

COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

MONDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER, 1937

Vol. II—No. 4

OFFICIAL REPORT



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Monday, 20th September, 1937.

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

MEMBER SWORN :

The Honourable Mr. Charles MacIver Grant Ogilvie (Government of India : Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LATRINES IN THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE GORAKHPUR-NAUTANWA SECTION, B. N.-W. R.

89. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Are there no latrines provided in third class carriages on the Gorakhpur-Nautanwa section of the B. N.-W. R. as pointed out by Mr. Z. H. Lari, a Member of the United Provinces Legislative Assembly [*vide* his letter published in the *Leader* of Allahabad, dated the 26th July, 1937 (page 7)] ?

(b) Are there other sections on the B. N.-W. R. on which latrines are not provided in third class carriages ?

(c) Do Government propose to ask the authorities of the B. N.-W. R. to provide at an early date suitable latrines in third class carriages where there are none at present ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) and (b). One bogie III with latrine accommodation is run on the stock serving the Gorakhpur-Nautanwa branch for the convenience of passengers. The remainder of the train is composed of old type six-wheeled coaches without latrines, as on certain other branches.

(c) All bogie coaches are fitted with latrines. The old six-wheeled stock is rapidly being rebuilt with latrines to a definite programme. Up to date 54 such coaches have been dealt with.

CINEMATOGRAPH FILM AND BOOK ENTITLED *India Speaks*.

90. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Have Government prohibited the exhibition in this

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country of a film called "India Speaks" on the ground of its being objectionable? If so, are Government aware that there is also a book of the same name which is a fully illustrated synopsis of the film "India Speaks"? Do Government propose to ban this book also on the same ground?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: The film has not been imported into British India so far as I am aware. The question of its exhibition in this country is one for the Provincial Film Censorship Boards and I have no doubt that they will take suitable action in respect of it if it is presented for certification. The Government of India have called the attention of Provincial Governments to this film. I do not know whether the Honourable Member has read the book. It does not appear to be in effective circulation in this country. A copy has however been obtained with difficulty and on examination it has been found to be comparatively innocuous. No action is therefore proposed.

EXPENDITURE BY PROVINCES OF THE GRANT SANCTIONED BY GOVERNMENT FOR RURAL UPLIFT.

91. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Will Government state how the sum of one crore of rupees which was set apart by Government last year for village welfare scheme has been utilised in the provinces; giving specific details of the way in which the money was spent, or is proposed to be spent?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN: The Provincial Governments have been asked to submit reports on the progress of their schemes and a consolidated statement will be supplied to Honourable Members as soon as possible.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Do the Government propose to publish the Report?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN: Yes, I said, Sir, that a consolidated statement, that is to say, all reports of the Provincial Governments together, will be supplied to Honourable Members.

BOYCOTT OF THE EKKA AND TONGA STAND AT BENARES CANTONMENT RAILWAY STATION, E. I. R., BY EKKA AND TONGA DRIVERS.

92. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Has the hackney carriage stand at the Benares Cantonment railway station (E. I. R.) been boycotted by the ekkawallas and tongawallas for over a month, on account of some order passed by the Railway authorities, with the result that railway passengers are greatly inconvenienced, and put to trouble, especially the ladies and the children? What is the order passed, and what are the grievances of the ekkawallas and tongawallas, plying within railway precincts? When did the strike begin, and when did it end?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: From information received from the Agent, E. I. R., I understand that the railway ekka and tonga stand at Benares Cantonment has been boycotted from the 1st June, 1937 by ekka

and tonga drivers who are members of the Ekka and Tonga Union. The boycott is not on account of any particular order issued by the Railway authorities, but because the contract for the supply of vehicles which is let annually, was, after calling for tenders, awarded to a private contractor, whereas the Ekka and Tonga Union want the contract themselves. Railway passengers are not greatly inconvenienced as the tongas and ekkas stand outside railway boundaries about 60 yards from the railway stand. Moreover, the railway contractor for the stand is providing buses for passengers to go to the city.

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR A TEMPORARY POST OF ASSISTANT ELECTRICAL ENGINEER,
CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

93. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an advertisement (*vide* the *Leader*, dated the 28th July, 1937) published over the signature of the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Simla, inviting applications "from natural born British subjects" for a temporary post of Assistant Electrical Engineer, Central Public Works Department ?

(b) Why are Indians excluded, and who has been appointed to the post ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : (a) Yes.

(b) Indians have not been excluded. No appointment has yet been made.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What is the meaning of "natural born British subjects" ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : The Honourable Member knows that. Subjects of His Majesty.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Indians are included in it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : Certainly, Sir.

**EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPEEDING UP OF RAILWAY TRAINS
ON THE N. W. R., G. I. P. R., AND E. I. R.**

94. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : (a) Have experiments in connection with the speeding up of railway trains on the N. W. R., the G. I. P. R., and the E. I. R. been undertaken by two officials of the Railway Board ? If so, what are their provisional conclusions ?

(b) Will the experiments be confined only to State-managed Railways, or will they be extended to such Company-managed Railways as the B. and N.-W. R. and the R. and K. R. ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) Experiments are being undertaken by two officials of the Railway Board to ascertain the stresses set up in rails and fishplates under varying axle loads and speeds. If the results show that the stresses are appreciably less than hitherto calculated, the question of revising the existing maximum axle loads and speeds will be considered. It would be premature to draw conclusions from the results so far obtained from these experiments.

(b) The benefit of the experiments will be available to the Company-managed Railways.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What is the highest speed of mail trains in India and in England ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : You mean the maximum attained ? I believe 80 miles on the G. I. P. In England it is about 112.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact that the longest daily runs in England average nearly 400 miles in 8½ hours ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : 400 miles have been done in six hours between London and Edinburgh.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Have we ever attained that speed ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Not as far as I am aware.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : What about the Poona Mail—the Deccan Queen ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I think the maximum attained has been 80 miles an hour. The average speed is 120 miles in two hours forty-five minutes of which 17 miles is on the Ghat section where the speed is limited to 25 miles.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : With regard to part (b) of the question, can anything be done to increase the speed of the B. and N.-W. R. and the R. and K. R. without waiting for the sanction of the Railway Board ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I think that is within the discretion of the Railway Administrations concerned.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : As they have taken no steps during all these days materially to increase the speeds of their trains will Government bring the matter to their notice ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I will do so.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : And they do not even run to time.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Have the Government taken any special step after the Wedgwood Committee's Report to expedite the running of trains ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : No step has been taken so far. Investigations are being made, of which this is one.

VILLAGE COMMUNITIES AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, CEYLON.

95. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : (a) Does the Village Communities Ordinance now pending in the Ceylon Legislature provide for enfranchising the European and burgher residents of estates who have been till now exempt from Village Committee

tax, and require them to pay the tax and exercise franchise, while continuing to remain outside the jurisdiction of village tribunals ?

(b) Are the proposed franchise and the rights sought to be given to Europeans and the burghers going to be given to the Indian estate labourers, and other Indians, who may otherwise be qualified ? If not, why not ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to make a statement on the subject, and indicate what steps are being taken to remove invidious racial discrimination, and confer equal rights and franchise in Ceylon ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : (a) The position is understood to be as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to the Honourable Mr. Kumarsankar Ray Chaudhury's question No. 55.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS IN THE EMPIRE AIR MAIL AND FEEDER SERVICES.

96. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : What arrangements, if any, have been made for the training of Indians and their appointment in the air service of India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : Paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Memorandum to the Standing Finance Committee to which I referred in the answer given by me to question No. 14, deal with the opportunities for the training and employment of Indians in the Empire Air Mail and Feeder Services.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Has the Government made any arrangements with the aircraft manufacturing firms to train Indian personnel in their workshops ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : I am not aware of any such arrangements, but I should have to have notice to give an adequate answer.

VALUE OF GOLD EXPORTED FROM INDIA SINCE GREAT BRITAIN WENT OFF THE GOLD STANDARD.

97. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Will Government state the total value of gold exported from India since Great Britain went off the gold standard, the countries to which it was exported and the value of export in respect of each of the countries ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : Approximately 312 crores of rupees. The countries to which it has been exported are stated in section V of the Monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India.

LAND CUSTOMS LINE AGAINST IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN.

98. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : (a) Have Government imposed or are they

going to impose a customs cordon along the external frontier of north-west India with the object of preventing re-importation of foreign goods from Iran and Afghanistan, which passed through India under duty free transit ?

(b) If so, what are the goods which were thus smuggled and for how long ; and what is the approximate amount of revenue which Government were losing on this account ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : (a) There is no land customs line against Iran or Afghanistan at present. It has been decided to set up a limited land customs regime along the entire external land frontiers of India, as soon as necessary arrangements are complete. The object is to prevent loss of revenue to Government due to diversion to land routes of traffic that should have normally come by sea.

(b) The principal articles which have during the past few years been imported across the north-western frontiers of India in respect of which revenue has been lost are silver bullion, cut diamonds, silk and artificial silk, and saccharine. No reliable estimate can be made of the loss of revenue.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What does the Honourable Member mean by "India" ? Is it British India or the geographical India including the Indian States ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : The external frontier is the frontier of British India. Where you have on the periphery, so to speak, of India a State, then the frontier excludes that State ; thus in the case of Kathiawar, for instance, we have the Viramgam line which is behind those States.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What about Kashmir, Sir ? The Central Asian trade is passing through Kashmir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : Any Notification relating to the import of goods into British India or the export of goods from British India would be applicable to the frontier between British India and Kashmir.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Are not Persian carpets in the list of goods which are smuggled ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : They are not at present liable to import duty when brought over the land frontier and therefore there is no question of smuggling in the case of this article.

HUNGER-STRIKE IN THE ANDAMANS.

99. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Will Government kindly state the circumstances in which convicted prisoners in the Andamans resorted to hunger-strike in July, the nature of their grievances or demands, the number of prisoners involved, the steps taken by Government, and the conditions obtaining now ? Will Government lay on the table a copy of the petitions of the prisoners ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : I would refer the Honourable Member to the Home Department communiques, dated the 30th July and

11th August, 1937, and to the information in regard to the progress of the strike communicated to the press from time to time. The mass hunger-strike was suspended on the night of the 28th August. The eight remaining prisoners who persisted in the hunger-strike suspended their hunger-strike on the evening of the 15th instant. It would not be in the public interest to lay a copy of the petitions on the table of the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Honourable Member inform us if any arrangements have been made to repatriate these prisoners to their respective provinces ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : Arrangements are in progress in direct consultation between the Chief Commissioner of the Andamans and certain of the provinces to re-transfer some of the prisoners to jails in their own provinces.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Has the Government of Bengal applied for this ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : Not so far as I am aware, Sir ?

OPIUM SMUGGLING FROM SOUTHERN INDIA TO CEYLON.

100. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Has serious opium smuggling been going on in Southern India, specially *via* Pondicherry and Ceylon ? If so, what is the approximate loss in revenue and what steps have been taken to stop the smuggling ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : There has been serious opium smuggling from various places in Southern India to Ceylon, but it has been checked to a great extent as a result of preventive measures taken in this country as well as in Ceylon. It is not in the public interest that details of these preventive measures should be given.

As the smuggling was out of India to Ceylon, it caused no loss to the revenues of India.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE DUTCH AIR MAIL SERVICE IS ALLOWED TO OPERATE ACROSS INDIA.

101. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Will Government state what is the agreement, if any, as a result of which the Dutch Air Mail Service is allowed to operate across India to Batavia or other stations ; and what are the conditions imposed upon, and the facilities granted to, this Air Service ; and what are the financial or other obligations arising out of such arrangements ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : There is no formal deed of agreement ; the arrangements have been settled by correspondence. The principal conditions imposed on this Service are :—

- (1) Goods and passengers may not be carried between any two points in India.

- (2) Mails for places in India from foreign countries have to be dropped at Calcutta in the case of west-bound planes and at Karachi in the case of east-bound planes.
- (3) Mails from India may be carried only for Iran and Northern and Central Sumatra and these have to be loaded at Karachi and Calcutta, respectively.

The Service is entitled to the use of the landing grounds and aerodromes but enjoys no special facilities, and India incurs no financial or other obligations arising out of the arrangements.

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA.

102. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : (a) Did Government issue a communique in 1921 containing the following passage :—

“ In pursuance of their expressed policy of making India as far as possible independent of outside sources in the supply of materials (it was announced) the Government of India have had under consideration the question of the construction of locomotive engines in India, and they are now in a position to give a general undertaking that tenders will be invited annually in India for all the locomotives and locomotive boilers required by Government during the 12 years commencing with 1923 ”?

(b) If so, how many tenders were invited in pursuance of this “ undertaking ”, and how many locomotive engines and locomotive boilers have been manufactured in India during the last 15 years, and where are they in use ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) Yes.

(b) Tenders were called in India twice for locomotives of Indian manufacture.

With the exception of metre gauge locomotives built in the B. B. and C. I. R. workshops at Ajmere, Government are not aware that any locomotives or locomotive boilers have been manufactured in India during the last 15 years.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Has the Government considered the recommendation of the Railway Finance Committee to manufacture metre gauge Indian locomotives in Ajmere for other Railways as well ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Government has considered that question, but there is a difficulty. Under the Act constituting the B. B. and C. I. R. Co. they have no powers to build locomotives for other Railways. That question has been taken up and the possibility is that the B. B. and C. I. R. Co. will promote a Bill removing that disability.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact or not that increased manufacture reduces the cost ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Increased manufacture undoubtedly reduces the cost when the workshop has got the capacity of doing this.

NEW STATION BUILDINGS AT PATNA JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION, E. I. R.

103. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : (a) Will Government state if, and when, the construction of the new building of the Patna Junction railway station (E. I. R.) will be taken in hand ?

(b) Is the European refreshment room located on the platform of the Patna Junction station, and the Indian refreshment room outside, at a considerable distance from the station ?

(c) Do Government propose to make arrangements for the location of the Indian refreshment room on the platform, like the European refreshment room, in the new building of the station ? If not, why ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) The construction of a new station building at Patna Junction is already in hand.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to locate the Indian refreshment room on the platform.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : When do Government expect it to be ready ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I am afraid I cannot tell you that.

CLERICAL STAFF OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

104. **THE HONOURABLE MR. ABDUR RAZZAK HAJEE ABDUS SATTAR** : Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The number of clerks employed in each of the upper and lower divisions of the clerical cadre of the Reserve Bank of India in each of the areas of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay ?

(b) How many of the clerks in each division (upper and lower) and in each area, are Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis and Anglo-Indians ?

(c) Whether the orders of the Government of India providing for the appointment of Muslims in all branches of public service have been given full effect to in filling the posts of clerks in all the branches of the Reserve Bank in India ? If not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) The recruitment of the staff of the Reserve Bank is entirely a matter for the Central Board of the Bank.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government get the information from the Reserve Bank ? Have they asked for it and have they been refused ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : No, Sir. I see no object in obtaining that information.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact that this is a statutory body and the Government of India are the residuary legatees of the Reserve Bank ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : A body created by Statute need have nothing to do with Government. I do not say that is the position of the Reserve Bank but I would not accept the statement that Government is the " residuary legatee " of the Reserve Bank.

COMMERCIAL ADVISER TO THE RAILWAY BOARD.

105. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Is there any proposal to recruit a non-Indian to serve as Commercial Adviser to the Railway Board ? If so, why ?

(b) Is there any dearth of capable Indians to fill the post ?

(c) What will be the salary of the appointment, and who has been appointed ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) No.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF EDITOR, *Indian Listener*, ALL-INDIA RADIO AND SUB-EDITOR, CENTRAL NEWS ORGANISATION, ALL-INDIA RADIO, RESPECTIVELY.

106. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to two advertisements published under the signature of the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Simla (*vide* the *Leader*, dated the 11th August, 1937) inviting applications from (i) British subjects for the post of Editor, *Indian Listener*, All-India Radio, and (ii) British subjects of Indian domicile for the post of Sub-Editor, Central News Organisation, All-India Radio, respectively ?

(b) Is it intended by advertisement (i) to exclude Indians from being appointed ? If not, why has this difference been made in the two forms of advertisements ?

(c) Will Government kindly give the names and qualifications of the gentlemen who may have been appointed to the two posts ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The difference in the two cases is that while in the first non-Indian British subjects are also eligible, in the second they are not.

(c) No appointment has yet been made to these posts.

ROLLING STOCK.

107. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following observations of the Wedgwood Committee regarding the railway rolling stock situation at present :—

" The stock of locomotives is excessive, and should be capable of reduction " ; that " the stock of carriages is also too high, and should be

more than equal to the requirements of an increased traffic"; and that "in the case of wagons the stock seems to be high.....and in the absence of any large increase in traffic no substantial purchase of stocks should be necessary for some years"?

(b) Do Government propose to spend about Rs. 4 crores or any substantial amount on the purchase of rolling stock? If so, why?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways at their meetings held in Calcutta, on June 28th and 29th last, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : When was the contract for constructing wagons for three years given?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Speaking from memory, I think about April of this year—April or May of this year.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Was the Assembly then in session?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : If it was in April, the Assembly would have been in session and if it was in May, it would not have been in session.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Why was not the Finance Committee consulted on the advisability of giving the contract for three years if there was no sanction of the Finance Department?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : To get the advantage of favourable prices, an immediate decision had to be made.

EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM SERVICE IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

108. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Is the employment of women in Archæological Department works prohibited by Notification? If so, why?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Service in the Archæological Department involves the necessity of serving in the field and calls for considerable powers of physical endurance which women ordinarily do not possess.

RELEASE OR REPATRIATION OF INDIAN DETENUS OR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BURMA.

109. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : How many Indian detenus or political prisoners there are in Burma, and from what provinces? Are any steps being taken to secure their release or repatriation?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : There are no Indians detained in Burma under the orders of the Government of India. I understand that there were a number detained under orders issued by the Government of

Burma ; and though I have no detailed official information as to the orders passed in respect of these, I understand that the Government of Burma have released detenus and removed restrictions as regards those domiciled in Burma, and have decided to re-transfer to their provinces those who are not domiciled in Burma.

As regards persons belonging to provinces of India and convicted in Burma of political offences I have no information.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Government give the names of those people who are to be transferred to their respective provinces ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : I have not got that information. If you would like to give notice I will find out.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will the Honourable Member try and find out how many men belonging to India have been convicted of political offences in Burma ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : It is not the business of the Government of India. It is entirely a matter for the Burma Government now.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : But are we not interested in finding out how many Indians have been convicted of political offences there ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Burma is a Colony now and is in direct relations with the Colonial Office.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : We are not questioning the decisions of its law courts but we want to know the number of Indians convicted of political offences.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : The proper way to obtain that information would be to put a question in the Burma Legislature.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : We cannot go to the Burma Legislature. We as people of India are interested in obtaining the information. Will the Honourable Home Member of the Government of India try and get that information ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : I do not think it would be a proper action for the Government of India to take any more than to make inquiries about all Indians convicted of offences in any other country.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : We do get information about Indians in Fiji, British Guiana and Trinidad, why should not the Honourable Member be prepared to get the information for us with regard to Indians in Burma.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Member has answered the question.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May we know what action the Burma Government while part of India took to convict Indians ? The Government of India must have information as to Indians who were convicted there for political offences before 31st March, 1937.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : The question related to the present, Sir, not to the past. If you would like to give notice I will find out.

F. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Is it not possible for the Honourable Member to obtain the information by writing to the Colonial Office ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : That would be rather a delicate matter.

LABOUR TROUBLES IN BRITISH GUIANA.

110. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Will Government make a statement regarding the troubles of Indian labour in British Guiana, the findings of the Commission which was appointed to report on it, the question of pay, housing, hours of work and other grievances and disabilities of the workers there, and the steps taken by Government to redress their disabilities and to secure their legitimate rights ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : Presumably the Honourable Member refers to labour troubles in British Guiana. A copy of the Report of the Commission has been placed in the Library of the House. The Government of India have communicated their views on the Report to His Majesty's Government.

LATE PRINCESS CHANDRA DEVI'S ALLOWANCE.

111. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Did Princess Ashin Teiksu Myat Baya Latt, the second daughter of the late King Thebaw of Burma, who is now residing in Darjeeling, make a representation some time back to Government urging the payment of funds for the funeral of the body of her niece, the late Princess Chandra Devi, which was then lying undisposed of at her father's residence in Calcutta ?

(b) Was the dead Princess in receipt of any allowance from Government and, if so, how much ? What have Government done in the matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : (a) In connection with the death in Calcutta last May of Chandra Devi, daughter of Saw Yan Naing, a grandson of King Mindon Min of Burma, requests for financial assistance were received from Saw Yan Naing and others but not from the ex-King's second daughter.

(b) The late Chandra Devi was in receipt of a maintenance allowance from Government of Rs. 20 a month. The requests for financial assistance received were passed on to the Government of Burma, as the separation of Burma from India has relieved the Central Government of the responsibility for maintaining the Burmese ex-Royal family.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Has the Burma Government given anything to these members of the ex-Royal family ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : I have no information.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Does Government consider Rs. 20 a fair allowance to a member of the ex-Royal family ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: This is a matter of opinion and I disallow it.

CENTRAL IRRIGATION RESEARCH STATION NEAR POONA.

112. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Is there any Central Irrigation Research Station at Khadakvalsa near Poona ? If so, what is the nature of its work ; and what is the annual cost of its maintenance ? Have local Governments been asked to make contributions for its upkeep and, if so, with what result ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: Yes. The station deals largely with hydrodynamic problems such as the behaviour of rivers, the protection of bridges and the movement of silt. The cost of its maintenance during 1937-38 is estimated at Rs. 1½ lakhs. The Central Government intend to address Provincial Governments on the question of contributions in the near future.

