resolution is this. We only recommend to the Governor General in Council, while the Honourable Member is still here (Laughter)—"to introduce, at a very early date," (that is why we have put in those words) "legislative measures in order to compel the British Navigation

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

Companies to take qualified Indian cadets of the I.M.M.T.S. "Dufferin" as officers on their ships". Let me read the amendment in connection with it.

"and take, immediately, legislative and other measures to ensure the employment in adequate numbers of qualified Indian cadets of the I. M. M. T. S. 'Dufferin' as officers in their ships by the British shipping companies engaged in the coastal and foreign trade of India and also to reserve a majority of the posts of officers in the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets."

Our demand is of such a nature that if it had not been evaded by an attack on Sir Muhammad Yakub it could not have been resisted. Let this House also remember another thing. This is not a censure motion so that the Government need not feel called upon to defend themselves and say that they have done what they have not done. We only call your attention to an obvious duty, but notwithstanding the pleading of three able men on the other side, the facts show that what the Resolution recommends still remains to be done. The next thing I wish to call attention to is one of the sections, section 115 of the Government of India Act, and if I do so, I do so with great respect and deference to this House but as I was reminded by my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, that memories are short and generally the memory of the text of the Government of India Act is shorter still. Section 115 says :

"No ship registered in the United Kingdom shall be subjected by or under any Federal or Provincial law to any treatment affecting either the ship herself, or her master, officers, crew, passengers or cargo, which is discriminatory in favour of ships registered in British India, except in so far as ships registered in British India are for the time being subjected by or under any law of the United Kingdom to treatment of a like character which is similarly discriminatory in favour of ships registered in the United Kingdom."

I hope that my Honourable friends will realise that so far as British shipping is concerned British Parliament could not possibly have conferred or got conferred a mere protective treatment for their monopoly than section 115. But when you remember that, let us also remember what the Honourable Member said, that we had better cheer (as we were wont to cheer about ten or fifteen years ago) that whenever a crumb is announced it should be regarded as the whole loaf and not a sweet and the rest of the measure would not matter. We have learnt better and we now understand what our rights are even within the limited sphere of the Government of India Act. That Act does not prevent you from giving effect to as many measures as you reasonably can devise and the indefatigable labours of Mr. Dow can be a little more added to if he would consider it from our point of view. I will give you shortly what the actual situation is in respect of facts, corrected by the Honourable Member, as given to me since the end of the year 1936 of which I have got figures here before me. The figures which are of the greatest value for the enlightenment of this House are that out of the cadets who entered the "Dufferin", 20 left the course, that is of course not disputed. Twenty returned to civil life after being qualified, and out of the 42 cadets engaged in the merchant marine, upto the year 1936, 33 were engaged by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company and eight by the British India Steam Navigation Company. Those are the stark naked facts. I am not denying that some more

may have been added since the period for which I have got figures before me. But later on I found that the 16 who are supposed to have been employed by the British India Steam Navigation Company had a story similar to that of the story of "We Are Seven", which I hope and trust my Honourable friend, Sir Sultan Ahmad, read as a young boy in school—that you begin by mentioning by seven and end perhaps with one in the real house. That is the story of the 16 that he was mentioning, during the course of this debate, for our satisfaction. But it is no use telling me that only two are unemployed. The matter of importance is, having regard to the commercial and other monopolistic advantages enjoyed by the British India and the P. and O., is my Honourable friend able to persuade this House that whereas 33 are employed by the comparatively small Indian steamship company it was a correct proportion for him to urge before this House that eight or even 16 for the matter of that were employed by the British India and the P. and O.

The true aspect which emerges before the House is this, that, but for the fact that the Scindia Steam Navigation Company did patriotically come to the aid of these boys who were trained, what would have happened? It is no use telling me: "I have done nothing for you, but there are some other good men and true who have found some employment for them." Is that a plea of which you would have been proud in another place if you had not been sitting here? I am quite certain he would then have said: "Please do not mislead me, because the question today is not whether those people have found employment but the question is 'what have you done' " as a matter of effort on the part of the Government of India. You started spending money of your own, which belongs to us and encouraged the parents to spend money of their own in order to train those boys. What progress have you really made even for a mere mercantile marine, remembering always the monopoly that is there, the inequality of strength and therefore unfairness of competition which is there. What is it that you have done for India by means of pressure which every high contracting party has in these matters. You can concede everything to pressure from other quarters, but do you concede anything to a request made to you for the purpose of a real progress in a direction for which India has been long waiting? Therefore, it is no credit at all to be able to say what you have said. I hold no brief for any particular company, for as a mere matter of being legal adviser, I happen to be the adviser of both and I hold the scales even there but in so far as a public man is concerned, I cannot say that you have done very very much indeed, in so far as your duty lies in the direction of putting such commercial and business pressure as in your hands lies today. For remember this, that though you do not mention the amount that you pay every year to the P. and O. for the purposes of contracts which you entered into (the P. and O. and the B. I. are twin brothers) and I am not aware of the contracts which you secretly entered into and though you had three opportunities of telling us the terms with these two companies you have chosen to remain silent. The promise of employing four in eternity is all that they have got out of the companies to whom they give these large sums by way of mail contracts. Therefore, we may rule that out. Let us see what else you have achieved—eight men in British India out of those qualified as against the remaining who have been employed according to the list which was already read out by the small Indian companies.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : That was eight every year.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : I am talking of the situation as it existed in the year 1936.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : That was four a year.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : You say you have got 16. I will accept your figures though you tried to attenuate them by an explanation. Since the year 1927 to 1936, I know a little arithmetic to see that it would not come to an average of more than two if it was 16.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : The boys came out after 1931.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : I have got these figures but the fact still remains that what you have mentioned is certainly not to your credit as compared with what an Indian company has done out of patriotic motives. You will see, therefore, if you want to play fair, that it is not a case of opposing this Resolution but of accepting it. For, what do we recommend ? We recommend this, that in so far as it lies in you, you should take either legislative or executive or commercial measures in order that those companies may be compelled to take qualified Indian cadets as officers. If you are really in earnest, you can double the number of men trained ; the point is the rate of progress at which we go now. Assuming we succeeded in getting behind section 115 of the Government of India Act, 1935, either by repeal or otherwise and reserved the coastal shipping to Indians, as other countries reserve their coastal shipping to themselves, do you mean to tell me that eight men trained on a mere matter of gratuitous promise, which may or may not be fulfilled, are going to suffice for building up India's mercantile marine let alone the Indian Navy for defence purposes. Are you able to tell the House today that there is an enforceable contract on these companies and even then how many would it be at the end of five years. The efforts made by the Government of India, in this behalf, are so extremely poor that they are on a par with what the predecessor of the Defence Secretary told us about Indianisation of the army—that it would take a century at the present rate of Indianisation. It is an honest truth. Is it your intention to have the same rate of progress in the case of the Indian mercantile marine ? I think my friend is said to be an Urdu poet and he will probably remember the lines which mean :

“ The profit on the sea is incalculable but if you desire safety only it is on land.”