OPENING OF A NEW RAILWAY STATION AT DUMRA, B. N.-W. R.

113. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Was a representation submitted to the B. N.-W. R. authorities suggesting the opening of a small station at Dumra (District Muzaffarpur, Bihar) ? What decision has been arrived at in this connection ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, the matter is at present under the consideration of the Railway Administration.

LOCATION OF CENTRAL MUSEUM, ETC.

114. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Will Government state whether it is proposed to locate a Central Museum in the Old Fort in Delhi ? If so, what is the approximate expense involved, and when is the Central Asian Museum likely to be removed from Kingsway (New Delhi) to the Old Fort ?

(b) Have Government deputed one of the officers of the Archæological Department for training to Europe in Curator's work ? If so, who is this officer, what is his name, and what will be the approximate period of his training ?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by Government for the restoration of the old historic Elephanta Caves at Bombay ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) The possibility of constructing a building in the Purana Qila at New Delhi for housing the Museum is being investigated. The plans and estimates have not yet been prepared. On receipt of the estimates and the architect's report, it will be decided whether to proceed with the idea or not.

(b) I place on the table of the House a copy of the press note issued by Government some time ago. I have nothing to add to the information contained in this note.

(c) The work relating to the regulation of drainage of the main hall and the West Court and structural repairs was begun before the monsoon with satisfactory results. Measures involving chemical treatment of rock surfaces and grouting of cracks, etc., will be taken at the end of the monsoon.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What do the Government propose to do with the Central Asian Museum building and with its Annexe ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : I cannot say at present what it will do. At the moment we are considering the question of whether we can construct a new Museum. Until this has been decided we cannot say what will happen to the present buildings.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it proposed to house the Federal Court in the Annexe ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : I have no information on that point. If the Honourable Member will table a question I will get the information.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

Simla, the 17th August, 1937.

PRESS NOTE.

The Government of India have decided to depute an officer of the Archæological Department to the countries in Europe and the Near East to study the up-to-date methods of museum curatorship. The actual officer to be sent has not yet been decided on. The officer will spend at least six months in England and will visit such important museums as the British Museum, the India and Science Museums, Kensington, the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford and Fitz-William Museum at Cambridge and other important museums and galleries in that country where methods of exhibition, preservation and in general of enhancing the value of museums to the public can be most fruitfully learnt. On the Continent, the museums at Paris, such as the Louvre, and the Musée Guimet will be visited as also the International Museums Office and the pre-historic collections at St. Germain. This will be followed by visits to the important museums at Amsterdam, Leyden, Berlin, Munich, Rome and Naples and the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum near Naples. On his way to Europe or back he will also pay visits to the Egyptian Museum at Cairo, the museums at Aleppo, Baghdad and Jerusalem. The entire programme will cover a year's deputation including the time for voyage.

It is intended that on the officer's return he should be employed in the first instance in inspecting the archæological museums and recommending measures for their improvement or development. His experience will be made use of for spreading a knowledge of the latest museum practice through the Department. His services will be available for advice and suggestions to Provincial Governments or other museum authorities should they so desire, and it may be possible to arrange for courses of training to this end.

HUNGER-STRIKE OF DETENUS IN THE DEOLI CAMP JAIL IN AUGUST, 1937.

115. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Did about 153 out of 300 detenus confined in

Deoli camp go on hunger-strike in August, 1937 ? If so, why, and how was the situation dealt with ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : I would refer the Honourable Member to the communiques issued on the subject. The strike, which commenced on August 10th was discontinued on the 30th August.

GRANTING OF RAILWAY PASSES TO PRESS REPRESENTATIVES.

116. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Will Government state whether any newspaper correspondent or news agency is given any railway pass or any other travel facilities or concessions ? If so, who are such correspondents or news agencies ? Is there any uniform procedure observed in such cases without any racial discrimination ? If so, what is that procedure ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Railway Administrations have been advised that the Railway Board see no objection to their granting occasional passes to press representatives, provided, in the opinion of the Agent, the issue of such passes is in the interests of the Railway. Government have no details regarding the issue of passes made by individual Railway Administrations in accordance with this policy.

The Railway Board issue passes available over the State Railways to a representative of the following Press Agencies :—

- (i) Associated Press of India ;
- (ii) United Press of India ;
- (iii) Reuters.

DISCOVERY OF A MOGHAL ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENT IN DARBHANGA, BIHAR.

117. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Has an interesting Moghal architectural monument been recently discovered by the side of the Dighi tank in Darbhanga town (Bihar), and has it also been inspected by the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey of India, Central Circle ? If so, will Government give some details of this find, so far as available ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : My Honourable friend is apparently referring to a piece of mottled red-stone *jali* work, enclosing two tombs within a graveyard known as Bhikha Shah Salani Dargah at Misirtoli, Darbhanga. This was brought to the notice of the Archæological Department by a teacher in a local school at Darbhanga. The Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Central Circle, who has inspected the place in company with the teacher, reports that the Moghal *jali* work was, in his opinion, removed from some other place and re-erected in its present location. The *jali* is a fine piece of Moghal workmanship, but the enclosure into which it has been fitted cannot be said to have any architectural merit.

b

NUMBER OF MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS
IN 1936 AND 1937.

118. THE HONOURABLE MR. SITAKANTA MAHAPATRA : Will Government be pleased to state how many times the Central Advisory Council for Railways met in (a) 1936 and (b) 1937 ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) Twice.

(b) The Council has not met up to date.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : How many times has the Committee sat in the last nine months ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : The Council is going to meet on the 2nd of October this year.

CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS AND REPORT OF THE INDIAN
RAILWAYS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

119. THE HONOURABLE MR. SITAKANTA MAHAPATRA : Will Government be pleased to state the reason why no meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways was called to consider the Report of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee soon after its publication.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : As the report of the Railway Enquiry Committee contained a very large number of recommendations on purely technical matters, it was not considered necessary to refer the whole Report to an immediate meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways. The Report was discussed in the Legislative Assembly on 27th August, a day is being allotted for a discussion in this House so that all Members may have an opportunity of expressing their views. If, at a later date Government consider that they require the advice of the Central Advisory Council for Railways on any specific points arrangements will be made to hold a meeting for this purpose.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact that the Report was placed in the hands of the Railway Finance Committee on the day on which a meeting was held and they were given no opportunity to read it ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : The Report was placed in the hands of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways immediately it had been printed up. It could not be placed in their hands one day earlier.

CAPITAL AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS OF STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

120. THE HONOURABLE MR. SITAKANTA MAHAPATRA : Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether the Capital and Revenue Accounts of State-owned Railways are published and sold to the public in the same manner as other Government publications ?

(b) If not, do they propose to publish these accounts as an Appendix to the Railway Administration Report ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) The Capital and Revenue Accounts of State-owned Railways are not sold to the public.

(b) Government do not propose to publish the Capital and Revenue Accounts as the summary of financial results of working of State-owned Railways is published in the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways and in the History of Indian Railways, copies of which are placed in the Library of the Legislature and are available for sale to the public with the Manager of Publications.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Why is that? Would it cause Government any loss if the copies are sold?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The more copies of documents you print the greater the expenditure to Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Can they not get it back from the copies they sell? What is the harm in offering it for sale?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Because we have already published documents which give all the information required.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Overhead charges will not be increased. It is only the cost of paper that will increase. Will it not be recouped if a few more copies of the Accounts are sold?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: It seems to me that Honourable Members are being supplied with all the information and that it is unnecessary to publish these detailed accounts. It does cost money.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it possible that there are certain things which have to be hidden and therefore this is not published?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I can assure the House that that is not the reason.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Then why is it not published?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Why not make it available to people other than Members of the Legislature?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Honourable Members perhaps read it; nobody else reads it!

IMPORT DUTY ON NEWSPRINT.

121. THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether on the representation of big newspaper concerns in India, the import duty on newsprint in reels has been recently reduced to Rs. 1-8-0 on newsprint in reels unglazed and to Rs. 1-12-0 on newsprint in reels other sorts?

(b) Have Government extended the concession to smaller and generally vernacular newspaper concerns by reducing the import duty on paper (in flat sheets)?

(c) Are Government aware that the vernacular press have to sell the papers at cheap rate to the general public? and

(d) Do Government propose to reduce the import duty on newsprint in flat sheets? If so, when? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN: (a) Yes, the import duty on newsprint in reels has been reduced from 25 per cent. *ad valorem* to Rs. 1-8-0 per cwt. for unglazed and Rs. 1-12-0 per cwt. for other sorts.

(b) The reduction was calculated to restore the import duty on newsprint in reels to its average level in 1936. Newsprint in sheets was already assessed on a tariff valuation based on the 1936 prices, and the two kinds of newsprint are accordingly receiving similar treatment.

(c) and (d). For the reasons just indicated, it is not considered that any action is called for in regard to newsprint in sheets.

NUMBER OF POSTS UP TO RS. 100 AND ABOVE RS. 100 IN THE OFFICES OF THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND STAMPS, CALCUTTA, AND THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BENGAL AND ASSAM CIRCLE.

122. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABDUR KAZZAK HAJEE ABDUS SATTAR: Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The number of posts carrying pay up to Rs. 100 and of those above Rs. 100 per month in the non-gazetted and clerical cadre in the offices attached to and under the control of—

(i) the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, Calcutta ;

(ii) the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam (including all post and telegraph offices) ?

(b) The number of Muslims employed in each of the abovementioned establishments on salaries up to Rs. 100 and above Rs. 100 ?

(c) Whether the orders of Government relating to the proportionate representation of Muslims in all branches of public service were duly communicated to the heads of these offices ? and

(d) Whether vacancies allocated to Muslims in terms of the orders of Government receive full and adequate publicity through newspapers and other agencies ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: (a) and (b). I assume that the Honourable Member desires particulars of persons in the clerical grades and persons holding equivalent or higher non-gazetted posts. If so, the figures are as follows :

In the Calcutta Offices under the Stationery and Printing Department 25 men, of whom three are Muslims, are on scales which do not rise above Rs. 100 and 303, of whom 44 are Muslims, are on scales which rise above that limit. For the Bengal and Assam Postal Circle the corresponding figures are 1,034, of whom 335 are Muslims, and 4,913, of whom 710 are Muslims.

(c) Yes.

(d) Where it is possible to secure the requisite number of minority community candidates including Muslims to fill posts reserved for them, advertisements in the press or by other means are not considered necessary.

NUMBER OF POSTS UP TO RS. 100 AND ABOVE RS. 100 IN THE OFFICES OF THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, CALCUTTA ; THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, BENGAL ; AND THE CONTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.

123. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABDUR RAZZAK HAJEE ABDUS SATTAR: Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The number of posts carrying pay up to Rs. 100 and of those above Rs. 100 per month in the non-gazetted and clerical cadre in the offices attached to and under the control of—

- (i) the Collector of Customs, Calcutta ;
- (ii) the Accountant General, Bengal ; and
- (iii) the Controller of the Currency ?

(b) The number of Muslims employed in each of the abovementioned establishments on salaries up to Rs. 100 and above Rs. 100 ?

(c) Whether the orders of Government relating to the proportionate representation of Muslims in all branches of public service were duly communicated to the heads of these offices ? and

(d) Whether vacancies allocated to Muslims in terms of the orders of Government receive full and adequate publicity through newspapers and other agencies ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

NUMBER OF POSTS UP TO RS. 100 AND ABOVE RS. 100 IN THE OFFICES OF THE E. I. R. AND E. B. R.

124. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABDUR RAZZAK HAJEE ABDUS SATTAR: Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The number of posts carrying pay up to Rs. 100 and of those above Rs. 100 per month in the non-gazetted and clerical cadre in the offices attached to and under the control of—

- (i) The E. B. R. ; and
- (ii) The E. I. R. ?

(b) The number of Muslims employed in each of the abovementioned establishments on salaries up to Rs. 100 and above Rs. 100 ?

(c) Whether the orders of Government relating to the proportionate representation of Muslims in all branches of public services were duly communicated to the heads of these offices ? and

(d) Whether vacancies allocated to Muslims in terms of the orders of Government receive full and adequate publicity through newspapers and other agencies ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) (i) and (ii) and (b). The latest information available with Government will be found in the Statement at page 62 of Volume I, and the Statement at page 236 of Volume II of the Railway Board's Report for 1935-36 on Indian Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative so far as Railway Administrations are concerned.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 8 of the Supplementary Instructions connected with the orders contained in the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F. 14-17-B./33-Ests., dated the 4th July, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. These instructions also apply to the State-managed Railways.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE DELHI RADIO STATION
IN CONNECTION WITH THE WRITING OF RADIO PLAYS, ETC.

125. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Is there any scheme to adjust the All-India Radio to the requirements of a highly developed system of Indian music, and the writing of good radio plays, and to make it available for school and village broadcasting? What are the main outlines of the scheme?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: I am afraid I do not quite follow the meaning of the Honourable Member. He has apparently in mind certain recommendations made by the Advisory Council of the Delhi Station to promote the writing of radio plays and to improve the standard of musical programmes by the appointment of experts on the staff. The Advisory Council recommended the award of a prize of Rs. 250 annually to the writer of the best radio drama in the year. This proposal has been sanctioned by Government for five years. Government have also under consideration another suggestion of the Advisory Council, that a music director should be appointed to train the orchestras of the All-India Radio and to attempt to introduce harmony and notation in Indian music.

As regards village and school broadcasting, village programmes are given from the Delhi Station, a scheme for school broadcasting in Calcutta is already in hand, and it is hoped to undertake school broadcasting from other stations also.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is there any Member of this House on the Advisory Board?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: I am afraid I do not know.

LEGISLATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INTERFERENCE WITH THE WORKING
OF WIRELESS.

126. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Is there any proposal to devise means by legislation or otherwise to control or to prevent interference with the working of wireless, by the action of other electrical apparatus, electric fans, telephone bells, dynamos, heaters, etc.? If so, what are the general lines of the steps that may be in contemplation?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: The matter is receiving consideration but no decision has yet been reached.

REORGANISATION OF THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF AN ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

127. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh) : Is the question of the reorganisation of the Statistical Department and the appointment of an Economic Adviser to Government under consideration ? If so, will Government be pleased to make a statement indicating the possible lines of the reorganisation, and to give the name of the intended incumbent and his qualifications ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : Yes. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to pages 124-26 of the Proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee held on the 11th February, 1937 which give the required information. A copy of these Proceedings is in the Library. I am not yet in a position to announce the name of the officer who will hold the post of Economic Adviser to the Central Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Will the post be advertised or will a man be recruited from the Services ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : It will not be advertised as far as I am aware. There is no present intention of advertising the post.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will a man from India be appointed or will a man from outside the country be brought ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : I am not yet in a position to say who will be appointed. I have made that clear already in my answer.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : If it is a man from outside the country who is contemplated, ought not the post to be advertised ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It is a hypothetical question.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Have Government decided if they are going to appoint a man from India or is there a possibility of importing a man from outside ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : The post has been offered on certain terms to a European economist but Government are not yet able to say whether he will accept or not.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is that European economist at present in India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : I am afraid I do not know.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Is there no Indian economist available ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : We have offered the post to the man whom we think will best fill it, and that is where the question stands at present.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What are the qualifications attached to the post ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : The name of the post I think expresses as well as anything else what the qualifications of the post required are. He is to be Economic Adviser to Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : And therefore he must be one who is in sympathy with Government's policy ?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : On what grounds then have Indians been excluded ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : I have never said that Indians have been excluded. I have told you that the appointment has not yet been made.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : You have said that the offer has been made to a European economist. Indians have therefore been excluded so far as this post is concerned.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : That is not so. We do not yet know whether the post will be accepted, and I am not in a position to tell you to whom it will be offered next.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Were the qualifications of competent Indians considered before the post was offered to a European economist ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : Certainly, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is the gentleman to be engaged permanently or on short-term basis ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : It is for a period of years.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : For how many years, Sir ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : I am not able to say definitely.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : In what way were the claims of competent Indians considered ? Were enquiries made or were applications invited ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : Government are as well aware as anyone else of the names of prominent Indian economists.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : What is the salary attached to the post ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : I think the salary is Rs. 3,000 a month.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Was it not possible to get an Indian economist on cheaper terms ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : Hundreds of them !

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : What were the grounds on which the Government decided not to advertise the post ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : Because Government were of opinion that they would not get any applications that would be suitable. Government are perfectly well aware of the names of leading economists who could have any claim to be considered for a post of this nature.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN TATAS AND THE TRAVANCORE DARBAR.

128. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Are Government negotiating with Tatas for a weekly air mail service between Madras and Trivandrum, with a halting station at Trichinopoly? What facilities, if any, have been afforded by Government, and what arrangements have been made by Tatas for the training of Indians in the air service; and with what results?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: No such proposals have reached the Government of India, but I understand that there have been negotiations between the Company and the Travancore Darbar.

KIDNAPPING OF HINDUS ON THE FRONTIER.

129. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Were ten Hindus kidnapped on 1st August, 1937 from Tank tahsil on the Indian frontier? If so, under what circumstances? What steps have been taken for their restoration, and with what result?

(b) Was the village of Sheikhattar in Tank sub-division raided by a trans-border gang on the 16th August, and was a shop burnt, were many looted, and was a large quantity of grain stolen? Were five Hindus also kidnapped on that occasion? What steps have been taken in the matter and with what result?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) A raid was committed on Pai village in Tank sub-division, on the night of 1st/2nd August, 1937, by a small gang. One Hindu woman only was kidnapped, and not ten Hindus as stated. As a result of this and other raids including that mentioned in part (b) of the question, the Bhitani tribe were given seven days' notice to return all kidnapped persons and as they did not comply with this order a portion of their country has been put under air blockade. So far the woman has not been returned.

(b) Yes. The action taken has already been described under part (a).

FLOODS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

130. **THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU** (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Have Government received any report from the United Provinces Government regarding the details of the recent floods in many of the districts of the United Provinces, the loss of property, or life, and the steps taken to cope with the situation?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: The Government of India have received no detailed report from the United Provinces Government regarding the recent floods in many of the districts of that province, but the report on the agricultural outlook of the United Provinces for the month of August, 1937, states that floods in the Sarjoo river caused heavy damage to about 60 villages in Gonda district and also did considerable damage to crops in Kaisarganj tahsil in Baraich district over an area of 300 square miles. It is for the Provincial Government to take steps to cope with the situation.

INTER-CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON THE G. I. P. R.

131. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI : (a) Is there no Inter-class accommodation on passenger trains on the G. I. P. R. ?

(b) Is Inter-class accommodation available on passenger trains on other State Railways ?

(c) Do Government propose to arrange for Inter-class accommodation on passenger trains on the G. I. P. R. at an early date ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) Intermediate class accommodation is provided on the following sections of the G. I. P. R. :—

(i) Bombay-Itarsi-Allahabad.

(ii) Bina-Katni.

(iii) Cawnpore-Banda.

(iv) Jhansi-Manikpur.

(b) Yes.

(c) The suggestion will be brought to the notice of the Agent, G. I. P. R., for consideration.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Have the Wedgwood Committee made any report on this issue ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I do not think so. They have made a recommendation that there should be three classes only.

RUPEE COINAGE ISSUED DURING THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

132. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether some of the branches of the Imperial Bank of India and Treasury Offices refuse to accept rupee coins issued during the reign of Queen Victoria ?

(b) Do Government propose to take such steps so as to ensure that the coins are accepted ?

(c) Do Government propose to withdraw all the rupee coins issued during the reign of Queen Victoria to avoid this difficulty and the hardship arising out of non-acceptance of worn-out coins ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : (a), (b) and (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the press communique issued by the Controller of the Currency on the 15th of July, 1937 which explains the procedure in accordance with which rupee coins issued during the reign of Queen Victoria are being withdrawn. Clear instructions on the subject have been issued to all Treasury Officers and to the Imperial Bank, and Government have no reason to believe that those instructions are not being observed.

GOODS SHED AT AKOLA RAILWAY STATION, G. I. P. R.

133. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI : (1) Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether a representation has been made to the G. I. P. R. about the construction of an Outward goods shed at Akola railway station ?

(b) Whether complaints have been received from the merchants about damages to their goods, in the absence of such goods shed ?

(c) Whether on the representation of the Berar Chamber of Commerce one year the Divisional Traffic Manager, Nagpur, allowed the goods to be kept in the Inward shed ?

(d) Whether the present Divisional Traffic Manager refused a similar request of the Chamber this year ?

(2) Do Government propose to consider the question of providing an Outward goods shed at Akola at an early date ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (1) and (2). Government have no information and would point out that matters of this nature are within the competence of the Railway Administration to deal with. I will, however, send a copy of the question and answer to the Agent for consideration of the point raised.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Have we no right to question things which are within the jurisdiction of the Agent ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I think the House very often questions these.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Are we not entitled to have a reply to such questions ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The form of the answer is for Government to decide.

SHORTAGE OF WAGONS AT MURTIZAPUR RAILWAY STATION, G. I. P. R.

134. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is a shortage of wagons on the G. I. P. R. ?

(b) Whether during the last cotton season there was a great amount of accumulation of goods at Murtizapur station, G. I. P. R. ?

(c) Do Government propose to arrange for a sufficient number of wagons for transportation at the Murtizapur railway station ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Government have no information, but a copy of the Honourable Member's question will be sent to the Agent, G. I. P. R., for such action as may be considered necessary.