If that is the kind of lesson you are going to teach—that there is lot of profit at sea but contentment on land, we have been content long enough and I hope and trust that you would not teach that unsalutary, insalubrious lesson that kills all adventure, all progress, without which India cannot achieve her goal of independence. Let me again appeal to my friend that India deserves a wider, more rapid and more intensive progress in training youngmen for mercantile marine and the defence Navy and I put it to the Honourable the Commerce Member that he would be failing in his duty by not accepting this Resolution.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan : I was so influenced by the figures of Sir Sultan Ahmad in support of the view he put forward with regard to the activities of the Government on this particular question of providing employment for our young boys in marine service, that I had very nearly made up my mind to go and vote on the side of the Government but when I pondered over the question, as Mr. Bhulabhai Desai developed his arguments, I was convinced that the Government have not done what they ought to have done. If the Scindia Steam Navigation Company had not come forward patriotically and provided 40 of our boys with service, where would have been the Government and where would have been its statistics. We thank the Government, however, for the small mercies that they have shown towards us.

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : There is some misunderstanding about it. We are doing all this for our own companies. We did all this for the Scindia Steam Navigation Company and the Indian Mercantile Marine generally.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan : What has the British India Steam Navigation Company done ? What has the P. and O. Company done ? These British companies have regularly been strangling the sea-faring life of the peoples of India. There were many ships owned by Indians in Karachi and Bombay and they used to take pilgrims from Bombay and Karachi to Jeddah. Then came Messrs. Turner, Morrison and Company and they strangled them. We ought to have had the coastal trade of India. India is not a land-locked country ; it has a large sea-board. We were a sea-faring people and I must tell you India has made up her mind to rise to the full height of her stature as a nation. We want a mercantile marine of our own ; we want a navy of our own. Where is the power to deny us this right ? We must have it and it must come sooner or later—sooner rather than later. The only thing that prevents us from getting all this is the difference of opinion existing between the Mussalmans and the Hindus. Let them make up their differences, and tomorrow we are free. But those differences will be made up. Then our boys will come to their own. The Government ought to do more than they have done. The Government is in difficulties all over the world. ' Britannia rules the waves ' used to be their slogan. Where is that slogan now ? Where is Britain's pride in the Mediterranean ? Go and ask Mussolini. Where is Britain's pride in Gibraltar ? Go and ask Franco. Where is Britain's pride nearer home ? Go and ask Hitler. Where is Britain's pride in Hongkong and Singapore ?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : The Honourable Member had better speak on the Resolution.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan : What I want to impress upon the House is this, that England never was in more need of India's co-operation than she is today. If anything can save Britain from disaster, I prophesy India only can save her. But a poor India, an India not having a mercantile marine of her own, an India not having a navy of her own, an India not having trade of her own, an India which is rich in men but poor in money,—what can she do ? If you want to save yourself, then give that help to India which she needs and which it is your duty to give her. We are thankful to you for all the small mercies that you have shown us. We help you but you discard us and ignore us. But when you do something for us, we thank you. Ours is Eastern nature and yours is Western. With these words I most strongly support the Resolution.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, when the Honourable the Commerce Member was speaking, I felt that he had just lifted the veil and was telling us what the Indian Delegation in London had achieved in the Imperial Conference. Whenever any question was asked, the Honourable the Commerce Member said that he had no knowledge and, therefore, he could not impart any knowledge as to the doings of the Indian delegation. Some of us went to the Library and began to seek what news we could get there. In the summary of the proceedings of the Imperial Conference we found that there was a Shipping Conference and when we read the summary of the proceedings of the Shipping Conference on page 30 we found that there was no reference to India. After reading that, I concluded that the representative of India—I learnt it from the Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad now that it was Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan—made no protest and demanded nothing for the Indian shipping. The only thing that I found there was a reference to India's contribution and that India can fight against Burma to reduce the amount of her contribution to the Indian Shipping Committee. That was the only news that I could gather from the published documents. But I find, that during the last week the Honourable the Commerce Member has received documents as to what Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan has done. He pleaded, as did his predecessor Sir Joseph Bhore did three or four years ago, before the Imperial Conference. Probably, he had to go down with bended knees to the representatives of the P. and O. Company and asked them to fulfil the pledges that were given some years ago to take a few "Dufferin's" cadets.

Mr. H. Dow : The P. and O. Company had never given any pledge on this subject. They had never said that they would take cadets as officers. This represents a change of attitude on the part of the Company. There has never been any question of the Peninsula and Oriental Company having broken any pledge. They never made a pledge.

Mr. B. Das : I am glad to learn that, but to me the Peninsula and Oriental Company, being an associate of the B. I., is as good as the B. I. and, therefore, the pledge of the B. I. is as good as the pledge of the P. and O.

Mr. H. Dow : The P. and O. Company made a promise and they have kept it.

Mr. B. Das : I wish to read a telegram now to the House which is as follows :

"On Lord Irwin's appeal British shipping companies should employ these cadets and only after receiving assurances that they would employ them and Lord Irwin after giving definite assurance, Members Governing Body through Sir Purshotamdas that if cadets did not receive employment as officers Government would take action by law on lines laid down recommendations of Indian Mercantile Marine Committee that training ship was established."

Mr. H. Dow : Who is that telegram from ?

Mr. B. Das : It is from a business friend of mine from Bombay. (Laughter.) I will now reply to a certain insult which was hurled by my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, on the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, which is not represented on the floor of the House. Sir, we are not discussing the morality of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company here. My Leader has already told the House that the figures that the Honourable the

Commerce Member gave are not the figures that we on this side have. But I wish to ask the Honourable the Commerce Secretary one thing. On the 7th of August, last, the Indian National Steamship-owners Association, Bombay, addressed him a letter on the employment of the *ex*-cadets of the Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship "Dufferin" in which they gave figures which were exactly the same as those which were read out by my Leader. If the Honourable the Commerce Secretary found all these figures wrong, why did he not issue a communiqué contradicting them?

Mr. H. Dow : The answer is that that is exactly what the Commerce Secretary did. He did issue a communiqué on the subject. I cannot make the Honourable Member read it, I can only issue the communiqué.

Mr. B. Das : If it was an important communiqué I ought to have read it. Probably it did not contain the stuff that I wanted.

Mr. H. Dow : I issued a communiqué giving all the facts. There was immediately a complaint in the Press that there were some other facts on which the communiqué was silent. Having been asked for further facts, I immediately issued another communiqué and gave those facts.

Mr. B. Das : Will my Honourable friend read out the letter in which he replied to this Association that the figures were wrong? I believe that the figures, which were mentioned in this letter of the 7th August, are true and, in the meantime, Mr. Dow's visit to Bombay has brought about the employment of a few more Indian cadets and these have gone into the B. I. S. N. Co. I do not like to hurt or wound the feelings of my European Colleagues, but I do want from them, some day, some generous response. We, on this side, have quietly bowed down to the provisions of the Government of India Act and are willing to recognise the U. K. businessmen and the U. K. shipping in India and we deem them to be Indians in all business affairs. If that be so, I am surprised that although the Honourable Member for Commerce and Railways paid a tribute, paid a compliment to my Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, whose past association with the B. I. S. N. and P. & O. the House is well aware of, yet neither the Honorable Member, Sir Leslie Hudson, nor any one of the European Group, representing commercial interests, cared to rise to assure this side of the House that the B. I. S. N. Co., carrying on coastal traffic or the P. & O. carrying on mail business are sympathetic to the training and employment of Indian youths as officers in the B. I. S. N. or P. & O. Although that message came from the Honourable the Member for Commerce and Railways, yet it has not come, so far, from any spokesman of the European Group on the floor of the House. If you want our goodwill, if you want our co-operation, it is time that one of the Members of the European Group got up and spoke that the British shipping companies were not averse to this demand on the part of Indians. (Hear, hear.) Sir, it is our misfortune that the the other day when my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, moved a reference to the Select Committee, the Bill on coastal traffic, Sir Leslie Hudson made the speech that he did. I listened most attentively and I did not find one word of response, one word of friendliness towards Indian aspirations. I found that, as the speech denoted, it was all a question of fair field to those who already had firm footing in certain business matters. If my Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson,

[Mr. B. Das.]

is going to speak on this debate or if one of the Members of his Group is going to participate in the debate later on, I would urge them to tell the House, as representatives of British commercial interests in India, what is their interpretation of sections 111, 112 and 113 of the Government of India Act, whether they mean that much or whether they want to go further, whether they have sympathy with our aspirations or whether they have other kinds of ideas in their mind ?

Sir, much has been said about the "Dufferin" being turned into a public school. Just to silence the Indian public, the Government started the Prince of Wales Military school at Dehra Dun. I find that two or three boys of that institution join every term in Indian Military Academy and the other boys are thrown out and they have to start again from the first year class of a college. When there is already the Dehra Dun public school, which is training up boys for the Indian Civil Service or for other services that bureaucrats value most, I do not want that "Dufferin" should be turned into another public school or that the Prince of Wales Military school at Dehra Dun should be turned into a public school. That is the last refuge of the Honourable the Commerce Secretary because when he finds that these boys trained in "Dufferin" are not admitted to the shipping companies, he says let us turn them into public school boys.

Mr. H. Dow : I said nothing of the sort. I denied in the most categorical way that there was any intention of doing that or that any step had been taken or were contemplated in that direction.

Mr. B. Das : I am very glad to hear that. I was being guided by the speech of my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub.

One point I want to know. What was the specific reason which prompted my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, to utter that warning on the floor of the House against the Scindia Steam Navigation Company ? We were not discussing the future of the Scindia company or how the Scindias will get their employees. We were only discussing the future of the "Dufferin" cadets and as most of us are interested in these young men, we want them to get employment. Probably the Resolution is drafted in a little bit strong terms and my Honourable friend may resent it. But if the Honourable the Commerce Secretary thinks that we, non-official Members of this House, are always influenced by the Scindia Steam Navigation company or by any outside body and that is why Sir Muhammad Yakub tabled this Resolution, he is entirely in the wrong. I see my Honourable friend, the Member for Commerce and Railways, shakes his head. I am glad to know that he does impute similar motives to us. Sir, I never wanted to participate in this debate, but when I listened to the speech of the Honourable the Commerce Secretary I felt that here not only injury has been done but that salt is being added to it. The Government of India did not back up the Indian companies when they were seeking certain privileges and rights. Did the Government allow the Indian shipping business to be represented at the Shipping Conference in London ? That is my charge against the Government. Government have never shown any pleasure or any appreciation of the development of Indian shipping companies. My Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, could

not reply the other day to the points raised by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi. Most of the remarks made by the Commerce Secretary were directed against the Scindias which, in spite of non-patronage from the Government, has existed so long and will continue to prosper. (Hear, hear.) Sir, with these words, I support the Resolution.

Mr. M. S. Aney : Sir, the Resolution on which this House is called upon to vote is this :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to introduce, at a very early date, legislative measures in order to compel the British Navigation Companies to take qualified Indian cadets of the I. M. M. T. S. ‘ Dufferin ’ as officers on their ships.”

To that amendments were moved which were also read out to the House. Now, Sir, I have listened to the very eloquent speech of the Honourable Member in charge, and I must confess that he has succeeded to a great extent in removing some of the misunderstandings under which the House has been labouring. In fact I find myself in this position. There is a judgment here which I can support but not on the grounds on which, unfortunately, it was pressed before this House by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub. Sometimes we lawyers find ourselves in this position, and it is a common experience, that we are called upon sometimes to stand on behalf of the respondents and support a particular judgment, but it is so badly reasoned that it is difficult to support any one of the arguments on which the lower court has given its finding, and yet the ultimate conclusion arrived at is satisfactory and can be reasonably supported on other grounds. The present position is one like that. Sir Muhammad Yakub has given us certain information which, unfortunately, turns out to be different from the actual facts which are revealed today. But one thing I do not understand and that is that he is a member of the Governing Body, and it appears that Government carries on these negotiations in the dark and without the knowledge of the members of the Governing Body. If Government does not take care to keep the members of the Governing Body duly informed, I do want to know why ? Whether they regularly convene meetings of the Governing Body at all and place before them whatever progress they are making in these directions. If they did not do it, I want to know why they did not.