CONCESSIONS GIVEN BY THE G. I. P. R. TO ATTRACT PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

135. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the various concessions given by the State Railways to attract passenger traffic ?

(b) Are very few concessions given on the G. I. P. R. ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to introduce the various concessions on the G. I. P. R. ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the time tables and guides of the different Railways for details of the various tickets issued at concession rates with a view to attracting passenger traffic.

(b) Details of the tickets issued at concession rates over the G. I. P. R. are given at pages 115 to 129 of the G. I. P. R. Time Table. They cover the following :—

- (i) Certain week-end return tickets available between a number of stations ;
- (ii) Market vendor's tickets ;
- (iii) Mileage coupons ;
- (iv) Coupon tickets available between Bombay and certain stations ;
- (v) Round tour concession tickets for third class passengers.

(c) Concession fares are introduced only when Railway Administrations consider that thereby the revenues will be increased. Investigation into the circumstances which would justify further concessions by the G. I. P. R. is a matter for detailed consideration by that Administration. The Honourable Member's question, however, and this reply will be sent to the Agent, G. I. P. R., for consideration.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is the issue of mileage coupons confined to mercantile firms ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Yes, generally, though I think certain Railways allow other business people to have them, but generally it is confined to mercantile firms.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Why is there this discrimination between agriculture and trade ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : The reason for the issue of mileage coupons is to enable merchants to get a better sale for their goods and to give increased traffic to Railways.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is the Honourable Member aware that private coupons are sold to ordinary passengers on the S. I. R. ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I was not aware of that.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will the Honourable Member look into the matter now ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Does the Honourable Member object to their being sold ?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : No, Sir. I want the extension of the system—I want mileage coupons sold to ordinary passengers on all the Railways. May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Member will be good enough to consider the matter again ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : As I have already said, the reason for the mileage coupon is to increase business.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will he consider whether the practice on the G. I. P. R. may not be assimilated to this system ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I am not prepared to take that action.

MAIL MOTOR SERVICES FOR RURAL AREAS IN BERAR.

136. **THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a representation was received from the Berar Chamber of Commerce, Akola, regarding Mail Motor Services to serve the rural areas of Berar ?

(b) Did the Chamber suggest 12 new services for more expeditious despatch and more frequent deliveries of mail for the above area ?

(c) Was the Chamber informed that improvements in local services were engaging the attention of the Postmaster General, Central Circle, and that any practical measures for accelerating the services, if and where necessary, will be undertaken ? Has anything been done so far in this connection ? If so, what ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : (a) Yes.

(b) The Chamber of Commerce made six proposals for mail motor services to supplement existing ones and six proposals for new services.

(c) The reply was substantially as stated by the Honourable Member. The proposal for a supplementary service between Dhamangaon and Yeotmal was accepted and introduced with effect from the 1st April, 1937. In the other cases in which supplementary services were desired the volume of mails was not sufficient to warrant such services.

Of the new services proposed, one for a service between Shagaon and Wasali was introduced in September, 1936 and another, between Nandura and Buldana, is expected to be introduced shortly. The remaining four proposals were not approved. In some cases the roads are not suitable for motor traffic throughout the year and in others the places are already connected by rail or are served by other existing services.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it cheaper for Railways to carry mails by rail or by motor ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : It depends on the circumstances.

UNIFORM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

137. **THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI :** (a) Are Government aware of the resolution passed by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry at their Tenth Annual General Meeting held in Delhi about uniform weights and measures ?

(b) What action has Government taken in that direction ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : (a) Yes.

(b) The Central Government have not taken any action for the standardisation of weights and measures on an all-India basis. I may mention that under the new constitution the Provincial Governments are competent to legislate with regard to weights and measures and the Federal Government have power to legislate only for the establishment of standards of weight.

POLITICAL EXILES.

138. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: Will Government be pleased to supply the names and the present residences of all political exiles from India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: By political exiles, I take it the Honourable Member means persons of British Indian nationality residing abroad who have applied for and been refused passport facilities to return to India. There are no such persons.

LIFT AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

139. THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN: (a) Is the lift provided at the railway station, Delhi, for taking passengers to the refreshment rooms, waiting rooms and the rest rooms stopped between 11 A.M. and 7 P.M. ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of providing the lift at all hours at least during the day ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) Yes. The liftman is in attendance from 7 A.M. to 11 A.M. and from 7 P.M. to 11 P.M.

(b) As far as is known, the demand for the use of the lift does not justify the expense of additional staff that would be required to keep it in use throughout the day. A copy of this question and the answer given is, however, being sent to the Agent, N. W. R., for investigation and such action as he considers necessary.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Do the Railways generate their own electricity or do they buy it in Delhi ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: They buy it from the Delhi Electric Supply Co.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: What is the bulk rate ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I must have notice of that.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN: Was the lift working when the management was with the E. I. R. ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I do not know what happened before 1925.

REDUCTION IN TELEGRAPHIC RATES BETWEEN INDIA AND BURMA.

140. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): Do Government propose to take necessary steps to reduce the postal and telegraph rates between India and Burma ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: Government are not in a position to make any reduction at present.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN FIJI IN REGARD TO FRANCHISE, ETC.

141. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Does the Legislative Council of Fiji consist

of the Governor, 16 official members (of whom three are elected on a communal franchise, and two are nominated); five Fiji members (all elected), and five Indian members (three elected on a communal franchise, and two nominated) ?

(b) Were the Indians in Fiji demanding the abolition of separate communal representation, and advocating the adoption of a common electoral roll ? What is the approximate number of Indians and Europeans in Fiji ; and is there any racial discrimination against the Indians in Fiji in the matter of franchise, business and service facilities, or residential areas ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : (a) Yes, except that the Fijian members are not elected, but selected by His Excellency the Governor from a panel submitted by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

(b) As regards the first part of the question, the Government of India understand that this was the attitude of some sections of the community. According to the Census Report of 1936, Indians and Europeans in Fiji numbered 85,002 and 4,028 respectively. The franchise is wider for Indians than for Europeans in that for Indians an acquaintance with English or one of six specified Indian languages is enough, and the property qualifications are lower. Government are not aware of any racial discrimination in the matter of business or service facilities, or residential areas.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is the Honourable Member aware that hardly any Indian is taken in Government service in Fiji ?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : I do not know of any racial discrimination. I do not know actually how many Indians are taken but I do not think there is any racial bar.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : So far as the superior services are concerned, I understand that there is a bar to the employment of Indians.

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD : The whole matter will be discussed on his Resolution and if the Honourable Member will give me some instances, I will look into them. I have no information at present.

TRANSPORT OF COTTON FROM BERAR TO BOMBAY BY MOTOR BUSES.

142. THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI : Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether a large number of cotton bales were sent to Bombay from Berar by motor buses in the cotton session of 1935-36 ?

(b) What was the loss that the Railway suffered from this diversion ?

(c) Whether prosecutions were started against the bus owners and drivers carrying cotton bales ?

(d) If so, how many ?

(e) What was the result of these prosecutions ?

(f) Is it a fact that heavy fines were imposed on the drivers and owners ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : (a) and (c) to (f). The question of prosecutions for infringement of motor vehicles rules is a provincial matter, and the Government of India have no information as to the precise number of prosecutions. They are aware that a number of drivers of motor lorries employed in the transport of cotton bales from Berar to Bombay were prosecuted and convicted last year in the Central Provinces for the infringement of the Provincial Motor Vehicles Rules and that in some cases the fine amounted to Rs. 100.

(b) The G. I. P. R. Administration have not been able to compute the full extent of the loss of earnings caused by the diversion, but they estimate that it is not less than Rs. 33,000.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What steps have the Railway Administration taken to check this diversion ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : Rates have been reduced between certain centres but if you are only losing two or three per cent. of your traffic, it does not pay to reduce on a hundred per cent.

PARTICULARS IN RESPECT OF INDIAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES FLOATED SINCE 1ST JANUARY, 1931.

143. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement containing the following information about the Insurance Companies floated since the 1st January, 1931 :—

(a) Name, (b) year of registration, (c) amount deposited with Government, and (d) latest figure of business in force and funds ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : A statement containing the required information is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT.

1 Name of company.	2 Year of establishment.	3 Face value of Government Securities deposited.	4 Sums assured and bonuses in force as at the end of the last financial year for which accounts have been deposited.	5 Life Assurance fund.
		Rs.		
1. Adarsha Bima Company ..	1935	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
2. Agarwal Assurance Society ..	1931	36,000	2,94,321	4,557
3. Agra Mutual Assurance Society ..	1935	35,300	2,30,250	13,058

1 Name of company.	2 Year of establishment.	3 Face value of Government Securities deposited.	4 Sums assured and bonuses in force	5 Life Assurance fund
			as at the end of the last financial year for which accounts have been deposited.	
		Rs.		
4. All-India Railwaymen's Benefit Fund	1931	2,00,000	Dividing business.	5,06,779
5. All-India United Assurance	1934	55,000	19,58,350	6,722
6. Aryasthan Insurance	1933	47,000	11,63,962	4,129
7. Asia Mutual Insurance	1931	25,000	Became subject to Indian Life Assurance Companies Act since September 1936.	
8. Bangalakhmi Insurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
9. Behar United Insurance	1933	33,100	2,53,350	6,887
10. Bhagya Lakhshmi Insurance	1931	1,00,000	10,34,250	35,000
11. Bharati Bima	1935	25,000	4,95,250	205
12. Bhaaker Insurance	1936	26,000	Accounts not yet received.	
13. Bihar National Insurance	1932	28,000	4,41,000	776
14. B. B. & C. I. Railway Co-operative Mutual Death Benefit Fund	1932	1,84,500	30,95,000	5,71,242
15. Bombay Postal Employees Co-operative Provident Fund	1937	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
16. Burma National Insurance	1937	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
17. Canara Mutual Assurance	1935	50,000	10,92,650	10,151
18. Central Life and General Assurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
19. Central Mutual Benefit	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
20. Central Popular Assurance	1933	35,000	3,704	10,540
21. Champion General Assurance	1934	43,000	9,08,500	29,034
22. Commercial Insurance	1932	36,100	1,06,500	9,604
23. Deccan Assurance	1931	91,400	10,19,010	61,141
24. Depositors' Benefit Insurance	1932	2,00,000	29,78,000	3,06,922
25. Eastern Federal Union Insurance	1932	25,000	3,92,000	—21,829 (Deficit)

1 Name of company.	2 Year of establishment.	3 Face value of Government Securities deposited.	4 Sums assured and bonuses in force	5 Life Assurance fund
			as at the end of the last financial year for which accounts have been deposited.	
			Ra.	
26. Eastern National Insurance ..	1931	48,300	1,19,384	—2,30,461 (deficit).
27. Equity Insurance	1933	25,000	Became subject to Indian Life Assurance Companies Act in October 1935.	
28. Federal India Assurance	1931	48,000	4,22,737	7,422
29. Free India General Insurance ..	1934	70,000	13,51,000	50,110
30. Frontier Insurance	1934	26,800	83,500	233
31. Genesh Insurance	1933	29,100	1,76,500	1,349
32. Genuine Insurance	1931	79,000	8,33,925	40,782
33. Glory of India Insurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
34. Good Luck Insurance	1935	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
35. Good Will Assurance	1936	28,000	1,84,250	771
36. Golden Eagle Insurance	1934	35,000	12,53,800	7,017
37. Great Asoka Insurance	1932	88,500	21,79,000	3,632
38. Great Home Life Assurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
39. Great Orient Insurance	1931	52,700	6,79,800	—38,838 (deficit).
40. Great Social Life and General Assurance	1933	55,000	13,02,331	23,575
41. Guardian of India Assurance	1934	1,25,000	51,20,875	75,258
42. Happy India Insurance	1937	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
43. Hindustan National Insurance	1935	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
44. Hindustan Mutual Insurance	1935	25,000	7,77,990	914
45. Hindustan Mutual Assurance	1935	25,000	1,59,362	1,424
46. Hukum Chand Life Assurance	1934	50,000	19,48,750	1,424
47. Hyderabad Pioneer Assurance	1937	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
48. India Oriol Assurance	1931	25,000	Became subject to the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act in March 1936.	

1 Name of company.	2 Year of establishment.	3 Face value of Government Securities deposited.	4 Sums assured and bonuses in force	5 Life Assurance fund
			as at the end of the last financial year for which accounts have been deposited.	
			Ra.	
49. India Union Insurance	1935	25,100	5,07,050	394
50. Indian Circar Insurance	1935	25,000	1,99,500	432
51. Indian Economic Insurance	1934	33,000	3,55,500	—17,769 (deficit).
52. Indian Insurance	1934	1,31,100	4,83,850	2,027
53. Indian Insurance Corporation	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
54. Indian Progressive Insurance	1935	31,900	3,77,500	380
55. Indo Asiatic Insurance	1933	25,000	2,14,500	515
56. Indo Barma Insurance	1934	30,900	1,75,750	—2,753 (deficit).
57. Indo Lanka Life Assurance	1935	50,000	Accounts not yet received.	
58. Indo Union Assurance	1933	1,02,100	9,49,500	38,472
59. Indus Insurance	1934	25,000	Became subject to the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act in August 1936.	
60. Insurance of India	1936	25,000	No accounts received.	
61. Investment Trustee and Insurance	1937	25,000	No accounts received.	
62. Jai Vijaya Insurance	1931	50,100	3,30,500	Nil.
63. Jatiya Kalyan Insurance	1935	34,300	1,03,947	14,332
64. Jawala Insurance	1934	28,600	97,500	1,272
65. Kaiser-i-Hind Insurance	1935	50,000	2,00,000	—1,972 (deficit).
66. Krishna Life Assurance	1931	62,300	7,04,040	41,285
67. Long Life Insurance	1933	69,000	10,30,650	17,868
68. Mahavir Insurance	1935	56,000	8,16,000	5,494
69. Meenakshi Insurance	1935	25,000	2,12,275	5

1 Name of company.	2 Year of establish- ment.	3 Face value of Govern- ment Securities deposited.	4 Sums assured and bonuses in force	5 Life Assurance fund
			as at the end of the last financial year for which accounts have been de- posited.	
			Ra.	
70. Midland Insurance	1935	25,000	3,22,250	1,108
71. Mother India Life Assurance ..	1936	25,200	Accounts not received.	yet re-
72. Muslim India Insurance ..	1935	25,000	5,69,000	156
73. Muslim Provident Funds ..	1932	Exempted upto 31-12-37.	Dividing business.	1,306
74. Mutual Assurance	1932	78,900	4,86,136	93,452
75. Napier Insurance	1937	25,000	Accounts not received.	yet re-
76. National Mercantile Insurance ..	1936	25,000	1,38,106	5,327
77. National Mutual Assurance	1934	30,900	3,16,000	4,004
78. Navabharat Insurance	1932	63,000	7,56,475	24,547
79. Navajiban Insurance	1931	25,000	Became subject to Life Act from April 1937.	
80. Neptune Assurance	1931	2,01,400	45,21,680	2,21,930
81. New Asiatic Life Insurance	1933	2,00,000	46,53,750	30,124
82. New Insurance	1933	1,02,000	24,63,500	12,470
83. New State of India Insurance ..	1934	25,000	5,78,586	1,008
84. New Swastik Life Assurance ..	1936	25,000	Accounts not received.	yet re-
85. Palladium Assurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not received.	yet re-
86. Prabartak Insurance	1931	35,800	2,75,530	5,113
87. Premier General Assurance	1934	32,000	4,71,950	—722 (deficit).
88. Premier Insurance and Building ..	1934	70,000	15,34,800	78,920
89. Providential Insurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not received.	yet re-
90. Provincial Union Assurance ..	1934	55,000	27,70,050	17,007

1 Name of company.	2 Year of establish- ment.	3 Face value of Govern- ment Securities deposited.	4 Sums assured and bonuses in force as at the end of the last financial year for which accounts have been de- posited.	5 Life Assurance fund
		Rs.		
91. Radical Insurance ..	1931	48,000	3,79,928	29,643
92. Rajasthan Insurance ..	1937	25,000	Accounts not yet receiv- ed.	
93. Rajluxmi Mutual Insurance ..	1933	30,000	Dividing business.	4,719
94. Sahyadri Insurance ..	1936	25,000	No accounts received.	
95. Saraswati Insurance ..	1934	50,000	5,55,000	10,779
96. Searchlight Insurance ..	1935	25,000	Accounts not yet receiv- ed.	
97. Sentinel Assurance ..	1934	47,000	18,08,050	16,902
98. Servants of India Insurance ..	1932	1,00,100	20,93,224	11,240
99. Shakh Insurance ..	1933	25,600	54,000	2,014
100. Sind Masters Sahita ..	1933	75,000	Dividing Business.	50,280
101. Social Life Assurance ..	1934	31,500	1,37,250	24,471
102. South India Co-operative ..	1932	1,54,550	26,13,441	1,24,368
103. South India Fire and General ..	1935	26,000	52,500	275
104. Sri Guru Nanak Provident Funds ..	1931	95,000	Dividing Business.	6,344
105. Sterling Insurance ..	1933	43,000	7,72,761	8,944
106. Sunlight of India Insurance ..	1932	2,01,000	59,52,990	2,15,836
107. Sunshine Insurance ..	1933	60,960	9,52,450	35,783
108. Swadeshi Bima ..	1931	2,00,000	43,37,227	49,723
109. Swaraj Banking and Insurance ..	1935	25,000	48,000	
110. Sylvan Star Insurance ..	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet receiv- ed.	
111. Tarun Assurance ..	1931	52,000	7,00,485	3,896

1 Name of company.	2 Year of establish- ment.	3 Free value of Govern- ment Securities deposited.	4 Sums assured and bonuses in force	5 Life Assurance fund
			as at the end of the last financial year for which accounts have been de- posited.	
		Rs.		
112. Tilak Insurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
113. Trust of India Assurance	1935	25,000	1,16,100	612
114. United Assurance	1932	50,800	1,53,104	—28,850 (deficit).
115. Unity Insurance	1932	26,500	37,000	
116. Universal Protector Insurance	1937	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
117. Van Guard Insurance	1937	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
118. Victory Insurance	1934	47,000	7,85,541	5,687
119. Vijaya Lakshmi General	1933	1,50,000	16,41,451	90,311
120. Vikram General Assurance	1936	25,000	Accounts not yet received.	
121. Warden Insurance	1933	1,26,000	65,56,200	1,55,553
122. World Wide Assurance	1935	25,000	3,40,465	387

INDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT HAVE GONE INTO LIQUIDATION SINCE 1ST JANUARY, 1931.

144. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Will Government state the names of the Insurance Companies that have gone into liquidation since the 1st January, 1931, and the business in force of each of them ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: It is presumed that the Honourable Member's question is intended to refer only to Indian Life Insurance Companies. On that assumption a statement containing the required information has been prepared, which I lay on the table of the House.

List of Indian Life Insurance Companies which have gone into liquidation since 1st January, 1931, and business in force of each of them.

Serial No.	Name of company.	No. of policies.	Sums assured.
1	Sind Life Insurance Co., Ltd., Karachi ..	..	Particulars not available.
2	Hindustan Assurance and Mutual Benefit Society Ltd., Lahore.	1,235	8,53,261
3	Independent Order of Rechabites, Meerut ..	58	33,525
4	Indian Federation Insurance Co., Ltd., Madras ..	..	Particulars not available.
5	Parsee Zoroastrian Death Benefit Fund, Bombay. (G. I. P. R.).	315	1,70,500
6	New Eastern Assurance Co., Ltd., Bombay ..	58	70,000
7	Peninsular Life Assurance Co., Ltd., Bombay ..	403	4,32,250
8	All Indian Home Relief Insurance Co., Ltd., Karachi.	11,736	* Dividing Insurance Business.
9	Golden Provident Funds Society Ltd., Karachi ..	10,032	* Dividing Insurance Business.
10	Sind Relief Insurance Co., Ltd., Karachi ..	250	24,850 (Minimum guaranteed under Dividing Insurance Business.)
11	Sind National Welfare Association Ltd., Karachi		Particulars not available.
12	Indian Relief and Benefit Insurance Co., Ltd., Karachi.	10,502	* Dividing Insurance Business.
13	Great India Insurance Ltd., Calcutta ..	1,333	19,42,475 and 3,979 per annum.
14	Sind Mutual Provident Fund Co., Ltd., Karachi	18,116	* Dividing Insurance Business.
15	Angels Insurance Co., Ltd., Delhi	214	2,16,182

* Under Dividing Insurance Business the sum assured is not fixed but depends on the division of a portion of each year's premium income amongst the claims arising in that year.

PROVIDENT FUND LIABILITIES TRANSFERRED TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS
ON THE 1ST APRIL, 1937.

145. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government state the amount of Provident Fund liabilities transferred to each of the Provincial Governments on the 1st of April, 1937?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN: A statement showing the amount of the Provident Fund liabilities transferred to each of the Provincial Governments on the 1st of April, 1937 is placed on the table of the House. The figures are approximate, as the accounts of the year 1936-37 have not yet been closed finally.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Has the Government transferred any monies to the provinces whose debts have been wiped off according to Sir Otto Niemeyer's Report?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN: If the Honourable Member will refer to the Order in Council which carried out the recommendations of Sir Otto Niemeyer, I think he will find complete information on the financial settlement of each province.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that Sir Otto Niemeyer was not informed of the actual implications of the Government arrangement for transferring the liability of Provident Funds to the provinces?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: How do you know that? What is the source of your information?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: I understood all this from many sources: the speech of the Finance Minister of my province, the budget papers, the notes of different Governments on Sir Otto Niemeyer's Report.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: How did he know?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: I will explain the situation. The position is that Government has wiped off the debts of certain provinces and have saddled them with the liability for the Provident Funds. The actual figures were not placed in the hands of Sir Otto Niemeyer.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That is merely a hypothetical question.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: No, Sir, I have got basis.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: It may be your basis.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN: It is incorrect, Sir.