Mr. H. Dow : I am afraid this is a matter on which the Governing Body are in a better position to keep us informed.

Mr. M. S. Aney : That makes the matter still more mysterious. If

4 P.M. the Governing Body knows everything and the matter comes from the Governing Body to the Government,

how is it that some members of the Governing Body are completely in the dark about it ? Is there anything like a Governing Body without any members ? So it is somewhat surprising. I accept the facts and the facts are that the problem of unemployment, as it was thought to be yesterday, is not today at any rate so serious. In fact, we are given a reasonable assurance that Government will be doing everything to see that by the year 1938 no question of unemployment, so far as the cadets are concerned, will remain. All that is true, but the proposition before the House is this, that there are certain British companies plying in the Indian waters, with the permission of the Government of India, enjoying all the privileges and concessions which the Government of

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

India gives them in matters connected with their business. What is the part they are playing in this affair ? What is the part they are playing in building up an Indian marine service in India ? What assistance are we getting from them ? Are we entitled to get any assistance from them or not ? That is the question which is raised by this proposition and that is the categorical question which the Government is called upon to answer. It is not a proposition or a Resolution which is intended to cast any aspersions upon Government. I admit that particularly on account of the pressure brought by this House during the last few years Government found that its attitude of inactivity or indifference in this matter was impossible ; and, therefore, since 1936, they seem to have shown a commendable zeal in making certain progress in this direction. It also appears that when the Government tries to make some progress and is sufficiently active, even the immovable can be moved and even the unreasonable can be made to accept a reasonable position. The success which the Government achieved during the last one year, according to their own statement, gives me the hope that if the Government is sufficiently active and insistent and pertinacious in this matter, the most unreasonable attitude which the P. & O. and other companies have taken up cannot exist even for a short time. The point is this, that sufficient pressure has to be brought to bear upon them by Government, and I am sure that this Resolution is intended to help Government in the work which they have already commenced in right earnest. That is what I find. They tell us that they have begun to make an exertion to bring some amount of pressure even upon the most immovable and unreasonable companies ; and the company which is making the largest possible profit and exploiting us in the worst manner, viz., the P. & O,—even that company which was mum and dumb for a long time has now come forward with a reluctant gesture and a suggestion to employ four cadets. Whether that figure of four is a permanent figure till eternity or it is an annual recurring figure,—on that the Honourable Member may throw some light. Possibly their instructions are not sufficiently detailed in this matter.

Mr. H. Dow : I can throw a little light on that. The promise of the P. & O. is to employ one cadet in each of their four ships which are based in India, and they will continue to employ them as long as they are able to keep the trade.

Mr. M. S. Aney : The point is whether this distribution among four ships is to recur at the end of every year or not ; that has not been sufficiently cleared. (*Voices of "Four till eternity", "Four for ever", etc.*) My Honourable friend has very astutely left my question unanswered and given me some information for which, however, I am thankful to him. But that will not satisfy the country at large ; the difficulty is still there. Therefore, the point is this, that here in this Resolution, we are virtually asking Government to do what they say they have already begun to do. If that is the position, the question is not one of opposition between those benches and these ; we are working for the same cause, so where is the difficulty for Government in the way of accepting this Resolution ? The simple point is this ; the speech, which the Honourable Member, Sir Sultan Ahmad, made, was not a speech to explain away the Resolution but one which was made in

defence of this Resolution. And having made such a convincingly strong case in support of this Resolution, it does not stand to reason that Government should not accept it. On the other hand they must accept and thus deprive us of the necessity of putting it to vote at all. I, therefore, appeal to Government that they should not look upon this Resolution as a motion of censure or as a motion which is meant to condemn them, but rather as a motion which is intended to strengthen the hands of Government to go ahead in the direction in which they have already begun to move and started work. And taking the Resolution in that light, they will be rightly advised in accepting this Resolution and not opposing it. Therefore, I support the Resolution and also the amendments moved.

Mr. H. Dow : Withdraw the Resolution ; it will have exactly the same result.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Sir, I had no desire to take part in this debate, but, having heard the speeches from the Official Benches, I felt bound to add my voice in support of this Resolution and the two amendments. I am at a loss to know whether the Honourable the Commerce Member was really opposing this Resolution or supporting it. As far as the principle underlying this particular Resolution is concerned, it is quite clear that he himself is not averse to the acceptance of that particular principle, the principle being that methods other than more persuasion or mere discussion or more table talk may have to be adopted in order to persuade these British companies to give employment to our "Dufferin" boys. If he is in favour of that principle, then the only point of conflict between Government and ourselves is the question of time when they should take these particular steps. We want these steps to be taken immediately, the Government want to play for time and to allow some more opportunities for my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, to make some more visits to Bombay and other places and try and use his eloquence and persuasive personality in order to get some more jobs for our boys. It is not entirely a question of jobs : if it is a mere matter of obtaining 50 jobs for our boys, then I do not think it would be such an important thing as to take so much of the time of this House, but it is a question of principle, it is a question of national prestige and honour. We want to know whether this Government can be trusted to develop the mercantile marine to such an extent as to make India absolutely self-dependent and to make India's defence insuperable.

It is a well-known fact that in almost all other countries mercantile marine has been considered to be a second line of defence as far as naval warfare is concerned. It is a very peculiar thing with this Government that while we are asking for retrenchment in Army, it attacks our reasons, but while we are asking for more and more of this Navy, of this second line of defence—mercantile marine—it fights shy of it and say "wait for some time longer". Australia has had a very much shorter history than India even under the British, but while Australia has come to establish an excellent mercantile marine—and what is more, Australia has established a successfully State-managed mercantile marine and its Government gets very large revenues from its mercantile marine—the British Government, which has been here for the last 155 years, even today is not prepared to come and say : "We