Provident Fund liabilities transferred to the Provincial Governments on the 1st April, 1937.

(In thousands of rupees.)

Provinces.								Amount.
Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,47,94
Bombay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,27,43
Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,97,28
United Provinces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,04,97
Punjab	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,36,98
Bihar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,54,04
Central Provinces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,49,18
Assam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88,45
North-West Frontier Province	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,93
Orissa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,05
Sind	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51,69
Total								20,97,85

TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN CERTAIN FAMILY PENSION FUNDS TO COMMISSIONERS IN ENGLAND.

146. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement containing the following information about the Family Pension Funds :—the number and amount involved in objections to transfer received up to 31st March, and the extended period, separately, the amount transferred to Commissioners in England, and the date of transfer? Has any further extension been given for objection? If so, up to what date? If Government has not yet transferred Funds, when do Government intend to do so?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: No general extension was given for objection except to subscribers residing outside the British Isles, Burma and India, excluding Gilgit, who were allowed to send in objections up to the 30th April, 1937. In addition a few persons who did not receive their option papers in due time were allowed to object after the 31st March, 1937. The Government of India have as yet no complete figures regarding the numbers of persons and amounts involved in the objections. Information in this respect will be laid upon the table of the House in due course. No amount has hitherto been transferred to the Commissioners and Government are not yet in a position to say when the transfer will be effected.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is the Government arranging to get this information as to how many objections have been made?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: Government will receive information about that in due course.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: The Honourable Member stated that the time expired on the 30th April, and this is September. I want to know why there has been this delay?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: It takes some time to add up, Sir.

WAGONS AND LOCOMOTIVES PURCHASED BY STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS FROM 1924-25 TO 31ST MARCH, 1937.

147. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government lay on the table a statement giving separately for each State-owned Railway the number of wagons and locomotives purchased since 1924-25 up to 31st March, 1937?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

CAPITAL AT CHARGE OF STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS ON 31ST MARCH, 1937.

148. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government state the amount of money standing to the credit of each of the State-owned Railways on the 31st March, 1937?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: It is presumed that the Honourable Member wants the figures of capital at charge of State-owned Railways. I lay on the table a statement giving the information.

*Statement showing capital at charge of each State-owned Railway at end of 1936-37.
(In lakhs.)*

Railways.	Capital at charge at end of 1936-37.
	Rs.
State Railways worked by State—	
East Indian	1,47,70
Eastern Bengal	51,48
Great Indian Peninsula	1,14,66
North Western (Commercial lines) ..	1,12,98
North Western (Strategic lines) ..	33,78
Railway Collieries.. .. .	1,87
Total ..	4,62,47

(In lakhs.)

Railways.	Capital at charge at end of 1936-37.
State Railways worked by Companies—	
Assam Bengal	24,29
Bengal Nagpur	77,83
Bezwada (including Dhone Kurnool)	46
Bombay, Baroda and Central India	73,78
Jodhpur (British Section)	1,16
Lucknow Bareilly	2,54
Madras and Southern Mahratta	53,31
South Indian	45,67
Tirhoot	10,01
Total ..	2,89,05
Miscellaneous—	
Abandoned projects	32
Miscellaneous	2,77
GRAND TOTAL ..	7,54,61

DEBT POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

149. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the debts of the Government of India on 1st April, 1937, in the form in which it used to appear in the Finance Secretary's memorandum ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : Owing to the re-distribution of liabilities as between the Centre and the Provinces with effect from the 1st April, 1937, the resultant figures of which have not yet been finally compiled,

it is not possible to furnish at present a statement showing the debt position of the Government of India on that date. I am, however, placing on the table a statement of the position on the 31st of March, 1937, in the form in which it used to appear in the Finance Secretary's Explanatory Memorandum.

Interest-bearing Obligations of the Government of India on the 31st March, 1937.

(In crores of rupees.)

In India—

Loans	437·88
Treasury Bills	29·69
Other Obligations—	
Post Office Savings Bank	74·75
Postal Cash Certificates	65·23
Provident Funds, etc.	102·28
Depreciation and Reserve Funds	19·05
Provincial Balances	1·36
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Total—Loans, etc.	487·57
Total—Other obligations	262·67
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Total—in India	730·24

(In millions of Pounds.)

In England—

Loans	300·72
War Contribution	16·72
Capital value of liabilities undergoing redemption by way of terminable railway annuities	39·85
Provident Funds, etc.	1·49
<hr/>	
Total—in England	358·78
<hr/>	
Equivalent at 1s. 6d. to the rupee	478·37
<hr/>	
Total—Interest-bearing Obligations	1,208·61

Interest-yielding Assets—

Capital advanced to Railways	752·21
Capital advanced to other Commercial Departments	24·73
Capital advanced to Provinces	186·48
Capital advanced to Indian States and other Interest-bearing loans	20·89
<hr/>	
Total—Interest-yielding Assets	984·31
Cash, Bullion and Securities held on treasury accounts	19·37
Balance of interest-bearing obligations not covered by above Assets	204·93
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INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

150. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** (a) Will Government give the following information about the Indian Railway Conference Association. Its date of formation, how formed, the names of member bodies, the amount contributed by each member body last year, and the purpose it serves ?

(b) Will Government place in the Library copies of the Rules and Regulations of this Association ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : (a) The first Railway Conference was held in 1879, but the Indian Railway Conference Association in its present form was constituted in 1902. The Conference is an Association of those Railway Administrations as desire to join it, working a railway open for passenger traffic and is independent of Government. It is constituted in order to frame rules for the management of traffic interchanged between Railways and to advise on other subjects which may be referred to the Association under the Rules. I am placing a statement on the table showing the names of the Member Railways, but Government have no information as to the amount contributed by each.

(b) The Rules of the Association do not permit of their Rules and Regulations being supplied to non-members.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I think the Honourable Member said that he does not know what the contribution of each Railway was ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : The contribution from each Railway for each activity is based on a different formula. We do know how it is allocated between Railways, but the actual amount varies from year to year and we do not know the actual amount.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Honourable Member lay on the table the last financial year's contribution of different Railways ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : The total amount spent by the Indian Railway Conference Association ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Separately for each Railway.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I will try and get this information.

Statement showing the names of the Member Railways.

Assam Bengal.	Calcutta Port Commissioners.
Assam Railways and Trading Co. (The Dibru Sadiya Railway).	Darjeeling Himalayan.
Barsi Light.	Dholpur State.
Bengal and North-Western.	Eastern Bengal.
Bengal Dooars.	East Indian.
Bengal Nagpur.	Gaekwar's Baroda State.
Bengal Provincial.	Gondal.
Bhavnagar State.	Great Indian Peninsula.
Bikaner State.	Gwalior Light.
Bombay, Baroda and Central India.	H. E. H. the Nizam's State.
Bombay Port Trust.	Jaipur State.
	Jamnagar and Dwarka.

Statement showing the names of the Member Railways—contd.

Jodhpur.	The Futwah Islampur Light.
Junagad State.	The Howrah Amta Light.
Madras and Southern Mahratta.	The Howrah Sheakhala Light.
Madras Port Trust.	The Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light.
The Jorhat Provincial.	The Dehri Rohtas Light.
The Ahmadpur Katwa Light.	Morvi.
The Bankura Damodar River Light.	Mysore.
The Burdwan Katwa Light.	North Western.
The Kalighat Falta Light.	Rohilkund and Kumaon.
The Arrah Sasaram Light.	South Indian.
The Baraset Basirhat Light.	Udaipur Chitorgarh.
The Bukhtiarpur Bihar Light.	

MONEY TAKEN FROM INDIA TO ENGLAND BY BRITISH SHIPPING COMPANIES ON ACCOUNT OF SHIPPING SERVICES.

151. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (on behalf of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh): (a) Will Government state whether about 50 crores of rupees are taken from India to England every year in the shape of payment of the rate bill by British shipping companies ?

(b) What is the exact amount, and how it is distributed ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: The information asked for is not available with the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government collect these figures ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Have they any idea of the approximate amount ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: Estimates of this amount are as numerous as the economists who have studied it. I can refer the Honourable Member to a very considerable literature on the subject if he is really interested in it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that the rates from India to England have gone up and the rates from England to India have gone down ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: I submit, Sir, that that does not arise on this question.

BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, in pursuance of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a copy of the Bill to make provision for the application of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) to Muslims in British India which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 16th September, 1937.

12 Noon.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : With reference to the announcement made by me on the 14th September, regarding nomination to the Standing Committee on Emigration, I have to announce that the Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru has been nominated to it. As there is only one candidate for one vacancy I declare him duly elected.

RESOLUTION RE PROTECTION OF INDIAN INTERESTS IN FIJI, BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD—*contd.*

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. President, the Resolution* which I moved the other day relates to questions affecting Indians in Fiji, British Guiana and in Trinidad. These are all Indians who are descendants of the indentured labourers sent to those Colonies long long ago. The Indians in British Guiana would soon be celebrating the centenary of the introduction of Indian labour into British Guiana. I hope the Government of India have received an invitation from them and that they will be officially represented at the centenary celebration. These Colonies are situated at a considerable distance from this country and consequently we do not possess the same facilities for obtaining information from them as we do, say, in regard to Kenya or Zanzibar. Owing to this fact there can scarcely be any doubt that the interests of Indians there have suffered materially. While in regard to East Africa and South Africa we receive information frequently, so far as these Colonies are concerned it is only now and then that we receive authoritative information with regard to the problems affecting Indians there. The Government of India sent a Commission in 1914 to Fiji, British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica. After that I believe Committees were sent both to British Guiana and to Fiji in 1921, and so far as British Guiana is concerned Sir Maharaj Singh was deputed to make inquiries into certain questions in 1924 or 1925. I do not think taking Government of India committees only into account we possess any information with regard to Fiji or British Guiana later than 1924 or 1925. Lately Mr. Kodanda Rao, Secretary of the Servants of India Society, who during his tour abroad visited these Colonies has added to our information with regard to the position of Indians there. He has contributed valuable articles, if I may say so, to the press dealing with the educational and economic difficulties of Indians in Fiji, Trinidad and British Guiana. In view of this I shall not be able to give as full information with regard to the difficulties under which Indians labour in the three Colonies with which my Resolution deals as I would like to do on an occasion like this, but hope all the same to be able to place sufficient information before the House to make out a case in favour of the course I have ventured to suggest.

Now, I have drawn the attention of the Government of India primarily to the educational and economic interests of the Indians in these Colonies. I

This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps—

- (a) to protect the interests, particularly economic and educational, of the Indians in Fiji, British Guiana and Trinidad, and
- (b) to secure the appointment of Agents of the Government of India for these Colonies.

shall deal first with the situation as it is in British Guiana and Trinidad. The first thing that strikes any one who studies the educational question there is the dominant position occupied by the Church in the educational field. Now, Sir, we in India have no hostility to missionary enterprise of an educational character. We value missionary educational institutions where they are conducted on proper lines. We want that the field should be left open to missionaries in these Colonies also, but in British Guiana and Trinidad the schools are almost all Church controlled. In other words, the Governments concerned have abdicated their responsibility in favour of the Church. Now, this is not an arrangement that has given satisfaction either to the people of those Colonies or to the people of India. Indeed, the connection between the State and religion is so close as to have given rise to strong criticism by official bodies on more than one occasion. To clinch my point I would point out that the Bishop of British Guiana gets a special grant earmarked for missionary work among East Indians and that the Trinidad Government gives the missions settled there an ecclesiastical grant of about 50,000 dollars. I shall place a few figures before the House in order to enable it to understand fully the situation and to compare it with that which exists in Dutch Guiana, where also a pretty large Indian population is to be found. In Dutch Guiana there are about 43 Government schools and 79 mission schools. These figures relate to primary education. Thus, there is one Government school to two mission schools. In Trinidad, however, there are 45 Government and 245 mission schools, or one Government school to about five and a half mission schools. In British Guiana there are only four Government schools and all the rest numbering 173 are controlled by the missions. That is so far as British Guiana is concerned there is no State system of education at all. The entire system is in the hands of missionary bodies. Now, this question has been examined more than once by various Commissions. I gather from the Pillai-Tiwary Report of 1922 that a Royal Commission of 1871 recommended the recognition of Government responsibility for education as far back as 1871. But till 1922 not the slightest heed had been paid to this recommendation. In 1924 a Commission was appointed to consider the educational system of British Guiana. I find from the Report of the British Guiana Commission whose recommendations led to a change in the constitution of British Guiana that the British Guiana Education Commission of 1924 scathingly condemned the existing system. It recommended that the State should accept direct responsibility for education and gradually replace the denominational schools by State schools. But its recommendations had not been acted upon till the date of the visit of the British Guiana Commission to British Guiana, that is, up to the year 1927. The British Guiana Education Commission, considered both the question of educational policy and that of administrative control and in regard to both of them they pointed out that it was urgently necessary that the State should recognise its responsibility and instead of leaving educational control in the hands of missionaries manage the entire educational system itself. Now, Sir, I am aware that the Mayhew-Marriot Commission which examined the educational system in Trinidad was of a different opinion. While deploring the inefficiency of the denominational schools this Commission advocated their reform only and not their replacement by State schools. Mr. Mayhew in a supplementary report on Trinidad advocated that while Christian

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

preachers should have the right of entry into non-Christian schools for giving religious instruction, the preachers of non-Christian religions should not be given similar rights. But nevertheless the Commission recorded that there was a general feeling in Trinidad that Government schools should be established in preference to Church controlled schools. This opinion prevailed among the teachers who were almost entirely Christians. The House will thus realise that a change in the present system of education is desired not merely by non-Christians but also by the Christians themselves and that various responsible Commissions appointed by His Majesty's Government have further laid stress on this reform and pointed it out as fundamentally necessary to any substantial improvement of the educational system in these Colonies.

Now, how has the present system affected Indian education? The backwardness of Indian education in British Guiana and Trinidad is due to various reasons. It is partly due to the failure of the State to discharge its responsibility, partly to the failure of the Indians to appreciate the value of education and partly to the present system of education which allows Christian missionaries to control primary education. Education is compulsory for all children between five and 12, but compulsion has never been properly enforced. So far as girls are concerned they were formerly exempted from compulsion at the request of the Indian community. But Indian opinion on this subject changed about three years ago and compulsion is now applied to them. Nevertheless Indian education continues to be backward and is in a more backward condition than not merely European education but also Negro education. This is in part due to the reluctance, the natural reluctance of Indians to send their boys, and particularly their girls, to schools controlled by missionaries where religious instruction forms an important part of the education that is given. Apart from this, Sir, the education is thoroughly inefficient. The British Guiana Commission of 1926 had these remarks to make with regard to the educational system of the Colony:—

“ It cannot be too frequently pointed out”, they said, “ that in British Guiana the only way in which a child can hope to obtain the elements of a practical as well as a literary education is by graduating through a criminal court or as an orphan for the Government industrial school ”.

Surely an educational system which is so strongly condemned by a responsible Royal Commission ought to be changed fundamentally without the least delay and yet notwithstanding the reports of Commission after Commission the old system has continued unchanged up to the present day. At present taking all the pupils that are in primary schools one finds that although Indians form the largest racial group in the Colony and are about 42 per cent. of its population, their children constitute only about 26·5 per cent. of the children in primary schools. It is clear from this that Indian children are in an extremely backward condition educationally and that it is necessary in their interests that the Government of India should take up this question and see that the Indians in these Colonies receive that education which will enable them to develop themselves fully.

Now, Sir, I will pass on to Fiji. The educational condition of the Indians in Fiji is no better than that of Indians in British Guiana and Trinidad. I

have been told by Mr. Kodanda Rao whom I have referred to already that according to his information the total school-going population in Fiji is about 23,000. Now, the Fijian pupils at school are about 12,000, while the Indian pupils are only about 4,000. It is obvious from this that Indian education has been neglected as compared with Fijian education. If we take the figures relating to educational expenditure they disclose the same tale. About £17,000 is spent on the education of the Fijians, while Indian education receives only about £11,000. To appreciate what this means one should know that the percentage of the Indian population in Fiji is about 43 and that Indians are the poorest of the communities inhabiting Fiji. It is clear from this that unless the Fiji Government comes to the aid of the Indians their educational problems will never be solved. Indian education has suffered considerably owing to an idea on the part of the authorities that the Indians must contribute substantially to their education. Now, I could well have understood such a demand on the part of the Fiji Government, had it concerned, say, higher education but I do not know, Sir, of any civilised Government which asks to pay for the primary education of their children. Nevertheless in Fiji the various communities are expected to pay towards the provision of primary education for their children. This system is manifestly unjust and every one will admit that it requires to be immediately changed. Now, it is sometimes said, Sir, that the Indian contributions to revenue are unsubstantial. The Indians however challenged this statement. It is not possible for me to place figures before this House which show how much is contributed by Indians as compared with other communities to the public revenues. The Indians however claim that they contribute indirectly in a substantial degree to the revenues of the Colony. Apart from this, Sir, there is a direct tax called the residential tax and in 1931 Indians paid £17,000 out of £25,000 received by the Government from this tax. I cannot give the figures relating to a later date as a separate report on the residential tax has been discontinued since 1932 but the 1935 report states that out of about 23,000 persons liable to pay the tax about 19,000 were Indians.

Another fact, Sir, that I should place before the House is that although Indian education is deficient both in quantity and quality, Indian children are not in practice allowed to be admitted into European schools. There is no written prohibition but the missionaries are afraid of admitting Indian children as they believe that, notwithstanding the withdrawal of a circular which formerly prohibited the admission of Indians into European schools, the policy of the Fiji Education Department has not changed.

Again, Sir, there is an examination held in Fiji called the New Zealand Proficiency Examination which entitles successful candidates to free secondary education in New Zealand. I understand that, so far, not a single Indian candidate has been allowed to sit for that examination. It appears that the selection of candidates is in the hands of the Fiji Education Department. This is an important matter which requires examination at the hands of the Indian Government and I hope that it will be taken up immediately. Again, the curriculum in Indian and Fijian schools is lower than in European schools and very scanty provision is made for the teaching of English to which Indians naturally attach considerable importance.

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

Now, Sir, this backwardness in education is not due to the fault of Indians. They have been demanding compulsory education since 1914. They are willing to pay a special tax for the education of their children. A Rating Ordinance was passed several years ago but it has not been enforced because the Fiji Government has found itself unable to devise a system which would be equitable to all.

What I have said so far, Sir, is enough to show the present educational condition of Indians in these Colonies and the causes that are responsible for them. Now, I will say a few words with regard to their economic condition. I shall take British Guiana first. There were serious labour disputes in 1935. The Government appointed a Commission to consider the matter. The Indian community was not represented on this Commission and fearing that its case would not receive adequate consideration refused to tender evidence. But the Report of the Commission, I am glad to say, is of so impartial a character that the Indian community has approved of its recommendations. For this reason, Sir, I need not go into the details of this question but there are one or two things which I think it is my duty to place before the House. This Commission has found that Indian labour is thoroughly disorganised and is unable even to present its case properly to the authorities. It has also come to the conclusion that Indian labour exceeds the requirements of the industry and consequently is unable to bargain properly with the magnates of the sugar industry. Dealing with the grievances of the Indians it has, reading between the lines, justified the complaints of Indian labourers with regard to the long hours of work in the field and factory and to the difficult conditions under which they had to work. An instance of this is the failure of the industrialists to inform the labourers on sugar plantations of the rate of payment for the task assigned to them at the commencement of the week for which the task is given. Another complaint of the Indian labourers is that the husbands are fined when the wives are believed not to have worked efficiently. This is an old complaint to which the Pillai-Tiwary Committee referred in its report in 1922. But nothing has so far been done to remedy it and this Labour Disputes Commission has again drawn the attention of the Government of British Guiana to it. Another point, Sir, which deserves to be placed before the House is that, although the indentured system has been done away with in British Guiana, there is a large number of resident Indians on the sugar estates living under the control of the managers of these estates who, in the opinion of the Labour Disputes Commission, are practically in the same position as the old indentured coolies but without any of the advantages which the latter enjoyed. The Government of British Guiana had in the old days passed certain laws for the benefit of indentured labourers and had appointed certain officers to look after their welfare. The abolition of indentured labour and the deterioration in the economic position of the Colony led to the abrogation of these laws and the abolition of the posts of officers whose business formerly it was to watch over Indian interests.

The old laws being no longer in force, the Indians resident on sugar estates are living under practically the same conditions as the old indentured coolies without even that much of protection which the indentured coolies enjoyed.

In order to produce a better atmosphere and in order to bring about better relations between the employers and the employed, the Labour Disputes Commission have recommended that an authority should be established to deal with the interests of the labourers and their employers. This is the most important recommendation of the Commission. The Government of India had the recommendations of the Commission under their consideration some time ago. I trust that in the Despatch which they have sent to His Majesty's Government they have stressed the importance of this recommendation and that they will do all that lies in their power to have such a body appointed in order that the interests of Indians may be properly safeguarded. Now, Sir, I turn to Fiji.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I must draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that his 30 minutes have already been exhausted. There are several Resolutions before the Council today, and the Honourable Member has not yet touched the second part of his Resolution. I will give him five minutes more because I cannot afford to be over-indulgent today. I will give him five minutes for finishing his speech.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Thank you, Sir.