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

are prepared to reserve the coastal shipping for the people. We are prepared to do everything in our power to develop an Indian mercantile marine", but on the other hand asks us to show some more patience. It asks us to be non-violent. I want to know what sort of non-violence is this. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, says : "Devil quotes from the Bible." Yes, we are going to be non-violent, but even if we wish to be violent, would this Government allow us to show our violence against the British Shipping Companies which have been exploiting our markets ? No. We are obliged to be non-violent, but in being non-violent it is necessary that this Company should stand by us and speak to these people in the only effective manner in which it can possibly speak, and that is by taking legislative and administrative measures in order to compel British navigation companies to take qualified Indian Cadets of the I. M. M. T. S. "Dufferin" as officers on their ships. I was expecting the Honourable the Commerce Member to give us information in regard to the policy of Government as far as the development of the Indian Mercantile Marine is concerned. We are getting no information whatsoever, and I find myself at a loss to know what exactly this Government want to do in regard to the development of the Indian Mercantile Marine. Does it want to develop it at all, and, if so, how soon and by what means ? I want to have definite information on this. Here they say they are training 50 people every year, but I find that, in spite of encomiums paid by Mr. Dow and by the Honourable the Commerce Member to the Captain of the "Dufferin", twenty were useless and could not be given an appointment, could not even proceed to apprenticeship. If this is the result of the excellent training that they are being given and for which encomiums were being paid, I can only doubt the sincerity of purpose of this Government in their professions of giving training for our boys in the "Dufferin".

Then coming to the next question, every year we are getting 50 boys. If, supposing all the 50 are found to be thoroughly competent and useful and capable of occupying any responsible position in the Navy and on the Bengal Pilot Service and in the steamships, where is the provision for them ? The Honourable the Commerce Member has shown that there is provision for 27 youths. What is to happen to the other 23 who every year would be added to the unemployed list ? What measures are going to be taken by the Government of India to provide for them employment, full employment and satisfactory employment for these 50 people, small though that number is. They can be provided with employment only if they make it a point that in every ship and steamer, that ply in the Indian coast, two people at least are employed, two "Dufferin" boys.

Mr. H. Dow : You would have to cut down your shipping, I am afraid.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I will not be sorry if the number of foreign ships that ply in the Indian coast is cut down, because there will be additional scope for Indians. I know why Mr. Dow was so very anxious to put in his helpful suggestion, because it will be cutting his own throat, because it will be cutting the throat of the British lines and the other life forces that rule in this world. Then, Sir, they are

giving such excellent training on the "Dufferin"—that is what they say—they do not train our people in marine engineering? Why is it no Indian is being trained in this line, why is it that no attempt has been made till now to train engineers? It is a well-known fact—I am just now told by my friend that they have now begun. I do not know when these tortoises will grow like "Vamana" right to the skies. I want Indians to be trained in marine engineering and mercantile science, so that it will be possible for our Indians to man ships and run them, provided, of course, this Government change their colours, change their own coat, and try to play for the nation. As far as the Indian army is concerned, in making their selections for their officers, they show a certain amount of preference to the children of the rank and file of soldiers. I do not know what steps have been taken by Government to see that out of the 50 recruits which are taken every year for the "Dufferin", how many are recruited from the ratings. It is a well-known fact that these people are most efficient.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the chair.]

Yet they are the most efficient workers on the sea. They have beaten the British themselves: the British are proud of saying that they are a sea-faring nation, yet on most P. and O. steamships you find only lascars doing the donkey's work, the main work, and the real work, and it is these people again who have to bear the brunt of the trouble whenever there is any accident on the seas. Yet no attempt till now has been made by the Government to give any sort of help to the children of these people and recruit some of them at least as cadets for these posts, give them some scholarships so that it would be possible for them to maintain themselves while undergoing this particular training. I want to know the policy of this Government as far as these people are concerned.

Then, I come to the P. and O. mail contracts. We were not given any information. My Leader has drawn the particular attention of the House that after all these four seats, that we are going to get on the P. and O., are not going to be enough and cannot solve the problem. In fact, it is a matter of national honour. How long are we to allow this P. and O. to ply on our coasts and in our waters if they are to persist in this particular policy of simply giving as a matter of concession because of the persuasion of three people, one getting 7,000 here, another 7,000 in England and a third getting 4,000 here—in all, three people getting 18,000 rupees between themselves every month—because of the wonderful persuasion of these three—the holy trinity—they have agreed to take four people till eternity: are we going to be satisfied with that? My answer is No. If we were to have a really nationally-minded Commerce Member on that side and a really National Government on that side, it is not necessary for us even to be afraid of this section 115, because it is not a matter of discrimination. We want to follow up a recommendation of the Industrial Commission of India, in which it was stated that such conditions should be imposed upon foreign companies that trade in India as would enable Indians to get themselves trained under the ægis of those companies. Why should not that recommendation be implemented by this Government? If that recommendation were to be implemented, there would be no

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trouble whatever, and we need not come up against this section 115 of the Government of India Act. How much money are we today giving to the P. and O. ? We were told that it is a financial question and that we are likely to lose more money if we were to insist upon our own point being accepted by the P. and O. My point is this : I want to know whether these mail contracts are given to the P. and O. after having called for tenders and after having found that the P. and O. tender was the lowest. I want to know the facts. I know the Government of India are not really keen on giving us facts. I know that my Honourable friend, Mr. Dow, is shy of facts that go against him. It was not the lowest tender at all. I do not think any tenders were called for at all. I am perfectly sure that if today tenders are called for from everybody,—it does not matter whether Indian, English, German or Dutch or anybody,—I am sure, it will be possible for us to have and to drive a much better bargain with these steamship companies than we have been able to do so far as this P. and O. is concerned. We can gain some money. And what is more, how much more money are you going to spend on the “Dufferin” in training these people, if you have spent so much money on them and after that you are prepared to be content with only.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I can only say that this Government is not playing the game and is not doing its duty.

In conclusion, I wish to maintain that, much to the glee of my Honourable friend, Sir Thomas Stewart, it is an absolutely shameful thing for Members on that bench to come here and say that they are not prepared to implement this particular demand of the House, merely because they want to play for time. It is these people who are really violent in time and out of time : it is these people who are throwing bombs on the frontier who accuse others of violence. I do not know how it lies in their mouths—I do not know how they manage to keep these mouths on (Laughter)—to say that they are non-violent and that we are violent.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Mr. President, we have had, every Honourable Member will admit, a most interesting debate, and I would inform my Honourable friend, the Government Member, that on occasions more than one has his predecessor been severely cross-examined in supplementary questions about the “Dufferin” ; and on those occasions, I well remember he evaded a straight answer, undoubtedly because I now see, he was making great efforts to act as we desired, and, perhaps, at that time being unsuccessful, he evaded our direct questions. What we wanted to know was what efforts Government were making to persuade British companies to employ these cadets. Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan said that he was making every effort and he was persuading, he was begging, but these mighty companies were not agreeing to take any cadets and then we naturally asked : “Is Government so absolutely helpless ? Government know ways and means of twisting the tails of many in India. Surely, they are able to twist the tails of these companies if they want to do so.”. Whether it is by twisting their tail or by persuasion, at any rate we have had the satisfaction of knowing from the Honourable Member's lips that

these British companies have now agreed to take these cadets. It may be the thin end of the wedge. But much the more satisfactory part of my Honourable friend's speech was, in short, the statement that there was practically none or little unemployment amongst the cadets who had got certificates,—that there were only two.....

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) : 20 people returned to civil life !

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : That is not correct.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : According to my Honourable friend's statement that is not correct ; but there were so many facts stated, that I propose not to deal with the correctness of the facts mentioned by my friends. I am taking the facts as stated by the Honourable Member that there are only two unemployed today ; and what is most satisfactory from my point of view is the statement made by the Honourable Member that by the end of 1938—making a shrewd guess at the number that the " Dufferin " would turn out—there would be no unemployment. I consider that a very satisfactory statement, and from that statement I would go a little further and say that it is a very strong argument for not only maintaining the " Dufferin " but for having several " Dufferins " in our country ; and I hold that after this debate, we can well argue and contend and demand, that Government should take steps to have more training ships not only from the materialistic point of view of giving more employment to our young men, but from the more patriotic point of view of training our young men not only for the mercantile marine but for the Indian Navy, which must grow, and which we must have under our control in the future. Therefore, Sir, I deduce from today's debate that we can have more " Dufferins " in all the ports of India. If that is the case, then we shall require for the time, more avenues of work, more openings for our youngmen, that Government has been able to find for them till now. Now, Sir, I am one of those who has always taken a very strong attitude on this question of making the British companies take our youngmen as officers, and I may say that I am also one of those who always severely blamed the Member-in-charge for not making sufficient efforts ;—and when I say efforts I do not mean persuasion or begging,—I mean compulsion. (" Hear, hear " from Congress Party Benches).....

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : That is the Resolution.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : And it is in the power of the Government of India to compel. That has never been admitted, but, today it has come from the lips of the Honourable the Commerce Member, that Government could compel. Till now we have been told that Government had no means of compelling the British companies, but my Honourable friend, at the end of his speech, made the statement which to me was most encouraging,—and it was to this effect,—that if our efforts of persuasion failed,—he claimed they had succeeded,—but if they failed, in the future, the Government of India would have no compunction.....

The Honourable Sir Saiyid Sultan Ahmad : I did not use that word at all. All I said was that the Government of India would take such measures as they considered necessary. I did not use the word ' compulsion

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I was under the impression that the Honourable Member said that the Government of India would have no *compunction* or he might have used some other word,—but I was under the impression that he did use the word ‘compulsion’. I am sorry that he did not use that word. I am not so encouraged now as I was. I felt optimistic, because I thought he had used that word, and I began to feel that there was a distinct change of mentality, and the efforts of this side of the House, in bringing this matter to the attention of the Government, was bearing fruit. If my Honourable friend says he did not use the word compulsion, then I have nothing further to say,—except that he will have to do so,—I don’t mean he himself personally,—but Government will have to do so, and that this side of the House will continue to insist on using compulsion. Persuade them by all means, get it by that means if you can, but failing that method, you will have to use your powers which you have, direct and indirect, and see that there are more than one “Dufferin” in India. If you refuse to do that, you will not be doing your duty by India and by yourselves.

Now, Sir, let us not forget that we are forced to insist upon British companies taking our cadets. No other nation has to go to another country and ask that its ships should accommodate their nationals for purposes of training and employment, but we are compelled to do so because we have a very small mercantile marine, if any at all, and there are certainly provisions in the Act, which will, for some years to come, prevent us from doing all we can, to build up our own mercantile marine. Under the present Government of India Act we are not able to do what England is able to do for her own mercantile marine,—in theory yes, but in practice it is impossible,—and this has been discussed over and over again in England and in India as well,—and, therefore, not being able to build up a mercantile marine of our own, not being by that means able to find employment for our youngmen, we are naturally compelled to look to the ships of Great Britain, that come to India for purposes of trade. And if we cannot succeed by persuasion to get today, what our own mercantile marine would have done for our boys, we insist that you should take such measures as are in your power for compulsion and nothing less. I admit our arguments would have had no foundation if we were in a position to build up our own mercantile marine ourselves, but not being in that position, having been deprived of being in that position, it is only fair and honest to allow us to use whatever powers we have, to compel those who have a mercantile marine and who make use of India for her trade to train our youngmen and give them employment. Therefore, Sir, while congratulating my friend for the very lucid statement he has made, I trust he will also acknowledge the fact that he was enabled to make that very lucid and interesting statement not entirely without the help and assistance of this side of the House, which, during the last five or six years, at least, to my knowledge, has been pressing this point upon the attention of Government. I am one of those who is quite prepared and ever ready to admit whenever Government does anything in consonance with the views of this side of the House,—and I admit it now,—that on this question the Government seem to have paid heed to our wishes, and I do hope that they will listen to our voice in this matter of compulsion as well, and that when my Honourable friend or his successor will have occasion to reply to a similar debate in the future, he will be in a position to say that if persuasion fails Government will be prepared to use compulsion.....

Mr. Sri Prakasa : You cannot go to war for the sake of a few unemployed cadets.

Mr. S Satyamurti : The Honourable the Commerce Member said he did not use the word *compulsion*.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I accepted his contradiction. (At this stage, some conversation was going on between the Honourable the Commerce Member and Mr. Satyamurti.)

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Sir, I don't know what conversation is going on on that side of the House ; I cannot hear ; I am getting old ; my ears are not what they used to be,—at any rate I have accepted his contradiction. But I am expressing the hope,—let me repeat it for my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti's benefit,—that my friend the Honourable the Commerce Member, or his successor, when another debate takes place on this question, will be in a position to get up and say that if persuasion fails they would not hesitate to use compulsion.