In Fiji, the main question is this. A large majority of the Indians there work as tenants either of Fijians or of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. They hold land on leases of 21 years and they do not know what their position is going to be in the future. They do not even know whether the term of the leases which will expire shortly will be extended by even a few years. This is a matter which has been more than once brought to the notice of the Government of India, and I trust it is engaging their attention as its importance deserves. There are other matters also, for instance, those with regard to the employment of Indians, except in subordinate posts in these Colonies, the non-recognition of marriages celebrated in accordance with Hindu and Moslem custom in British Guiana, to which the Pillai-Tiwary Report drew attention in 1922, and so on, which I might have brought to the notice of the Government of India but I know that they are aware of these questions, and that they are only waiting for a proper opportunity in order to bring them to the notice of the Governments concerned.

I will now pass on to the second part of my Resolution which, in my opinion, is its most important part. The Government of India themselves some years ago asked that they should be allowed to send an agent of their own to Fiji, but unfortunately, their request was turned down by the Colonial Secretary. As regards British Guiana, the representatives of British Guiana who visited this country in 1920 and 1923 in order to persuade the Government of India to re-open emigration to British Guiana themselves under certain conditions suggested that a representative of the Government of India should be appointed in British Guiana to look after the interests of the Indians who emigrated there in consequence of the acceptance of the scheme proposed by them. It is true that the scheme was not accepted owing to the financial depression that supervened soon afterwards in British Guiana and for other reasons also, but the principle of the appointment of an Agent, it seems to me, has been conceded by the Legislature and the Government of British Guiana. New emigrants may not go from here to British Guiana

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

but the Indians who are in British Guiana are the descendants of the old indentured settlers. It is therefore only proper that the Government of India should be allowed to send an Agent of their own to look after their interests. It may be said that the appointment of an Agent of the Government of India in these Colonies will interfere with the authority of the Colonial Governments concerned. I ventured to demur to this proposition. We have Agents of the Government of India at present in more than one place—in South Africa, in Ceylon, and in Malaya and we have yet to learn that the authority of the Governments of these places has in any way suffered by the presence of the Agent of the Government of India. On the contrary I think that the Agents have considerably lightened the burdens of these Administrations. Information regarding Indians settled abroad reaches India periodically. It reaches this country sometimes in a more or less exaggerated form and gives rise to serious apprehensions and creates great bitterness of feeling. What is desirable in the present state of things? Should rumours be allowed to circulate? Should inaccurate information tending to embitter relations between England and this country be all that should be allowed to reach us? Or should there be a representative of the Government of India who will send authoritative information here and who will be able to represent matters on behalf of the Government of India in a proper way to the Governments of these Colonies? I am sure that Honourable Members who consider this question dispassionately will arrive unhesitatingly at the conclusion that it is in the best interests, both of Colonies concerned and of India, that the Government of India should be allowed to appoint Agents of their own to look after the interests of the Indians settled there. These Agents may be appointed in Fiji, British Guiana, and Trinidad and it may be, in Jamaica also. Or there may not be an Agent for each of these Colonies separately. The Agent in British Guiana may be able to look after the interests of Indians in Trinidad and Jamaica. But it is necessary in any case that they should be able to send their representatives to these parts in order that the interests of the Indians may be properly safeguarded and that good relations may be maintained between India, England and the component parts of the Empire.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the most important part of the Resolution which the Honourable Mr. Kunzru has moved is the second part in which he says that the Government of India should secure the appointment of Agents of the Government of India in these Colonies. The Government of India has a special responsibility in regard to Indian settlers in these Colonies. The Indian settlers in these Colonies went under the system of indentured labour, which was abolished, I believe, in 1917 or 1918, thanks to the efforts of the late Mr. Gokhale. So far as British Guiana is concerned, Mr. Kunzru has pointed out that the Indians there, in the matter of education, labour under certain difficulties. There is, in that Colony, a close connection between the Church and education. He has very rightly pointed out that that is not the case in Dutch Guiana. The schools there are controlled by the Church and there is a good deal of missionary propaganda. This is a state of affairs which has to be

righted and I hope that the Government of India will look into the educational conditions of Indians in British Guiana. Then, Sir, so far as the economic condition of the Indians in British Guiana is concerned, he has referred to the Report of the Labour Disputes Commission which was published on the 16th December, 1936. Now, that Commission when it was appointed was, if I may use a familiar term, boycotted by the Indians. But the Report is a really good one and the Indians now say that the Report is an impartial one. Now, the number of Indians in British Guiana is, I believe, 136,000 and out of this number 54,000 persons are engaged in the sugar plantations. The Indians form over 90 per cent. of the resident labour employed on these sugar plantations. Besides resident labourers there are many non-resident labourers on these sugar plantations. The Commission was appointed because of great labour unrest. There had been strikes and it was considered necessary to go into the whole question of these labour disputes. The Commission pointed out in their Report that the Indians had very genuine grievances and in fact in paragraph 63 of their Report they seem to suggest that the present situation is in some respects even worse than the position under the system of indentured labour. Under the old immigration system we used to have an Agent-General and it was his duty to primarily enforce immigration laws. Now, the post of Agent-General was abolished in 1931 and we have no one in British Guiana to protect our interests. Passing on from British Guiana to Fiji, we find that in Fiji the Indians have many economic grievances. "When the Fiji Islands were ceded to the Crown it was proclaimed that the land would belong to the Fijians and the position is that up to now, with the exception of a large concession to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, very few freeholds have been granted. The Fijians cannot lease their lands without the consent of the Government; leases beyond 21 years are disallowed. This may have done some good because Fijians had until lately little idea of land values; but the time has arrived when the land question ought to be viewed both from the Indian and the Fijian point of view. There is a good deal of unoccupied land which can be provided for both the communities. This was pointed out by Mr. Andrews in a series of interviews which were published in the *Servants of India* newspaper. The indenture system was abolished in 1917 to 1920 and Indians have acquired many leases from the Fijians after the termination of the indenture system. During the next ten years the position of the Indian leaseholders will be very precarious. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company to which I have just made a reference lets out its freehold land on a renewable tenancy with very stringent regulations concerning the method of cultivation. Indians want better terms and the position is that Indians under these tenancies are badly in debt. Mr. Andrews in one of his interviews has suggested that an agricultural sugar expert should be sent out by the Government of India to Fiji so that he may be able to get easier conditions for the Fijian Indians.

Sir, so far as education is concerned, it has made little progress among Indians in Fiji. The proportion spent on Fijian education and also on European education is comparatively much more than the proportion spent on Indian education. The figures were referred to by Mr. Kunzru and I will not go into them. The Fijians are being educated at a greater rate than the Indians, and so far as female education is concerned it is lagging seriously

[Mr. P. N. Sapru.]

behind. The Indian literates form only 20 per cent. of the school-leaving children; the Fijian literates form about 90 per cent. of the school-leaving children. Then there is also what might be called a sort of racial segregation in Fiji. Indians and Europeans cannot be educated together. School buildings are not sufficient. Teachers are lacking and as educated Indian Fijians want educated wives there are increasing difficulties so far as the marriage of girls is concerned. There are very few secondary schools for girls.

Sir, I will not deal with the question of Trinidad at length. The Honourable Mr. Kunzru has referred to the position of Indians in Trinidad. There are about 361,000 Indians in Trinidad. As Mr. Kunzru has very rightly pointed out, we have Agents now in South Africa, in Kenya, and in Malaya, and these Agencies have done good. They have promoted better relations between South Africa and India and there is no reason why there should not be Agents in these three countries also. The interests affected are large. We have a special responsibility for the Indians who are settled in these countries. We must effectively see that their interests, educational and economic, are protected, and there is, I think, an overwhelming case for the appointment of Agents in these Colonies. I hope, Sir, that the Government of India, which takes a special interest in the question of Indians overseas—and we have hardly any differences with them in this regard—will accept this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Kunzru. He has dealt with the Resolution exhaustively and has left little for me to say. What I want to impress upon the House and upon the Government of India is the disabilities which the Indians, Hindus and Muhammadans and Sikhs, suffer as regards the marriage laws in British Guiana and in Trinidad. As far back as 1922 the Government appointed a Committee to report on the schemes of Indian emigration to British Guiana. This Committee also reported upon the existing marriage laws and the disabilities which such laws imposed on Indians. In Trinidad as also in British Guiana unless the marriages of Indians are registered with the Immigration Officers their offsprings are treated as illegitimate and are not allowed to inherit the property of their parents. This Committee, Sir, to which I have referred made this recommendation in 1922 to the British Government. This recommendation is incorporated in paragraph 162 of the Report and is printed at pages 72 and 73 of the Report. I will only read an extract for the information of this House.

“ But, in our opinion, marriages celebrated according to Indian customs should be recognised as lawful, without the imposition of unnecessary and irritating conditions such as requiring the registration, either by the parties themselves or the priests concerned of the marriages before or after the performance of the ceremony. Even if registration of marriages be insisted upon for one reason or another, it should be clearly stated that the failure to do so would in no wise affect the validity of such unions. The Indians, Hindus as well as Muhammadans, brought to our notice the anomalous position in which they were placed under the present law and strongly pressed for the recognition of Indian marriages celebrated according to their respective religious ceremonies and customs as lawful. We lay special stress on the urgent necessity of an early solution of this question which is of long standing, and vitally affects the social well-being of the East Indian community in British Guiana ”.

Sir, years have passed and no serious action seems to have been taken by the Government to remove this great disability of the Indians.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Registration could not have done much damage.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, it is a question of religious sentiment and in religious sentiment arguments do not count.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS (Nominated: Indian Christians): What objection is there to registration after the ceremony?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Provided the ceremony is according to Indian law, there is no trouble.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: With due deference to you, Sir, I may say that this question was seriously taken by the Indians who are now living in Trinidad. In 1932 the Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha, Punjab, of which I have the honour to be the President, received complaints, one after another, of the disabilities and of the inconveniences Indians in Trinidad are suffering from. Even in the case of marriages which were celebrated years ago, if they had not been registered with the Emigration Officers, their progeny was considered to be illegitimate. In 1932 the Punjab Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha made a representation to the Government of India on the subject and I had to see the officers concerned. The Government of India were good enough to recommend this matter to the British Government. When I was in London in 1932 I called at the Colonial Office and saw the authorities there also and I understood from them that they would do whatever was possible in the matter. Now, Sir, five years have passed and nothing material has been done in the matter and the people are getting so much fed up that—

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: The law has been changed in regard to Moslem marriages, I understand.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: As far as my information goes, there has been no change so far as the marriages of Hindus are concerned. The people are very much fed up and the week before last they sent a representative from Trinidad to India to seek our co-operation and help in this matter. I think that in matters of religion no arguments ought to be advanced. In Muhammadan Law it is said that anybody who questions the reasonableness of any religious commandment is an infidel. As far as religion is concerned we dare not and according to our faith must not argue upon religious commandments. This is a very serious question and therefore I trust the Government of India will insist upon the Colonial Governments concerned not to enforce the laws against religious commandments of the Indian people who are abroad and overseas.

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Kunzru in speaking on this Resolution has placed the facts with his usual thoroughness and accuracy. I think the House would share with me a feeling of gratefulness for his bringing up this very important Resolution dealing with the educational and economic situation of Indians in the Colonies of British Guiana, Fiji and Trinidad.

[Sir Jagdish Prasad.]

As he admitted himself in the concluding portion of his speech,—and these remarks have been endorsed by other speakers,—the vital part of his Resolution is the second part, namely, that Agents should be appointed in these Colonies. I confess that never was the necessity for Agents in these Colonies brought home to me more forcibly than today. (Applause.) In dealing with many of the points brought forward this morning, my information as far as it goes through representatives of the Government of India, is now nearly 12 years old. I am unable to say on the basis of information received through our representatives what is the present position in regard to the many points that have been raised this morning. I shall first deal with the question of Agents as that is the most important. We fully recognise that without Agents we are unable to obtain first-hand information as to what is going on in these Colonies and I think it will be agreed by Honourable Members that up to date and accurate information is probably the best corrective against misapprehensions in this country and against alarmist views in regard to what is happening abroad. Moreover, we all recognise that with the growth of national consciousness, with the development of self-governing institutions in this country, the Central Legislature and the people are taking more and more interest in what is happening to their nationals abroad. I think this concern for the fortunes of their countrymen in distant lands is likely to grow as self-governing institutions develop more and more in this country. It is a natural feeling and any Government must take note of what is coming. Our experience, as my Honourable friend Mr. Kunzru has already pointed out, of the Agents in South Africa, in Malaya and Ceylon has been that not only have they rendered useful service to us but I am sure that if the Governments concerned were asked they would agree that they have been of great benefit to these Governments themselves. There is no question as far as I can see that the appointment of these Agents is likely to embarrass the Governments to which they are accredited. I can therefore assure my Honourable friend and the House that the Government of India will spare no efforts to do their utmost to secure the appointment of Agents wherever feasible. (Applause.)

I now, Sir, come to the other points dealt with during the course of the discussion. The House will not expect me to cover so large a field in great detail. Nor will it be necessary if I can give the assurance that all the points that have been mentioned during the debate will be carefully examined by the Government and that wherever necessary we shall take up the question with the Colonial Government concerned. My Honourable friend Mr. Kunzru started, I think, by referring to the educational problems in British Guiana and Trinidad, and he said that the main question was that the educational system there was largely controlled by missionary bodies and his suggestion was that this system of education by missionary bodies should be replaced by State-controlled education. I think I might remind my Honourable friend that one of the reasons for this development is historical. Most of the Indians, as he himself pointed out, were sent there as labourers under indenture. Nobody was much interested in their education and I think Mr. Kodanda Rao himself, in one of his articles,

has said that the Indians should be grateful to these missionaries for having brought education to them. (*An Honourable Member*: "Was not the State there to look after them?") What I am saying is that, while criticising this system, let us not be ungrateful. At that time missionaries were the only bodies interested in the education of Indians. It may be said that their object was not solely education. (*An Honourable Member*: "Was not their interest proselytisation?") I am coming to that, Sir. Whether their interest was proselytisation or not, if you look at the actual facts you will see that there have been very few converts to Christianity. I think it will be admitted that most of the Indians even now have retained their religion, whether as Hindus or Moslems. I am only stating that, while criticising the system, let us not forget the debt that Indians owe to missionary bodies in regard to the spread of education. As I said before, for historical reasons in these Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, the schools are largely controlled through a system of Government aid to these missionary bodies. We shall examine this position. We shall see what can be done. As my Honourable friend Mr. Kunzru himself said, so far as the Education Department is concerned, they themselves are, I believe, in favour of a system of State control because they feel that education will be much more efficient under the State than it is under missionary bodies. It is also true that in looking into comparative figures there is no doubt that there is great scope for the expansion and the improvement of Indian education. As compared with other races, they are certainly backward and there is much leeway to make up. My Honourable friend has quoted the recommendations of the Education Commission. Since the Education Commission reported, the matter has been brought to the notice of the Government of British Guiana. Certain conferences were held, certain proposals were made but there is no doubt that much remains to be done. As regards Fiji again, though there has been a good deal of improvement since 1929 there is no question that the expenditure on Indian education is certainly much less than on the other two races, namely, Europeans and Fijians. The latest figures, as far as I have been able to make out, are that, while the expenditure per Indian child from colonial revenues is only 8s., 6d., that on the Fijian child is 14s. 7d.; that while the percentage of Indian boys at school is only 34, that of the Fijian is 74. The position is much less satisfactory in regard to girls. But I think the matter is before the Government of Fiji. It is being considered and as we all know here, the position of education in India itself after several years is not so very satisfactory. This is a difficult question. It takes time. In the end, it is a matter of finance, apart from customs and historical reasons. As I have said, we will examine the question again and we will see what can be done in regard to it.

Now, Sir, leaving the question of education, I come to the economic position of Indians in these Colonies. As my Honourable friend Mr. Kunzru said, so far as Fiji is concerned the main problem is the question of land tenure. Most of the Indians there, the large proportion are agriculturists. The best lands are those which are under sugar cultivation and naturally there is a certain amount of competition to secure these lands. As was pointed out by Mr. Sapru, there is a system of leases and a good many of these leases will be coming to an end shortly and naturally there is great anxiety among the

[Sir Jagdish Prasad.]

Indians as to what is going to happen. Will the leases be renewed, and if they will be renewed, at what rates? Whether they will have to pay premia—whether there will be other difficulties placed in their way. The problem is certainly urgent and extremely difficult and I can assure the House that the Government of India are fully alive to their responsibilities and we shall do all we can to see that the interests of Indians there are properly secured. As regards British Guiana, the position there again is that most of the Indians are labourers. As was pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr. Kunzru, after the system of indenture was abolished, the protective measures that were taken, the legislation that was enforced while the indenture system prevailed, with the abolition of the indenture system the protective legislation also disappeared. There were labour troubles continuously for three years and, as was pointed out, there was a Labour Disputes Commission appointed whose Report is in the hands of Honourable Members and which has been received with satisfaction by the Indians in British Guiana. It is regarded as a fair presentment of the case. The Government of India have already communicated their views on this Report and I can assure my Honourable friend and this House that they have, in making their recommendations, done all they can to see that some measure of protection is afforded to Indian labour in British Guiana. We hope that measures will be taken to obviate the unfortunate riots and differences that have occurred in the past between the employers and the employees. In Trinidad—I may mention this, though it was not referred to by my Honourable friend—a Commission has also been appointed there, and the Governor is fully alive to the economic conditions of Indians there. We are awaiting the Report of this Commission before we are able to formulate our own conclusions.

My Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition has raised the question of marriage laws in British Guiana and Trinidad. I have not got very much up to date information on this point. I should be very grateful to him if he will, at the end of the debate, give me the latest information which he has received from the gentleman who has come from Trinidad, and we will do what we can in the matter.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Thank you. If you will permit, I will ask the gentleman who has come from Trinidad to interview you.

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD: I should be very glad to see him and obtain the latest first-hand information in regard to this question of marriage laws in British Guiana and Trinidad. Sir, I think I have covered most of the points raised. I do not wish to detain the House any longer. I hope my Honourable friend must have concluded from the trend of my speech that this is a Resolution on which I have no intention of dividing the House. On the contrary, I have great pleasure in accepting this Resolution. I may repeat again that we shall do all that we can for safeguarding the interests of Indians abroad. Their interests are constantly before us, and this House needs no assurance from me that the Government of India will not in any way be remiss in doing what they can to protect and advance the legitimate interests of our countrymen abroad.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Mr. President I only wish to thank my Honourable friend Sir Jagdish Prasad for the conciliatory attitude displayed by him. He has correctly understood the psychology of modern India which cannot naturally divest itself of its responsibilities for the welfare of its nationals abroad. It is a matter of satisfaction that he has accepted our proposal for the appointment of Agents to these Colonies on behalf of Government. I trust that the representations of the Government of India will meet with a favourable response from His Majesty's Government. Once Agents of the Indian Government are appointed, I have no doubt that all the questions raised here will receive due consideration at the hands of the Government of India. The appointment of Agents is a more important matter than the redress of any particular injustice.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Question is :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps—

- (a) to protect the interests, particularly economic and educational, of the Indians in Fiji, British Guiana and Trinidad, and
- (b) to secure the appointment of Agents of the Government of India for these Colonies."

The Motion was adopted.

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

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

INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I ask for leave to introduce :

"A Bill to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925, as respects intestate succession among Parsis."

Sir, at this stage of the Bill it will quite suffice if in the course of the next minute or two I may be permitted to explain the reasons for introducing this measure.

As far back as 1865, that is, 72 years ago, two Acts were passed which were meant to be exclusively for the benefit of the Parsi community. One of these Acts was known as the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act. This Act, as Honourable Members will remember, was amended by a Bill which I introduced on 15th August, 1934, which was circulated for opinion, then referred to a Joint Committee and subsequently reached its third reading and was passed on 13th March, 1936, and has since become law.

The other Act, also introduced in 1865, was in regard to intestate succession in the community. It was known as the Parsi Intestate Succession Act XXI of 1865. This was repealed by the Indian Succession Act XXXIX of 1925. This however created no practical difficulty as the sections of the former Act were bodily incorporated without any change in the Indian Succession Act XXXIX of 1925.

[Sir Phiroze Sethna.]

The community is now of opinion that the existing Act requires to be altered in form and substance for different reasons explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill. The changes suggested and the additions made are with the general support of the community. They have been endorsed by the Trustees of the Parsi Panchayat which body takes the lead whenever required in all matters affecting the community and in whose judgment the community as a whole lays great reliance.

The Motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Sir, I have sent in a Motion this morning requesting that the Bill might be sent for circulation to elicit public opinion and that the opinions be asked for by the 15th January, 1938, at the latest. I am aware, Sir, of your ruling which you gave on the 28th August, 1934, according to which it was your wish that Members should follow the convention of allowing an interval of three days between the introduction of a Bill and the next stage. But, as you also observed, it was open to a Member to exercise his right if he cared to under Standing Order 37, which reads as follows:—

“When a Bill is introduced or on some subsequent occasion the member in charge may make one of the following motions in regard to his Bill, namely, (1) that it be taken into consideration, or (2) that it be referred to Select Committee or (3) that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon”.