Mr S Satyamurti : It depends upon the vote of the House today.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I agree that the vote of the House is of great importance. I am glad that my friend is beginning to see that. Up to now I was under the impression that my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, believed that he was helpless, impotent being (Laughter) one who could use his eloquence, who could speak for hours, without the slightest effect on the opposite benches. Now I am delighted to learn that he is changing his mind. And if my Honourable friend believes that this vote of the House today, if carried, will have the desired effect, I will go into the Lobby with him, illogical as I believe his Resolution to be.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Thank you very much.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : The Resolution is illogical because it is not by legislation that compulsion can be used ; it is by other methods. Let us be clear as to what we mean. We know very well that Government cannot legislate to compel a company, especially a British company, to do anything. They can compel that company to do something by refusing to allow the company certain privileges that Government now extend. That is the only way in which they can compel them. They cannot compel by legislation. Having made that point perfectly clear, and having been assured by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that the passing of this Resolution is going to have this tremendous effect upon the Government, having made a convert of him to the form of constitutional government, I will go into the Lobby with him.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I really wonder that my Honourable friend, Sir Sultan Ahmad, should not have been able to appreciate the difference between an adjournment motion and a Resolution like this. There is a radical difference between an adjournment motion and a Resolution. I want to ask him one single question. Is there one single word in this Resolution to which exception can be taken by him ? What is that word, what is that part of the Resolution, to which exception is being taken by the Government ? The Resolution goes on to say :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to introduce at a very early date. ”

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

In the original Resolution, even the word "immediate" is not used,—a most moderate Resolution of a most moderate Member :

".....at a very early date, legislative measures in order to compel the British Navigation Company to take qualified Indian cadets."

Without going into the question of legislative measures at once, "compel the British Navigation companies"—, there is an amendment also. I am now speaking of the terms of this Resolution. Is there anything to which the Government can take objection? Some objection has been taken to the word "compel". I should think that the word "compel" does not necessarily imply any violence, any force. "Compel", as has been very well said by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, means that you can compel either by negotiation or by persuasion. Therefore, you cannot possibly take objection to this Resolution merely because the word used is "compel". But I should not like to labour that point, because objection to this Resolution has not been taken on account of this word "compel". Then, I should like to know what else there is in this Resolution to which any possible objection can be taken by the Government, or, for the matter of that, in the amendment, which says : "Take immediately legislative and other measures". So far as other measures are concerned, I do not think that any exception can be taken. So far as legislative measures are concerned, I for one fail to understand why even the eminent lawyers on the Treasury Benches—I do not use the word "eminent" in a mere conventional sense, they are really the most eminent people in the legal world of India,—I fail to understand as to why these legal giants should not be able to frame legislative measures in such a fashion as not to be unconstitutional, as not to be illogical,—why they should not be able to formulate legislative measures in order to compel or induce the British Navigation Companies to take qualified Indian cadets. Then :

".....to ensure the employment in adequate numbers.....".

Is there any objection to this expression "adequate numbers"?

".....of qualified Indian cadets as officers in their ships.....".

There, again, no objection can be taken. In fact, that is the case made also by the Honourable Member in charge of the Department in his speech :

".....as officers in their ships by the British shipping companies engaged in the coastal and foreign trade of India and also to reserve a majority of the posts of officers in the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets."

Is it not, I ask, open to the Government of India to reserve a majority of the posts of officers on the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets? We are not speaking of the British Navy. So that I was trying to examine the terms of the Resolution and of the amendment to see if there is anything in them to which exception can be taken by the Government. I find that the Resolution and the amendment are absolutely consistent with the declarations of policy which the Government have been making for the last few years. It is a question which has been agitated in this House times without number, and, on every occasion, whatever the actual practice of the Government may be, so far as the profession of policy goes, there is nothing in that policy which is inconsistent with the policy formulated in this Resolution and in this amendment. There is

no doubt that there is some controversy as to the facts and figures, as regards the number of the employed and unemployed, and so on. Let us concede, for argument's sake, that the figures given on this side of the House are wrong and also that the figures as to the employed and unemployed given on the other side are right.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member) : Both may be wrong. (Laughter.)

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta : Both may be wrong, I shall accept that alternative also. But what I fail to understand is this. Whether these figures are right or those figures are right, or both the figures are wrong, so far as the principle of the policy formulated is concerned, I think those figures are absolutely immaterial. On the general policy regarding an Indian mercantile marine—is that a proposition to which Government take any exception? It appears to me that the real secret, the real explanation as to why Government are opposing this Resolution, in spite of their declared policy with regard to this matter—the real explanation is this. It has been suggested that it is mere perversity. I should like to be a little more charitable. It appears to me that the real explanation lies in the fact that there is discrepancy between their profession and their practice. It is that guilty mind which really explains this opposition to the Resolution, because all the time they feel in their heart of hearts that although they have declared this policy they have never acted up to that policy.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Your language is very mild, we do not like it !

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta : People from Bengal are never known for strong language. They use strong things in other ways. (Laughter.) It is really a pity that on a most uncontroversial matter there should be this opposition. It is the mentality and the outlook of the Government that must be changed. I do not like to take up the time of the House any more. I support the Resolution.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : The dead hand of the Government of India has never been more forcibly evident than on the present occasion, when it has converted my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, whose speech on the Wedgwood Committee's Report we all appreciated so much, into an apologist of one of the worst cases which the Government of India have had to advocate. His premise seems to be that this "Dufferin" is the last word in the training of Indian officers to a marine life, and that they have provided for nearly all of them and will provide for more of them. Therefore, the 350 millions of India, with their enormous coastal and overseas trade, ought to be satisfied with the magnificent attempt of himself and his able assistant, the Secretary of his department, in having got us eight more places in the British India Steam Navigation and, as my leader said, four for eternity from the P. and O. I trust that my Honourable friend will forgive us if we cannot take him seriously on this occasion. The real point of this motion is that it has been brought forward by a consistent friend of the Government, Sir Muhammad Yakub. It is not a Congress Resolution. It is a Resolution moved from that side and they must now say 'et tu Brute !

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

Then, fall Caesar !', and, instead of feeling ashamed, they try to oppose this motion by all sorts of fantastic arguments. They have changed the prospectus of the "Dufferin", and now they say in the prospectus :

"It is realised, however, that not all who join the 'Dufferin' may be able to proceed to sea, and indeed may not desire to. For this reason, and to allow for an element of competition in the Training Ship, in addition to vocational training, the Curriculum has been so designed that it combines the requirements of the sea with those of the Universities in India up to Matriculation standard and so provides a good public school education, a suitable preliminary to a University career or to employment in other walks of life and arrangements have been made by which the 'Dufferin' Passing Out Certificate has been recognised by the Government of India as equivalent to the Matriculation Examination."