Now, Sir, the reason why I ask for permission to move that the Bill be circulated is that there are only two more non-official days during this session, so far as we know. The first of them is the day after tomorrow, which will not permit of the three days' interval. The second is on the 29th of this month, but on that day according to Circular No. 27 of the 13th September, 1937, there will be as many as 11 Resolutions on the agenda and as my Motion would come after them there is hardly any chance of its being reached. Consequently, if I cannot move the Motion during this Simla session, I will have to do so at the Delhi session which would mean that there would be very considerable delay in obtaining opinions. That, Sir, is my reason for requesting your permission to move that the Bill be circulated for opinion and I trust you will be pleased to accord the permission.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : We can get over the difficulty if the Government by executive order circulate the Bill and then the convention of the House might also be saved.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It cannot be done by executive order. Government can only publish it in the Gazette of India and then it serves the purpose. But that question does not arise at present. The ruling to which Sir Phiroze Sethna referred is the ruling given by me in 1934 and that ruling is distinguishable from the present case. In that case the late Mr. Chari moved for the appointment of a Select Committee on a certain date. The Bill had been laid on the table for three days according to Standing Order and he had a right to move it. I simply pointed out to him the convention which had arisen in this House and the practice which had prevailed for a number of years, namely, that it was unusual for a Member on the same date

to make both those Motions, though he had the right to move the Motion. I only pointed out the circumstances and left it to his option. In your case, Sir Phiroze Sethna, the distinction is this, that while Mr. Chari could as a matter of right have claimed to deal with that Bill on that occasion, you have no right after introduction to make a second Motion. You now ask me to exercise my discretion or rather you ask the Council not to raise any objection under Standing Order 37 of the Council of State Standing Orders. Under that Standing Order it is permissible after the introduction of a Bill at a subsequent date for any Member to adopt one of three courses—to move for the consideration of the Bill, to ask for the appointment of a Select Committee or for the circulation of the Bill. The Standing Order is wide enough to give Honourable Members of this House power to waive any objection and it also gives the Chair power in the exercise of its discretion to suspend the Standing Order. In your case you have stated the special circumstances and as this Motion of yours is not likely to be reached at the next two meetings which are marked for unofficial business, in the exercise of my discretion allowed by the proviso to Standing Order 37 I ask Honourable Members if they have any objection to the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna making his Motion. (*Honourable Members*: “No objection”.) That solves the difficulty. I suspend the Standing Order. You can now make your Motion.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA: I am obliged to you, Sir, as also to the House for granting me permission. I now formally move:

“That the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion and the opinions be submitted by the 15th January, 1938.”

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Question is:

“That the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion and the opinions be submitted by the 15th January, 1938.”

The Motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* PAY OF THE I. C. S.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI (Berar Representative): Sir, I rise to move the following Resolution:

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to intimate to the Secretary of State for India the wishes of this House that the rules as respects pay of the I.C.S. be so amended as to reduce the present pay by at least 50 per cent.”

Sir, I shall be very short in moving this Resolution. The two facts which are necessary to establish the validity of my Resolution cannot be denied; one, India is a poor country with an average income of two annas per head per day and, secondly, its top-heavy administrative expenses. I do not want to take the time of this House by narrating the history of the I.C.S. in India from Lord Cornwallis to the Lee Commission which enhanced to a considerable degree the scale of pay and allowances of the I.C.S., nor by comparing the pay of the public services in other rich countries like Japan, England or America. It is an admitted fact that in every country the pay of the public service is lower than the I.C.S. This is an anomaly or evil of foreign domination that the country is poor and the I.C.S. is highly paid. The cost of living in this country is less than other countries while the pay is higher.

[Mr. B. N. Biyani.]

Apart from the political considerations the times when the Lee Commission made the recommendations have changed. The prices of commodities have gone down considerably, in many cases more than 40 per cent. The second change that has come in the country is the assumption of power by the Congress in seven provinces and the acceptance of a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem by the Congress Ministers. Leaving aside the ridiculous discrepancy in the pay of the Ministers and the I.C.S., the burden of the I.C.S. is very heavy on the provincial budgets. Nation-building activities suffer. In order to find money for nation-building activities and to bring the public services into conformity with the economic life of the teeming millions it is absolutely necessary that the pay of the I.C.S. be reduced at least by half. I am sure that even with this reduction the civil servants can live honourably and decently. Therefore, the demand that I have made is very humble and I hope this House will accept it.

I understand that the Honourable Haji Syed Muhammad Husain has given notice of an amendment that the reduction be in accord with the economic conditions of the country. I would gladly accept the same. It would serve my purpose better because I am sure that the economic condition of the country would justify reduction by more than half which I have put in my Resolution.

Sir, with these words, I commend the Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN (United Provinces West : Muhammadan): Sir, the amendment that I am placing before the House would read with the Resolution thus :

“ This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to intimate to the Secretary of State for India the wishes of this House that the rules as respects pay of the I.C.S. be so amended as to bring the pay into accord with the economic conditions of the country.”

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The debate will now proceed simultaneously on the original Resolution and the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : The object of my amendment is this. I consider that the Resolution as it stands is not only unfair but is also injurious to the Administration.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You are also aware that the Services are protected under the Government of India Act.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : In this Resolution we only ask that a recommendation be made and the Secretary of State be asked to consider this question. Now, a cut of 50 per cent. in the pay, I must confess, is preposterous. You certainly cannot expect a Civilian to come from England on that pay. I am taking the case of those who devote and are prepared to devote about 39 years of the best part of their life in this country, to serve this country. You cannot expect him to come on about Rs. 180 or Rs. 200 a month and therefore this amendment points to something reasonable which may be accepted. My Honourable friend the Mover has said that he

would accept this amendment, because it would meet his object and he imagines that if we consider the economic conditions of this country it will bring the cut to 50 per cent. There he will find himself disappointed.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: More.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN: I am prepared to say that all those who say "much" or "more" would be thoroughly disappointed; it would not come to that. However, I want to ask Honourable Members of the Treasury Benches to consider my amendment in a spirit of co-operation and in a spirit of sympathy. This Resolution only recommends that the pay should be brought into accord with the economic conditions of the country. I am fully aware that the Service is protected and that neither this House nor, as a matter of fact, any authority in India can question it. But I cannot imagine how any reasonable person can say "No" to a

3 P. M. suggestion that the scale of pay should be brought into accord with the economic condition of the country that they come to serve. When any one enters the Civil Service surely he enters with the idea of devoting the best part of his life to the Service until he becomes unable to do anything else. Therefore, on the one hand, he has to consider that the pay that he gets is such that with economy he would be able to save to the extent that he may be able to fall back when he retires from service or in time of need during service, but, on the other hand, he should also consider that the pay that he demands is such that the masters whom he is going to serve are capable of paying it. It is not only a question of demanding a pound of flesh and saying that I must have it at any cost. As it is that pound of flesh may be taken but that will be for a limited period. We want to come to a reasonable understanding, to sit down together for the benefit of each other and to come to such a conclusion that a reasonable amount of reduction might be possible. My amendment does not go any further. But if considering the economic condition of the country, a certain amount of reduction is essential, then I think it is only fair that the gentlemen who come forward to spend the best part of their lives here should also sympathetically consider the resources of the country. With this view there is one more important thing that I want to point out. Since the Lee Commission the circumstances have considerably changed. You know that in the Provincial Services the scales of pay for new entrants have been changed. It is not exactly what it was. The expenses and the burden on the Government have considerably increased. The teeming millions, half naked and starving, it is they who have to pay for all this. Therefore, it is in every direction that economy has to be effected, and why should one leave out this direction altogether? There are several items of expenditure which we cannot touch, at least there are two which have really put a great burden on this country. One is the white elephant which we have to maintain and that is the Army. You cannot touch that expenditure. Then there is the Government's frontier policy which has involved India in terrible expenditure. Now, those expenses have to be met. And they have to be met by all-round economy. And therefore I would appeal to the Honourable Members on the other side at least to be prepared to consider that the pay ought to be brought within a reasonable limit and in accord with the economic conditions of the country. While I request the Honourable Members on the other side to

[Haji Syed Muhammad Husain.]

consider this question favourably, I admit that I cannot agree to the analogy that my friend the Mover has given of the much reduced pay of the Congress Ministries. That is merely a temporary phase. By temporary I mean that some of these gentlemen who are patriots and for whom I have great regard, have made sacrifices and they have come forward to accept the Ministries for only a short time.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : There is no analogy whatever between the two. The Services joined under certain conditions and it would be a breach of faith to cancel those conditions.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : But my Resolution relates only to future entrants. It is open to interpretation in both senses but if the Honourable Members on the other side are prepared to consider it with reference to future entrants, I am prepared to waive it so far as the past is concerned. But what I want to emphasise is this, that I do not wish to sacrifice efficiency. But you cannot say that efficiency in every case will be sacrificed if you ask for the consideration of some reasonable cut. The analogy that the Honourable Mover has given is really no analogy and we cannot accept that because in many cases that has not resulted in economy in the administration of the Government at all. In many cases you find that this acceptance of a small salary is more of a demonstrative character than a constructive character. Although the pay is Rs. 500, there is this allowance and that allowance, which brings it up to about Rs. 1,100. And what about the Rs. 5,000 motor for each member? I am quite prepared to say that many of the Ministers no doubt have made sacrifices, and their sacrifices, even if the pay had been Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000, would have been just the same. They came forward and made their sacrifices in the spirit of patriotism. In their case, there was no pecuniary consideration at all. But I must again emphasise that these sacrifices are only for a few years. But there are others who have not only not sacrificed but they have gained very much by even accepting Rs. 500 pay. I know that there are some who probably never owned a motor car in their lives! There are some who I am certain would not hesitate to use the drawing room as a dressing room and the dining room as a bedroom! They have got a nice big furnished house from the Government, an allowance for maintaining a garden which probably will be used as a ground for cattle! Therefore I cannot accept that analogy. As I said before I am certain that that step was more of a demonstrative than a constructive character.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It was a spectacular move!

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : That is so, Sir. Think of the number of Ministers there are now in comparison to the number before, their Secretaries and their staff. Has it done any good so far as the expenditure is concerned, or has it resulted in any economy? However, I am glad that the Honourable the Mover has accepted my amendment, though on a different ground. I would also appeal to the Honourable Members on the other side, in a spirit of give-and-take and in the interests of keeping better relations, to be at least prepared to consider that the pay of future entrants be brought in

accordance with the economic conditions of this country. In any country, if there is an economic crisis, every soul comes forward to make sacrifices, and even women come forward and present their wedding rings. I cannot claim the same patriotism from those who come into the Services from England. But I do expect some sort of sympathetic treatment.

With these words, Sir, I beg to move my amendment.

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I oppose the Resolution as well as the amendment. There is absolutely no need for bringing this proposition forward unless it be, as was suggested, to have a spectacular demonstration of the programme of the Congress. It has been the fashion for some time to attack the I.C.S. saying that they are the enemies of the progress of the country and therefore they should be eliminated, or they should be placed under some great disabilities. No more suicidal policy could be adopted by Indians. As the poet has said, the good that a man does is interred but the evil that he may do survives. If we only look to the history of India, we owe the foundation of this great country to the ability, political genius and statesmanship of the I.C.S. We cannot easily forget the testimony of history. Whatever may be our prejudices and beliefs at present, history has writ in golden letters the eminent services rendered to this country by the I.C.S. in building up the structure of the Indian Empire of today, to have the whole edifice completed in the form of the reform scheme. All this we owe to the great labours, experience and ability of the I.C.S. I do not, by saying this, mean that we do not owe a debt of gratitude to others. I do not minimise those of our countrymen who have been for the last 30 years labouring in the field of progressive development of this country. I do not forget them at all. But what is the problem today? The underlying meaning of this Resolution is not so much to have a cut in the salary. The whole question reduces itself to this. Do you or do you not want the British element in the administration of this country? Do you or do you not want the British to come here to help us in the administration of the country? Is there no necessity for the British element to be here in this country? On the answer to this question depends the solution of the problem. It is not that the Congress Ministry has reduced its salaries from Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000. That is not the problem. They are only temporary people. They are up here today and tomorrow perhaps, when the pendulum swings back, they may disappear. Therefore, it is purely a political and party game. That should not be the standard for judging the work and service rendered by the I.C.S. The question therefore is, whether you want the British element to be strong enough in this country to be able to help us in the efficient and proper administration of the country and in the building up of the future of this country by ourselves. There are conflicting and opposing forces in our country. We cannot close our eyes and say that we do not want independent persons to help us and guide us. I, for one, with the experience I have of administration and of public affairs, cannot close my eyes to the great services rendered and we want for some time to come a strong British element to help us. We want Swaraj. But in building up Swaraj, we want the knowledge, experience, and genius of other nations also. It is not *infra dig*, it is not derogatory

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[Sir A. P. Patro.]

to our powers of statesmanship that we should seek help and assistance from others. It is not at all unnational—I would say—to have other elements with us in building up our own Swaraj in our country. We must have the best elements to help us. Therefore, the main thing underlying this proposition is, whether or not you want the British in the Administration. If you want the British element to be in this country, then you have to pay the best men available in Britain. You have to pay the best intellects, the best men trained in a country associated with a free Parliamentary Government. We want these young men to come over to our country, to help our young men in building up the Government here. In order to bring them to this country you must provide attractive salaries; you must make it worth their while to come over from England to India. If you say you do not want them, that is a different question altogether. But if you do want them, you must provide for all necessary help to them to come out to this country. I have had opportunities of looking into the budgets of some of the senior Civil Service men, who are my friends: when this question came up in the Provincial Council of Madras, I had occasion to examine their accounts, to talk to them, and the position is, I may assure the House from personal knowledge, very deplorable. They have to maintain their wife and children in England, an establishment there and an establishment here, and the Rs. 1,800 or Rs. 2,000 that they get is not sufficient to make both ends meet.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: And therefore the salaries should be increased?

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO: I would not be surprised if I do not discountenance this proposition at all. I would go to this extent that if you do want the men to render efficient service, you must pay them adequately. If you want them to work with zeal and earnestness and without real want, you must put them above all those needs. That is the point I want to press upon this House, namely, that it is wrong to believe that the pay of this Service is more than what is required for their maintenance. Their position is entirely different now. Now, this proposition relates only to the I.C.S. There are similar Services which are also recruited by open competition. Why do you not extend this principle to other Services but only say that the pay of the I.C.S. should be cut down? If the Honourable Member had included all other Services also, then I can understand that there is an economic sense and scheme. I could understand it, if he said that the economic needs of the country required it. But he has not proved that; he has referred only to the members of the I.C.S. recruited by the Secretary of State. Therefore, it is not in the economic sense that this Resolution has been brought forward. Now, I would go as far with the Honourable Syed Muhammad Husain that the pay should be based on the economic necessities as far as the Indian element is concerned. The question of the pay and emoluments of the I.C.S. came before the Lee Commission. The evidence placed before that Commission was that the Indian element should be paid a lesser salary than the British. Again, in the Services Subcommittee of the Round Table Conference also the members advocated that there should be a difference between the pay and emoluments of the

British element and the Indian element. Therefore, there has been a movement that the Indian recruits to the Service should be paid less. The conditions of life for the Britisher in India are entirely different from that of the Indian in his own home and in his own surroundings, and there is justification in our advocating that the Indian recruit should not receive the same pay as the Britisher. This is economic sense.

Now, Sir, the question of the responsibilities of these people in the districts is very much minimised. Now, what is the position of the I.C.S. Sub-Collector or District Magistrate? It has been reduced to that of a Revenue Collector; not more than that except on occasions when he has to maintain law and order. Local self-government has been removed from his jurisdiction and many other departmental activities have been taken over by the Ministers. (*An Honourable Member*: "Do we then require Europeans?") Certainly, Sir, in the revenue administration of the district and in the maintenance of law and order. The Honourable Member can examine the position in his own province, as to how far the European District Magistrate is required to safeguard and to maintain law and order. I would appeal to his experience in the matter and I need not say more about it in depreciation of my own countrymen. But what I do say is this, that when in the future Swaraj has been established, when the Congress administration has been strengthened, since Indian Deputy Collectors are in charge of districts and divisions and are able to manage things well, then our Indian I.C.S. ought to be able to do it on a little higher pay. If you say there should be no competitive examination and the I.C.S. should be altogether abolished that is a different matter. I do not myself believe that the best men are recruited by this competitive examination; but however that may be, the point is that as far as we are concerned, the duties and responsibilities of these people are very much minimised by the present administrations. My friend Syed Haji Sahib has said that in the name of economy the pay of these Services should be reduced. What is the economy that you obtain by reducing the pay of the I.C.S.? I need not describe and may refer you to the budget speeches of the various Ministers. Instead of conserving their resources and utilising them in the proper manner they have their own programme in accordance with the dictates of the higher authorities of the Congress. They are following it not with reference to utility or the economic improvement of the masses but in order to strengthen themselves in the country. And so if there are deficits it is because their programme is drawn up to implement and strengthen their own party position and not the position of the people of the country. Therefore, Sir, it seems to me the question of economy is beside the point when we look at the present condition of things in the country.

Then it is admitted that this Resolution even if carried does not affect the existing Services. But the existing Services will take years to disappear. Under the proviso to section 247, whatever rules the Secretary of State may make in regard to recruitment for the I.C.S., the existing Services are not at all affected. Those rules can apply only to future entrants. How long would that take—to eliminate the existing members of the Services, it can easily be imagined. This Resolution therefore is unnecessary, impracticable, and injurious in the interests of the country.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution as amended by my friend the Honourable Syed Muhammad Husain.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The amendment has not yet taken place.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : He has moved his amendment.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You said " as amended ".

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Very well, Sir. I support the amendment moved. The Honourable Sir Alfred Patro has spoken at length and he has dealt with the question of the Services rendered by the I.C.S. in the past. I also am one who value those Services. But nobody has said that they have not done well in the past. The question before us now is what should be the scales of salaries and allowances for future entrants to the I.C.S. I do not say that we should break up the contracts now in force. Contracts are sacred and are to be carried out in the spirit and in the letter in which they were entered into. (*An Honourable Member* : " Contracts may be waived ".) Well, Sir, I am not one of those who will waive contracts. Anyhow, when the scales of salaries and allowances for the I.C.S. were fixed a few centuries ago —

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Not centuries ; a few years ago !

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Well, Sir, Madras, if I mistake not, has been under British rule for over a century, and so has Bengal. In a few provinces, particularly in the Punjab, British rule was established much later. But the point is, that a few centuries ago the times were very different. Highly efficient and intellectual people were not readily available. In Africa, Malaya, and such countries which were taken over by the British much later, what do we find ? There also the Civilians have to leave their homes while serving abroad and often face climatic conditions which are worse than those of India. In Nigeria, for instance, the scales of salaries and allowances for superior civil servants are much less than those in India. The climate of Nigeria as compared with India is very much worse. In Malaya also, which was taken possession of much later, the scales of salaries of superior services are much less. The question now before us is what is a fair salary and a fair allowance ? My study of the statistics shows that in India the salaries of the I.C.S. are the highest in the world. No country pays such fat salaries as India does. It is a pity that when the Government was revising the scales of salaries and allowances for junior officers of the Indian Services they reduced both the salaries and allowances considerably. But, unfortunately, the revision of salaries of the superior services was totally ignored. In the Railway Service, my friend the Honourable Sir Guthrie Russell will endorse what I say, the scales of subordinate services and the junior services were substantially reduced, while in the scales and allowances of the superior services there was no material change.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL (Chief Commissioner for Railways) : Sir, I do not endorse that !

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Do you mean to say that you have not reduced the scales —

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL : I mean to say that generally the scales of officers were reduced in greater proportion than the subordinate scales.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Very well. I am sooty, Sir, that I was wrong.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The subordinates suffered much more than the officers, in a much greater proportion.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Considering the miserable financial position of the Railways in the past, the Railway authorities have failed to reduce materially the salaries of the railway superior officers notwithstanding that they always proclaimed that Railways were a commercial concern. We have to compare how the salaries and allowances of superior services compare with those in the other British Possessions. When a superior civil service officer in Nigeria, which has a very bad climate among the British Possessions, can afford to work on a lower salary, what is the justification for fatter salaries in India ? Sir, some time ago when the question of the scales of salaries and allowances was before this Honourable House, I gave the actual figures of the higher services in various British Possessions and thereby proved that in India the superior services were paid the highest salaries. I do endorse that they have rendered very good service. But where my friend Sir Alfred Patro says that every I.C.S. officer is very efficient there I beg to differ. There have been I.C.S. officers who have made blunders and who have put the Government in an awkward position.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Have you not made blunders in your profession ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Every one has, Sir ; but considering that the I.C.S. is highly intellectual—

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS (Nominated : Indian Christians) : There may be exceptions.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Exceptions prove the rule everywhere. I may inform Sir Alfred Patro that as far as my information goes and as far as the province which I have the honour to represent here is concerned, there have been very efficient, very experienced, and very statesmanlike I.C.S. officers. On the other hand, for the sake of comparison which my Honourable friend has made, I will tell him that there have been a number of Indian I.C.S. officers who have done equally well. I do not want to mention names, but in case Sir A. P. Patro asks me, I can give the names of those people who have blundered and of those who have rendered excellent service. However, Sir, the question is now what we can afford ? Highly intellectual people can be had now at much cheaper rates. I know some time back when India wanted medical officers Indians with high qualifications were rare ; the people holding F.R.C.S. and M.R.C.P. among Indians were few. What do we find now ? I have been in touch with various public organisations and I am told that now the number of F.R.C.S.