This is from the sublime to the ridiculous. I will read the original prospectus as it was issued, including the aims and objects of the "Dufferin". It said :

"To obtain suitable candidates for the Indian Mercantile Marine and to train these in such a way that they may with confidence be expected to follow the sea as a career, and be fit in all respects to hold their own as good and efficient officers."

I recognise it is repeated here, but this new paragraph gives an entirely new colour to the whole thing. Lord Irwin, who took his duties seriously and tried to do what he considered his duty by this country, said in opening the "Dufferin" that he was very glad of an opportunity of addressing the boys, because they were the pioneers in an adventure which he hoped with the help of those responsible for guiding it, in their different capacities, was going to be a great contribution towards enabling the sons of India to become responsible in an increasing degree in the Merchant Service and the Mercantile Marine that served India and the world.

I ask Sir Sultan Ahmad whether he can honestly say that this ideal which the then Viceroy held out is compatible at all with this miserable statement that you are training matriculates for admission to the Universities. Is it honest, is it consistent? Even the educational experts who came out recently have said that we are having too much of general education, and that we ought to divert our boys to vocational training; and here the Government, having solemnly promised that they are going to train our boys for a sea career as officers, coolly turn round and say that this is going to be a preparatory school for matriculation. I suggest, Mr. President, that my Honourable friend should not rise in his place to defend this betrayal on the part of the Government. When I asked him, "Why did you do this?", he said he wanted to be honest. I admire him for his candour. It is an event which is rare in the history of this dishonest Government. When they are occasionally honest, they ought to blazon it forth in a document, and say: 'We propose to be honest, and, therefore, we changed the prospectus'.

Then, Mr. President he said that he would see to it that these ex-cadets are not stranded in the streets. This is poor consolation. We want them to be trained as officers, in order to build up an Indian mercantile marine. My friend may be satisfied with this snail's progress, but I am not; and I do suggest to him that, after this interval of a short official life, he will have to join me and others on this side, and he ought not to plead for this Government against his better judgment. After all, what

does this Resolution want ? It only recommends to the Governor-General in-Council that they should introduce legislative measures to compel these shipping companies to take these ex-cadets as officers. My Honourable friend, in his speech, did not advance a single argument against the Resolution. Why should they not introduce legislation to compel these ship-owners ? Here sit my friends, the Europeans. I saw a cartoon in the *Hindustan Times* the other day, one of those brilliant things by Shankar, in which all the Members of the European Group are sitting on one side with a privilege pass, namely, the Government of India Act and the poor Law Member looks aghast when he tries to do something for Indian insurance. I want to warn them that they may go on depending on the statute for some time, but very soon they will find that the statute will do them no good. I warn them, and say, that they should come to the help of the Government and say : ' We will voluntarily and without compulsion take these cadets as officers '. My Honourable friend said, ' Oh, there are financial commitments. How can we compel them ? ' He is a very able lawyer, and I ask him what are the financial commitments which we shall be compelled to incur, if we cancel the mail contract with the P. and O. and enter into a contract with somebody else ? Why cannot you say that we will cancel the contracts, unless they take our people as officers ? Then, Sir, my Honourable friend admitted that, of those who had successfully completed their training, 20 returned to civil life. That, Sir, is the condemnation of the Government attitude in training these boys. Why did they allow them to go back to civil life ? If they had found a suitable occupation for them, they would have remained. Apart from all these arguments, I want that they should be trained in the words of Lord Irwin :

" to become responsible, in an increasing degree, in the Merchant Service and the Mercantile Marine that served India and the world."

I want to say one word more about the origin of this ship. The origin of the ship is due to the recommendation of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee, 1923-24. In the course of their recommendations for building this ship, the members of the Committee pointed out :

" In England, where ample facilities exist for the purpose, subsequent service at sea is arranged for either by the parents of the boys or by the authorities of the training establishment when they are about to complete their preliminary training. But we ascertained in the course of our enquiries that, with one or two exceptions, Steamship Companies in India were not willing to take Indians as apprentices. We came to the conclusion, therefore, that it would be necessary by negotiation with Steamship Companies to make specific provision for the further training of Indian apprentices to enable them to put in the qualifying sea service required under Board of Trade Regulations."

Those negotiations have not yielded the results which we expected of them. That is why we seek in this Resolution to recommend to the Government that they should introduce legislation to compel these Companies to train them. The Committee further says :

" We have, therefore, no fear that facilities will not be available for the further training of the candidates who will pass out of the training ship annually."

Then, they go further and add :

" Having provided for the education and training of young Indians for a sea life, it is necessary to consider what their prospects will be of obtaining employment. . . . We are also recommending in the scheme for Indianisation of the ownership the compulsory employment of Indians as Officers. Employment is, therefore, assured so far as the coasting trade is concerned."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

This Resolution merely seeks to translate into words today, what the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee recommended 13 or 14 years ago, viz., "We are also recommending in the scheme, for Indianization of the ownership the compulsory employment of Indians as Officers". I submit, therefore, that when we are asking the Government to take measures with a view to compel these companies to take Indians as officers, there should be no objection. After all, a Resolution is a recommendation to the Government. Why should they object to a recommendation being made to them? It will strengthen their hands. I grant that my Honourable friend is sincere in his statement that Government will take all necessary steps, but then why should they resist this recommendation? Let them accept this recommendation, and then take the necessary steps. Sir, I support the Resolution.

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I will first put the amendment. The question is :

"That for all the words beginning with the words 'introduce at an early date' and ending with the words 'officers on their ships' the following be substituted :

'take, immediately, legislative and other measures to ensure the employment in adequate numbers of qualified Indian cadets of the I. M. M. T. S. 'Dufferin' as officers in their ships by the British Shipping Companies engaged in the coastal and foreign trade of India and also to reserve a majority of the posts of officers in the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : I will now put the Resolution as amended. The question is that the following Resolution, as amended, be adopted :

5 P.M.

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take, immediately, legislative and other measures to ensure the employment in adequate numbers of qualified Indian cadets of the I. M. M. T. S. 'Dufferin' as officers in their ships by the British shipping companies engaged in the coastal and foreign trade of India and also to reserve a majority of the posts of officers in the Royal Indian Navy to such cadets."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Half Past Two of the Clock on Monday, the 13th September, 1937.