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

and M.R.C.P. among Indians is considerable and so much so that they all cannot be employed. What has been the fate of our graduates? It pains me to find that graduates are now accepting Rs. 18 a month and joining as police constables. We have to see what is the supply and what is the demand and what is the present price of a certain type of qualified officers. We should go according to the times. Perhaps it is a virtue to be generous, but that generosity should not exceed the amount that one can afford. Therefore, Sir, I consider that it is imperative on the Government to revise the scales and allowances of the superior services and to bring them into line with the scales of salaries which the British Government themselves are paying in their other Possessions, Colonies and Dominions.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment moved by Haji Syed Muhammad Husain. Sir, I am thankful to Sir A. P. Patro for the small mercy that he has not condemned outright all Indians who are in the Provincial Services and those in the I.C.S. From the trend of his speech I thought that everything coming from the West seemed to him to be heaven-born and free from defects, almost angelic; and with a reverence which is common to find in a devotee he has played up to his present-day idols! The trouble with us is that we do not differentiate between what we can do and what we are compelled to do. It is not an open question whether I want to have any European element in the Services or whether I want to have only an Indian element. The question is, what our masters are prepared to give us? We are not masters of ourselves to decide this question. Therefore, my Honourable friend has misunderstood our situation. We are not in a position to make an order. If we were we might have passed an order. But as we are now in the position which we occupy at this moment, we cannot do anything but solicit. It seems to me a strange sight that those who were opposing the Government, those who were called non-co-operators, have now come forward and in certain provinces joined the Government; but it is the Central Government which has started non-co-operation now and it is they who refuse even to render to us responsive co-operation which they had been demanding vehemently in the past.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I do not think you are correct in that statement. Since the establishment of the Ministries in all the provinces they have received unqualified support from the Governors.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Sir, we all know why the support that has been rendered has been received from the Governors. We are aware of the manner in which it has been received, and the way in which it has been forced from the Governors. It was only the splendid stand which the Congress took in not participating in the farce that began on All Fool's Day that has brought about this change in the vision of our masters.

Mr. President, Sir A. P. Patro questioned the necessity of bringing forward this Resolution at this juncture. The necessity arose long, long ago, when we were in the midst of our retrenchment committees; when the Governments were reducing pay everywhere, when the Central Government co-operated, and when the new scales for new entrants were introduced, as has just been pointed

out by Sir Guthrie Russell. The necessity arose then and it has remained unanswered by the Secretary of State till now ; and I do not think there is a law of limitation debarring us from asking for the redressing of grievances or for undoing a wrong which has been perpetrated on India. We, Sir, realise our inability to force anything on the Secretary of State. We, like wise men, started reducing the pay we were giving in the Provincial Services and Central Service, almost everywhere we had power to do so, and it is only due to our inability that we could not reduce the salaries of the I.C.S. It is our inherent right that we should not be treated as a dumping ground for everything that is surplus in England, even including mules and donkeys. I found, Sir, from a perusal of the Army estimates that even mules and donkeys have to be imported from England !

Sir, then there is another thing which justifies this demand. At the time when the Government of India Act, 1935, was passed, the rules of recruitment to the I.C.S. were different from what are the rules at the present moment. Mr. Maxwell will bear me out that the Secretary of State had no power of nominating for the I.C.S. as many people as he is now doing when the Government of India Act was passed. That, Sir, is an additional and a very strong reason why we should reiterate our demand for the reduction of pay of the I.C.S.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. H. PARKER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): On the contrary.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Mr. Parker says, "On the contrary", meaning thereby that the people in sufficient numbers were not coming forward. I find, Sir, that even in the past the number of applicants was enough. It was only because they could not pass the examinations, it was their incapacity to pass the examination in competition with the Indian element in England, which caused a deficiency in personnel. I challenge the Government to produce facts to the contrary.

Sir, I admit that this demand could be called spectacular if we had asked that the maximum pay of the I.C.S. should be reduced to the same level as that of the Congress Ministry. But, Sir, there is all the world of difference between a Minister of the State, who is there working in a patriotic spirit for his nation and a mercenary who is engaged to serve for the time being.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Can you explain why distinguished lawyers in the Congress did not join the Ministries ?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, Mr. Munshi, a distinguished lawyer of Bombay has joined.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Dr. Katju, a distinguished lawyer of the United Provinces is in the Ministry. Then there is another reason, Sir, why we demand this reduction. Perhaps the House may not remember it but the documents show that when the Simon Commission was here, in certain of the Provincial Governments the Ministries had asked for the abolition of the I.C.S. and the substitution of Provincial Service men in their place ; and I know, Sir, one of the Ministers who made this recommendation to the Simon Commission is still regarded by the Central Government as very efficient

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and very reliable and is up to now occupying a position of trust in the Government. He was not condemned for making—what would appear to friends opposite—a preposterous demand of abolishing the I.C.S.

Sir, there are a large number of things that we want. Sir A. P. Patro asked us whether we want Europeans in the I.C.S. Supposing that we do—and I can say that we might not be able to do without the English element in the I.C.S. for some time to come—we may want it but can we afford to have it? You may ask to have a palatial house like the Viceroy's, but can you afford it? We may like to have Britishers in the I.C.S., we are not actuated by animosity towards them; but we must pay them only as much as we can afford to pay them compatibly with the other needs of the country. Sir, I will give you an instance. When a child is born, his feeding and his requirements are small, when he becomes a young man his demands are increased, but when he becomes the father of a family his demands are very much increased. Similarly, what was good enough for the maintenance of law and order in former days is not sufficient to satisfy the democratic spirit and the demands of the culture of India at the present moment. So we want a greater amount of the revenues of the Government to be spent on beneficial activities. Formerly we were, comparatively speaking, children and we were not conscious of our own requirements.

Then, Sir, there is one question on which even the Government of India has had a divided opinion. I am not going to divulge any secrets (but it is a matter on which I can enlighten Mr. Maxwell if he wants afterwards) but it is a fact that a Department of the Government of India asked the Secretary of State to reduce the basic scales of salaries of the I.C.S. and, if necessary, give to the European element a higher overseas allowance so that it may be able to reduce the pay of the Indian element in its own Services.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : What proofs have you ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Well, Sir, I am not going to divulge it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : But surely Members of the Council are entitled to know ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I am prepared to give the authority, Sir, if I have the permission of the Home Member.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : I shall be glad to know the Department and the source from which the Honourable Member obtained this information.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : The Department was the Defence Department and my source of information was His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. When we were working on a committee, the information was given to us and that is why I was not going to divulge it, but my hands have been forced.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : May I ask, Sir, your ruling on the point whether any Honourable Member is bound to give the source of his information or to merely give the facts.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : When he makes a very important, or sweeping, or damaging statement, the Council is entitled to know the source of his information or whether he is drawing only on his imagination.

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : But he did give a certain fact.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : How is the Council to know whether it is a fact or not ?

THE HONOURABLE HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN : It is for the other side to say whether it is not a fact.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I am sorry I cannot agree. The other side may be quite ignorant of it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : You may differ from ourselves, but we feel that the world is not where we have left it. The world is moving from stage to stage of evolution, and what was good enough for us in years past would not satisfy us during the present stage. We, on this side of the House, do not wish to say anything in condemnation of the European element. If I have to say anything, I say that the British element in the Services have served in the past to the best of their abilities, and even now there are a good majority of them who are serving India in the best way they can. As I said at the beginning, it is not so much a question of what we demand, but what we get. It is a question of what we can afford to pay. The world now is moving round a pivot called money. If we can have the European service at cheap rates, we will welcome them, but we are not prepared to let them be paid at rates we cannot afford.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the speech which the Honourable Sir Alfred Patro—that is the name which has been given to him by my Leader and I hope, Sir, as a sportsman he will accept it—the speech which he has made is characteristic of him. As my friend the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam said, we must be thankful for small mercies. He said he did not want to say anything more. If he had said anything more, it would have been in depreciation of his own countrymen. When I listened to the speech, I came to this conclusion that the Party which he represents in Madras has met with a well-deserved defeat—

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU : Completely routed !

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU—well-deserved route, because if those are the sentiments which one can associate with the Party, then the defeat of that Party was quite justified.

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO : Wait and see !

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Now, Sir, no one on this side of the House has attacked the I.C.S. We are not unconscious of the great achievements of the I.C.S. in this country. But that is not the relevant issue before the House. The issue before the House is, what should be the pay of the

[Mr. P. N. Sapru.]

I.C.S. in future ? And in considering that issue, we have to take into consideration the economic circumstances of this country. We have to take into consideration the objective of British rule now in this country. The objective of British rule now is dominion status, responsible government, and you have introduced a system of provincial autonomy in the provinces. Is the present constitution of the Services consistent with the scheme of provincial autonomy ? I would venture to say that we cannot have real provincial autonomy in this country until we have control over the Services, and that is my answer to Sir Alfred Patro. He has asked us this question, "Do you want the British element or not ?" I would say that I want control over the Services. I do not mind Britishers coming to this country if they would submit to our control, that is to say, the control of the Provincial Ministries. (*An Honourable Member* : "They are now under the control of the Provincial Ministers".) They are protected under the Government of India Act. Ministers cannot censure them, Ministers cannot transfer them, Ministers cannot suspend them, Ministers cannot dismiss them. That is my answer. There can be no real provincial autonomy unless there is also vested in the Provincial Ministers the power of real control over the Services. Therefore, if you want provincial autonomy, you will have to change the character and the constitution of the I.C.S. You will have to make it a provincial service. He said that India could not do without the British element. Now, Sir, if recruitment were stopped today in England, even then it would take us 25 years to get rid of the English element. Does he visualise the continuance of this state of things for 25 years ? I suppose his conception of Swaraj is quite different from our conception of Swaraj. When we talk of Swaraj, we have Dominion status as defined by the Statute of Westminster in mind ; he has some kind of diluted self-government in mind.

Then, Sir, Sir Alfred Patro—he has accepted the name ; he is a sportsman, he will not object to it——

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO : That is your father's designation ! Your father could not pronounce the name properly and therefore he added Sir Alfred Patro ! It is your father's mistake and the son perpetrates it !

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : I am proud that I am following a very good example. I did not know of it. The Honourable Sir A. P. Patro asked, Do you want to stop all British recruitment ? My answer to this is, that if you stop recruitment now, it will take you 30 years to get rid of the British element. Do you visualise the present state of things to continue for 30 years ?

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. After five years there is going to be a revision. The Secretary of State has indicated it. He has said that after five years there is going to be a reconsideration of the whole position. Therefore, I said it is unnecessary. It is not that we should wait for 25 or 30 years. There is going to be an inquiry after five years. Therefore, there is no need for us to wait for 25 years.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Does the Honourable Mr. Maxwell accept that statement ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: The Joint Parliamentary Committee foreshadowed an inquiry into the system of recruitment at a period not sooner than five years.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Five years from what time?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: Five years from the beginning of provincial autonomy.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: The White Paper had foreshadowed the inquiry after five years. The Joint Select Committee, if I am right in my recollection, took the line that they could not indicate the period. Government might have changed its mind, but the Joint Select Committee recommendation on that point was distinctly worse than that of the White Paper.

Sir A. P. Patro said he had occasion to examine the budgets of the I.C.S. officers. Has it ever occurred to him to examine the budgets of his poor countrymen also? Has it ever occurred to him to inquire into the conditions under which millions of his countrymen live? Having regard to the conditions under which millions of his countrymen live, having regard to the immense poverty of this country is it unreasonable to say—

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I would refer my friend to *Village Economics*, which I published in 1918 and 1920. He will find the whole matter investigated in the southern provinces.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Sir, that was before he became a Minister and I think in those days he was probably a better nationalist than he now is! I want him to give us a more recent date. I know that in fixing salaries you have to take many factors into consideration. You do not want to reduce the efficiency of the Services. We are not out for an unreasonably low salary. We know we have to work a capitalist economy and we cannot make our servants work on three or four or five hundred rupees. But the salaries you pay to your Civil Services must have some relation to the economic life of the country. The salaries of Provincial Service men have been reduced. Why should the I.C.S. pay be so sacrosanct? Why should there not be a reduction of salaries in their case also? Our suggestion would be: Have a basic rate of Indian pay, and if you want a European—though I would say we do not want them and can do without them—then pay that European an extra allowance or extraordinary overseas pay. That would be the correct solution. We are thinking of future recruits, not of the men at present in service.

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO: This Resolution refers to the present. It is to reduce the present pay by 50 per cent.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: It is to amend the rules as regards pay. It has reference to future entrants. So far as the present members of the Service are concerned, we can only appeal to them. We have no power to compel them to agree to a reduction of their salaries. We can only appeal to them. Therefore, Sir, for the reasons which I have given I would like to give this amendment my support. Sir, we on this side of the House do not think

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that Rs. 500 is a reasonable limit. It may be a gesture on the part of a great organisation so far as Ministers are concerned. But we do think that it is possible to reduce very substantially the present scale of pays. I do not say that it is possible to reduce them by 50 per cent., but I certainly think that it is possible to reduce them very substantially. A 33 to 40 per cent. reduction is certainly possible, it is certainly conceivable and it is certainly desirable.

Sir, with these words, I give my strong support to the amendment of the Honourable Haji Syed Muhammad Husain.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my friend, Haji Syed Muhammad Husain. I wonder why Sir A. P. Patro took it upon himself to plead the cause of the Services as he did?

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO: Because of justice.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: I am sure when we listen to the Honourable Member representing the Government we will find him putting the case in a much more reasonable way than my friend Sir A. P. Patro has put it. The trouble is, it is easier for us to fight and argue with Members of the Government, the Members of the I.C.S., than friends like Sir A. P. Patro, who are not wanted either by Europeans or by Indians.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Will you kindly confine yourself to the Resolution and the amendment before the House? It is no use indulging in personalities.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Mr. President, I have to say something about the representative character of a Member of this House when he comes from Madras and speaks. I have got to tell this House that he does not represent Madras. He stood for election for the Madras Legislative Assembly and was defeated.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: He is a nominated Member from Madras and I take it he has been regularly appointed and you have no right whatever to question his representative status.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: I am not disputing his legal position in this House. I am referring to his representative character. Therefore, I am saying that after having been defeated in Madras he comes here as a Member nominated by the Government, and, therefore, he represents only the Government and he does not represent anybody's views in this country; and, therefore, coming from Madras, I am bound to say he does not speak for my province.

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO: Whom do you represent? Your own community?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: I represent the 3,000 voters for the Council of State who sent me by their votes to this House, a privilege which you cannot enjoy!

THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO : And opposed by your own Congressmen !

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU : No, Sir. Coming to the observations made with regard to the attitude of the Congress in this matter, I regret to say that the position which the Congress takes up in regard to salaries has been thoroughly misunderstood in this House. It has been said that the Congress Ministers have accepted a salary of Rs. 500 more as a spectacular gesture. I would remind my friends that the position of the Congress as to the amount of salary which public servants in this country should draw was defined not by the Ministers after they assumed office but seven years before that, in the open session of the Karachi Congress. The maximum of Rs. 500 was fixed at a time when there was not the slightest thought of Congressmen accepting offices under the Crown. Therefore, to attribute the present action of Congress Ministers to a desire for notoriety, is to forget the origin of this Rs. 500 and to forget the resolution of the Karachi Congress. Sir, the Resolution itself shows that the Honourable Mover, who belongs to the Congress Party, has not asked the I.C.S. to accept Rs. 500, because even a reduction of 50 per cent. would still leave a much higher figure than that. The Secretaries to the Government of India would still be left with Rs. 2,000 a month. Therefore any suggestion that this Resolution aims at asking the I.C.S. to accept the scale of pay which Congress Ministers are accepting, is not a correct reading of the Resolution, because 50 per cent. of the present scales leaves the salaries at a figure far above Rs. 500. It is therefore useless to try to sidetrack the issue by attacking the motives which led Congress Ministers to accept Rs. 500. The Honourable Haji Syed Muhammad Husain was perfectly right in his description of the amenities and conditions of life of many of the Congress Ministers. They were not in the enjoyment of large incomes. Some of them have even suffered privations. But even those who had lucrative professional incomes have accepted the salary of Rs. 500 in the spirit in which the Congress wanted them to do it.

Sir, there is one other matter to which reference has been made in this House, namely, that if the British element is to be retained in the Services in India to serve us we ought to pay them adequately. I do not dispute the proposition as put in that way. But the question is, whether the salaries which the British servants in India are getting are compatible with the economic position of the country? I think the amendment really aims at asking the responsible authorities to have the whole question re-examined, namely, whether the salaries now being drawn and the rules framed in regard thereto are compatible with the economic position of the country. That is what the Resolution aims at. There is something wrong with the mentality of people who oppose even a Resolution of a general character like that. It does not lay down the limits but merely says, "Please have the whole question examined in the light of the economic position in India". The amendment does not ask the House to commit itself to any particular reduction, and I do not see what objection there can be to the acceptance of the amendment, not only by this side of the House but also by the other side. I only say this, in the previous Cabinets, before the introduction of provincial autonomy,

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there were many I.C.S. officers drawing very large salaries—Rs. 5,000 and sometimes more. They were all replaced by Congress Ministers who have taken charge of the portfolios once held by them and nobody has so far contended that efficiency has suffered and that the Congress Ministers who are drawing Rs. 500 a month, who are now dealing with the

4 P.M. very subjects that the I.C.S. officers have dealt with in the old Cabinets are not doing justice to their subjects. That is not the allegation made from any quarter. While we concede that the Services have been loyal and have been helping the Ministers in all the provinces; and while we are not saying anything against the efficiency or sense of duty of the Services, we want the Services to recognise that Indians can also come up to their level and discharge the duties which the I.C.S. officers have been discharging in the provinces as Members of the Executive Council. These Ministers are doing identically the same work which was done by the I.C.S.; the Ministers have replaced them at very short notice. There is, therefore, no need for the apprehensions of people like Sir A. P. Patro that Indians could not be found to fill the place of the members of the I.C.S. If we require the British element in the Services it will be on our terms; not on terms which the I.C.S. men want. It is the highest paid public service in the world and we appeal to the generosity, and to the sense of justice of the present members of the I.C.S. to see whether they could not find their way to have their salaries reduced voluntarily or to agree to any amendment which the Secretary of State may make in the rules in course of time. It is a very modest Resolution which has been put forward. I do not know why my Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro developed so much heat over it and tried to defend a Service which can defend itself.

With these words, Sir, I beg to support the amendment moved by my friend Haji Syed Muhammad Husain.

THE HONOURABLE LT.-COL. SIR S. HISSAM-UD-DIN BAHADUR (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I was going to say something on the Resolution, but my Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro has said sufficient to satisfy the House. Discussion on this subject is merely a waste of time of the Honourable House, so I rise to oppose the Resolution moved by my friend Mr. Biyani. On one point I cannot agree with Sir A. P. Patro, namely, that the pay of Indians should be less than that of the British officers. If they are of the same qualifications and of the right type I think their pay should be the same. I therefore oppose both the Resolution and the amendment moved by my Honourable friends.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I had no intention of participating in the debate, had it not been for the uncharitable remark that fell from the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam that the I.C.S. officers are being dumped on India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: I did not say that.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS: The Honourable Member did say that this is the dumping ground like the mules of the Defence Department. Sir, I ask in all seriousness, "Are we still fit to govern

ourselves? Are we yet fit to administer the country? (*Honourable Members from the Congress Benches*: "We are, yes".) Do we not owe the constitutional reforms to the British element in the I.C.S.? We should be very unfair if we say that the Members of the I.C.S. are given fat pay to make the administration top-heavy. We have no unity, we have no unanimity of decision. So long as we have no cosmopolitan outlook, so long as we have diversity of castes and creed, we do require the Britishers in the Services, we do require to pay them fat salaries for their efficient services. We owe everything to the I.C.S. Even the Resolution in its amended form cannot be accepted. We had better move a Resolution for the revision of their pay, not for reduction.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to oppose the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. N. CHETTY (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to oppose both the Resolution and the amendment. My friend, Mr. Ramadas Pantulu, I am glad to say, has acknowledged the services done by the I.C.S. Only very recently, Sir, the Premier of Madras acknowledged with gratitude the services of the Finance Secretary of the Madras Government. As I say, we do want the British element for many years to come and we want their help and co-operation. I cannot agree with my friend Mr. Hossain Imam when he said that the Services have non-co-operated with the Provincial Ministers. I do not think that is at all correct. He told the House that the I.C.S. have non-co-operated with the Ministry.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. N. CHETTY: Then I am sorry.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: May I say—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: There is no need.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. N. CHETTY: I am glad that my friend Mr. Ramadas Pantulu has recognised, that all the Ministers in the provinces have recognised, the good work and help and co-operation which the members of the I.C.S. are rendering. It is rather premature to move the Resolution now as we are just now putting the Government of India Act into operation in the provinces. As the Honourable Sir A. P. Patro has said, the Britisher has done a great deal of good work in India. Sir A. P. Patro has spoken with wide experience both as a Minister for two terms in the Madras Government and as an ex-Member of the Madras Legislative Council for more than 15 years. What he says is that you want the Services and their co-operation. I entirely agree with him that the Indian members of the I.C.S. could get a little less than the British members. Britishers have got various commitments. They have to keep practically double establishments, while an Indian could adjust according to needs without much difficulty. I therefore feel that the Resolution at this juncture is rather injurious. To maintain law and order in the districts the I.C.S. will be better fitted than even Deputy Collectors. For these reasons I would strongly oppose both the Resolution and the amendment. I do hope that the Mover will kindly withdraw the Resolution without pressing it to a division.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR SIR RAMUNNI MENON (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I rise to express my dissent from an observation which fell from the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu in regard to the Honourable Sir A. P. Patro. I think the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu was rather unfair to Sir A. P. Patro when he said that he was a nominated Member and he did not represent anybody. A remark like that applies to all nominated Members and as such I must express my strong dissent from it. If all that is meant by the statement that Sir A. P. Patro being a nominated Member does not represent anybody is this, that a nominated Member is not an elected Member, then it is a self-evident proposition. The gist of the Honourable Sir A. P. Patro's observations, if I have understood him rightly, was simply this, that for a long time to come the I.C.S. must be retained in this country. That is an observation which will receive a very considerable volume of support not only in South India but throughout the whole of India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : What is the evidence for it ?

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR SIR RAMUNNI MENON : The evidence is our common observation. I hope I have succeeded in removing a slight misunderstanding which is likely to have arisen from the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantulu's remark. I oppose the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL (Home Member) : Sir, it is naturally an unwelcome and distasteful thing for a member of a public service to have to stand before this Council and attempt to justify his own existence or the pay which he and other members of his Service have been drawing. I should have preferred to leave this task to others whose views on the subject might have been considered impartial but I have no choice for it in my present position and I shall therefore not attempt to explain to this House why or how I or other members of my Service became surplus requirements in England and were therefore dumped in India ! I shall endeavour if possible to put a few facts before the House on which I should like them to reflect in considering this Resolution.

This House has already on two previous occasions—in 1934 and again in 1936—debated Resolutions containing substantially the point of this Resolution. And on each such occasion a copy of the debate was as promised by Government forwarded to the Secretary of State and I personally have seen a reference in one of the Secretary of State's despatches to his having seen the debate which was so forwarded to him. On neither of these occasions, however, was a Resolution actually passed and that was the reason for forwarding the debate as indicating the general trend of the opinion of this House. What I want the House to consider now is whether the time has come or the moment is opportune to commit itself to a Resolution in such definite terms as this Resolution.

One point which I should like to clear out of the way first is the question whether the term " present pay " used in this Resolution refers to the pay of existing members of the Service or only to that of new entrants. I can find no quite definite guidance in the speech of the Honourable Mover and I do

not know whether he accepts the interpretation put upon it by, I think, the Leader of the Opposition. If there is any question of asking or expressing the wishes of this House that the emoluments of existing incumbents be altered—(Several Honourable Members, including the Honourable Mover: "No, only new entrants".) Very well, Sir, then I will drop that point and take it that the feeling is that the Resolution only relates to new entrants.

Other questions have crept into the debate such as the question whether any Service ought to continue to be recruited by the Secretary of State. That, I would submit, is not really relevant to the present Resolution. The question of pay and its relation to the economic conditions of this country is a matter which does not depend on where any members of the Service are recruited and I think the House ought not to allow themselves to be prejudiced in any way by the fact that members of the Service are recruited at present by the Secretary of State.

Now, in order to consider the question on its merits, that is to say, whether the pay of the I.C.S. should be reduced by 50 per cent. as proposed by the Honourable Mover or whether it should be reduced to some indefinite figure which is considered to be more in consonance with the economic conditions of the country, I should like the House to view the whole question against a certain background of facts. The number of the I.C.S. at the present time is 1,005 in the whole of India. The numbers in 1912 were 1,210. That is to say, in these 25 years the numbers of my Service have gone down by 205 officers.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : On a point of information. Is this the statutory strength or the actual strength ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : The sanctioned strength, so far as I have been able to ascertain, is 1,057 but it is at present under recruited.

I was saying, Sir, then, that the total strength of the I.C.S. at the present moment is 1,005, not counting 121 men holding listed posts. Now, Sir, I would like the House to turn from that figure to another figure, namely, the population of British India. I am speaking of the British Indian provinces, those in which the I.C.S. have their work. The population of the British Indian provinces excluding Burma was, in 1931, 257 millions. In 1911, the population was approximately 232 millions. So that the increase of population during the 20 years between these two censuses was 25 millions. While therefore the population of India went up 25 millions in 20 years, the population of the I.C.S. went down by 205 in 25 years. (An Honourable Member : "Smaller birth rate or greater death rate"!) Among the I.C.S. or the Indians ?—I am not quite sure.

Well, Sir, this 1931 population of India represents over half the population of the British Empire. It is an impressive thought and it becomes perhaps more impressive from the point of view of this Resolution when we put it like this—that over half the population of the British Empire is served by 1,005 Indian Civilians. That means one I.C.S. officer to 256,000 of the population of this country, one I.C.S. officer to 868 square miles. I think on these figures the House can hardly contend that there is not room for the I.C.S. in India.

[Mr. R. M. Maxwell.]

Now, Sir, I am going to weary the House with a few more facts. I have made an effort to ascertain the actual cost of the I.C.S. but in doing so I felt myself in the position of Honourable Members opposite when asking for information, namely, that information is easier to ask for than to get from a Secretariat Department. However, to the best of my knowledge, I can assure the House that the cost of the whole of the I.C.S. in India including their expenses out of India is within Rs. 2½ crores. It may be only Rs. 2½ crores—I cannot give the House the exact figure, I am sorry to say—but in order to be on the safe side, I will take it at its maximum figure, namely, Rs. 2½ crores. (*An Honourable Member*: “Including pensions?”) Yes, so I believe. (*Another Honourable Member*: “Sir George Schuster in his budget speech said it was Rs. 16 crores”.) No such figure, Sir, if you divide Rs. 2½ crores by the number of I.C.S. officers in service, you will find that it works out to about the average pay of the I.C.S. There is not much wrong with the figure, though I cannot guarantee it.

Now, Sir, I should like the House to note the total expenditure of India, including the Central Government and all the provinces, for the year 1935-36, that is, ending 31st March, 1936. I am speaking only of the total expenditure charged against revenue and not of capital expenditure not charged to revenue. The total expenditure of India during that year was Rs. 200·7 crores. Therefore, the cost of the I.C.S. represented about 1½ per cent. of the whole expenditure of India. That puts the thing into some sort of proportion and it will also show the House that supposing the Resolution was accepted in the terms in which it has been moved, a reduction of 50 per cent. in the cost of the I.C.S. would make a difference to India of 0·62 per cent. in its total expenditure.

Well, Sir, a further argument has been used in moving the Resolution that whatever the actual reduction may be, the pay of the I.C.S. is not in accordance with the economic conditions of India. It occurred to me, in order to get some idea of the economic condition and the paying capacity of India to meet this sum of Rs. 2½ crores a year, to look at the income-tax statistics. I found some interesting information there. I found from the income-tax returns of 1935-36 that the total net taxed income of India during that year was Rs. 233½ crores—

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Is there any country in the world in which the difference between the pay of the superior services and the inferior services—the menial staff, as you would like to call it—is so great as in India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL: If the Honourable Gentleman will allow me to follow my own line of argument, I will do my best to convince him before I am finished. This Rs. 233½ crores represents, as I say, only the taxed income. It does not include all the people who have been able to convince the Income-tax Officer that their income was below Rs. 1,000 a year. It does not also include all the agricultural income. This is all taxed income—Rs. 233½ crores—and the cost of the I.C.S. to this country is one per cent. of this taxed income. I will go further and tell the House that I had a look at the super-tax returns of the same year. I find that during that year, 82 individual assesses paid super-tax on a total income of Rs. 2½ crores—that is

just about equal to the whole cost of the I.C.S. The entire cost of the I.C.S. to India is represented by the income of 32 individuals. They were those having an income of Rs. 3 lakhs and upwards. Each of them had an income equal to that of the Viceroy. From these figures, Sir, I make bold to argue that India can bear the cost of the I.C.S. and I would like to go on to argue that it is well worth its while to do so.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : What is the highest pay of the permanent Civil Service in England ? £3,000 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : £3,500.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : One or two get £3,500.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : I will leave it to the Honourable the Finance Secretary to answer that question, Sir. I was placing before the House a few facts which I hope will have put this debate into some sort of perspective, and I wish to argue that it is not a bad bargain for India at the present moment, and for some time to come, to put up the money to pay the I.C.S. I want the House to remember that the I.C.S. is not merely the European service. I am speaking in what I have to say not only of the European officers but also of the Indian officers who form very nearly half the total strength I have mentioned. I do not know whether the House have even considered how much part the I.C.S. play in the administration. It will indeed see that they are a mere handful of officers dealing with an enormous population. Not one fraction of the work can be handled by their own hands. What then is the real reason for their existence in India ? If we take a fair view, it is that the country needs an impartial and reliable service to control the very large establishments, the very large ramifications of the services which are necessary to handle the vast mass of population, the vast mass of business and the vast area with which we have to deal in the various governments in this country. In other words, the Service is wanted to do something to set the standard and tone of the administration. This Service is one which is recruited mainly for what are called certain superior posts, that is, posts which involve the control of the work of others. It is in a position of control in which I think India reaps the benefit of an independent and impartial service. I think the House must have reflected—it must be within the experience of many Honourable Members—how much it means to the poorer population—the rural population—of India to have to deal with officers on whose impartiality and sense of duty they can rely. In fact, I would go so far as to say that the poverty and primitiveness, the backwardness and ignorance of so many in India should not be a reason in the view of this House against having a public service of a high grade, at any rate in the control of the essential parts of the administration. It is rather a reason why such a service is indispensable both to the people of this country and the Provincial Governments that now govern them. The Provincial Governments themselves depend on having an efficient, loyal and impartial administration under their hands. Without it they will be powerless. The Provincial Governments under the present constitution will change from time to time. But the Ministers must have a Service who are not liable to be identified with any political party, but whatever party is in power, will do their best to act as the Ministry demands. I have rather laboured this subject perhaps, Sir, because, at the present time, owing to the

[Mr. R. M. Maxwell.]

Introduction of provincial autonomy, there has been a great surging up of new ideas. Many subjects have been canvassed and I have noticed that among them there has been a tendency in some of the provinces to whittle down the pay of the public services. I should therefore like to give this House one bit of advice which I hope may perhaps penetrate beyond these walls, and that is, if you want the best of anything, you must be prepared to pay for it. You cannot expect everything for nothing. If you want to keep up the standards of public administration in this country, you must be prepared to meet the expense on any reasonable terms. It is surprising to me that the public services in this country are usually the one thing towards which money is grudged. Other schemes may be put forward, no matter how expensive, if they are regarded as popular schemes they will meet with public support. And yet, I should like the House to reflect on this point, the first requirement of the people of the country, and more particularly of the poor people, the rural population who are not so independent perhaps as the urban population,—their first requirement is good government and peaceful government under which they can follow their daily occupations. They are not so much concerned with schemes, even of, say, education, social welfare and so forth. Those things may do them good, but they cannot be of advantage to the people at large unless they have good government to live under. That is the first and foremost requirement, and I would submit to this House that it is not a right attitude of mind to grudge every anna that is paid to the public services. Let us first be sure of keeping up our standards of administration, without which both the people and the Ministries will be helpless to do any good.

I fully realise, Sir, that theoretically at least the position of the I.C.S. has altered in the past and will continue to change as provincial autonomy and other changing conditions get more firmly established. But still, considering what changes there have been during the 31 years since I was first "dumped" in this country, I should be disposed to think that it will still be a good many years before India can afford to dispense with public servants of a rather special character, at least so far as the controlling services go.

Now, Sir, I am far from wishing to lay it down that the last word has been said about the pay of the I.C.S. What I wish to repeat to the House is that a revision of pay is a matter which needs most careful and prolonged exploration, the consideration of evidence and an appreciation of many technical points. That is particularly the case of a Service like my own where the European and Indian elements exist in juxtaposition and in almost equal numbers. Surely, therefore, the proper time to undertake any revision of this kind would be the inquiry which is likely to be made at some time in the future into the recruitment of the Secretary of State's Services. Some question was raised as regards the exact intentions about this inquiry. I can only refer the House to section 244 of the Act, which does not mention, as the House knows, any definite date, and to the light thrown on that by the observations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, who said:—

"We endorse the principle that the whole matter should be the subject of a further inquiry at a later date; but past experience leads us to doubt the wisdom of fixing a definite and unalterable date for the holding of an inquiry of this kind. We agree that no useful

purpose would be served by an inquiry before the expiration of five years; but we think it must be left to the Government of the day, in the light of the then existing circumstances, to determine whether after that period the time has arrived for such an inquiry. We hope that the situation will have become so far clarified in five years' time from the date when the new Provincial Governments first take office that an inquiry made then will be found of advantage, though it is unlikely that a revision of the recruitment by the Secretary of State of officers required by the Federal Government will be appropriate until a later date."

That quotation bears out what I pointed out to the Honourable Gentleman across the floor of the House just now. Well, Sir, we know that this inquiry is forecasted in this way. We cannot possibly attempt to forecast now what the result of that inquiry would be. There are many possibilities, but at the present moment we are working in the dark and I can give the House no idea at all of the lines on which that inquiry might ultimately develop. It is therefore in my view a mistake to attempt to arrive at a definite expression of views on what is merely one partial aspect of that inquiry, namely, the pay of the Services. The pay question must arise, and is naturally bound up with the question of recruitment, and to attempt to arrive at any definite opinion now would be merely working in the dark.

Now, Sir, I would like to end by saying that this Resolution is in the form of expressing to the Secretary of State the wishes of this House that the rules regarding pay should be altered. But I hope the House will not consider that from this point of view it does not much matter whether it really definitely accepts the terms of the Resolution or not. The expression of wishes coming from this House as a responsible body does not absolve the House of the obligation to arrive at a substantive decision on the merits of the case, and what I have tried to show to the House is that this is not a useful moment at which it can commit itself definitely to the view that the I.C.S. is paid twice as much as it should be. I hope the House will approach this question with an attitude of realism, remembering the figures that I mentioned and trying to discard from its mind the rather loose statements which are often made about the I.C.S. being an incubus on this country and that the economic conditions of the country cannot possibly meet the comparatively small expenditure on this handful of officers.

(At this stage the Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal rose to speak.)

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The discussion has been protracted and I have allowed the fullest opportunity of speaking to several Members on this side of the House. It is not possible for every Member to rise and speak in this House, especially on a non-official day when there is a lot of business before the Council. I think I have allowed the fullest opportunity on this Resolution and no useful purpose will be served by any further discussion from the left side of the House. I will call upon the Honourable Mr. Biyani to reply.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI: Sir, it is really an irony of fate, for me that my very simple Resolution is thought to be dangerous. It may be that they come from a Congressman. I have heard the speeches of all friends who have opposed my Resolution and I am inclined to say that the I.C.S. has got a better champion in the Honourable Sir A. P. Patro than in the Home

[Mr. B. N. Biyani.]

Member himself. The question has been put to me whether I would like to have the British element in the I. C. S. or not, whether we as Indians are fit to govern ourselves, etc. Let me say quite frankly that Indians are fit to govern themselves and I as a Congressman am out for the political independence of India and the severance of the British connection with India. I would not for a moment be sorry if all my British friends in the I.C.S. leave the shores of India this very evening!

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS : Chaos will prevail!

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI : That is to be seen. Let them have a trial themselves. I am prepared for it. Much has been said about the Congress Ministers. Some reply has been given by my friends. Some Honourable friend said that the Congress Ministries have come in only temporarily. Let me tell them that Parliamentary activity has come to stay in the Congress and those who still count on Congress Ministers going and that some of their friends will have a change will possibly be disappointed. The second point is that Congress Ministers have accepted Rs. 500 a month as their pay for spectacular purposes. It is the definite policy of the Congress after the Karachi resolution. It is not that the pay was settled when there was no possibility of Congressmen accepting offices. It was settled with the definite object that we shall have that pay even if we come into power. The Congress has settled once for all that the highest pay shall not be more than Rs. 500, except of course in the case of some experts. Therefore, the Congress decision about pay is definite. Apart from this, let me make clear that my Resolution is again a very simple one. I have not said in my Resolution or in my speech anything against the I.C.S. I have neither praised them nor condemned them. My Resolution only says that the present pay of the I.C.S. be reduced. It is not in conformity with the economic condition of the country and also the political circumstances prevailing at present. The Honourable the Home Member while giving facts and figures has given me the number of the I.C.S. and has assured me that their number has decreased. My Resolution has nothing to do with it. I do not say in this Resolution what the number of I.C.S. officers should be. If the number is 1,005, they would get half the pay; if the number is 1,210, they would get half pay. My Resolution today does not contemplate the number of the I.C.S. in this country. Then, my Honourable friend has stated that only Rs. 2½ crores are paid to the I.C.S. Compared to the Indian taxpayers and the poverty of the country, I think the pay the I.C.S. are receiving today is very high and if we save a crore and a half that would be sufficient for village uplift, for which we gave Rs. 1 crore in the last budget. That would not be a very small amount. Then the reduction in the salary of the I.C.S. will have its effect on the other Services also, which will mean Rs. 57 crores, my friend tells me. My Resolution only says that today, as the conditions in India prevail, the pay of the I.C.S. should be reduced. One question was asked, "What about the present people". I have not referred to them. My demand is a very simple one. It only says that we intimate to the Secretary of State that the rules which are at present in vogue about the pay of the I.C.S. should be so amended as to reduce the pay by 50 per cent. It does not say that the pay of the people who are at present serving in India is to

be reduced. That is a different question ; that has nothing to do with my Resolution. It is a different question whether the present members of the I.C.S. agree to voluntary cuts. Therefore, my Resolution should be rightly understood. It does not go into details, and I do not want to dwell on much of the irrelevant matter that was brought into the debate. My Resolution, as I have said, only wants to convey to the Secretary of State that we want the scale of pay to be reduced by 50 per cent. My friend has moved an amendment that the pay should be in accordance with the economic condition of the country. I have said in my first speech that I accept the amendment. It is my belief that the amendment means the same thing.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It is not for you ; it is for the Council to accept the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. BIYANI : Therefore I say that my Resolution is a fair one and the demand that I have put forward is a right one when one looks at the condition that prevails in the country today. Without saying anything further I press my Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT (to the Honourable Mr. Maxwell) Do you wish to say anything further ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL : No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Under the discretion vested in me by Standing Order 66, I shall put the original proposition first to the Council.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : May we suggest to you to put the amended Resolution to know the mind of the House better ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I draw your attention to clause (2) of Standing Order 66, which says :

“ It shall be in the discretion of the President to put first to the vote either the original Motion or any of the amendments which may have been brought forward ”.

It is my discretion and I think it is only right to put the original Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May I very respectfully point out that the practice in the Legislature has always been to put the amendment first and the Resolution afterwards.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Your statement is entirely incorrect. During the five years that I have been President of this Council I have exercised my judgment and I have not very often put the amendment first.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I only wish to make a submission that in this particular case perhaps you would be able to obtain a more considered judgment of the House if you put the amendment first. That is all my submission.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I have considered the question. I wish to adhere to my ruling.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : May I point out that the Honourable Mr. Biyani is prepared —

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: It is an entirely unparliamentary practice, I must tell you Mr. Sapru, that when the President rules one way that Member after Member should get up and question his ruling. Order, order.

The Question is:

This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to intimate to the Secretary of State for India the wishes of this House that the rules as respects pay of the I.C.S. be so amended as to reduce the present pay by at least 50 per cent."

The Council divided:

AYES—12.

Biyani, The Honourable Mr. B. N.

Chattopadhyay, The Honourable Mr. Chidambaram.

Hosain Inam, The Honourable Mr.

Kunzru, The Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath.

Mahtha, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain.

Motilal, The Honourable Mr. G. S.

Muhammad Husain, The Honourable Haji Syed.

Pantulu, The Honourable Mr. Ramadas.

Ram Saran Das, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.

Ray Chaudhury, The Honourable Mr. Kumarsankat.

Roy Chowdhury, The Honourable Mr. Sunil Kumar.

Sapru, The Honourable Mr. P. N.

NOES—25.

Akram Husain Bahadur, The Honourable Prince Afzar-ul-Mulk Mirza Muhammad.

Buta Singh, The Honourable Sardar.

Charanjit Singh, The Honourable Raja.

Chetty, The Honourable Diwan Bahadur G. N.

Clow, The Honourable Mr. A. G.

Das, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Satyendra Kumar.

Devadoss, The Honourable Sir David.

Dow, The Honourable Mr. H.

Ghosal, The Honourable Sir Jopna.

Hajdar, The Honourable Khan Bahadur Shams-ud-Din.

Hissam-ud-Din Bahadur, The Honourable Lt. Col. Sir S.

Ismail Ali Khan, The Honourable Kunwar Hajee.

Jagdish Prasad, The Honourable Kunwar Sir.

The Motion was negatived.

Khurshid Ali Khan, The Honourable Nawabzada.

Maxwell, The Honourable Mr. R. M.

Menon, The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir Ramunni.

Mukherjee, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.

Nihal Singh, The Honourable Sirdar.

Ogilvie, The Honourable Mr. C. M. G.

Parker, The Honourable Mr. R. H.

Patro, The Honourable Ras Bahadur Sir A. P.

Raisman, The Honourable Mr. A. J.

Ray of Dinajpur, The Honourable Maharaja Jagdish Nath.

Reid Kay, The Honourable Mr. J.

Russell, The Honourable Sir Guthrie.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : As the original Motion has failed, the amendment *ipso facto* fails.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The amended Resolution may be accepted by the House. Will you not consider it, Sir ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The practice of the House has been that, when the original Resolution disappears from the scene, there can be no amendment at all, and that is the practice I have followed and my predecessors for the last 20 years have followed.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Then, Sir, we can never obtain the verdict of the House on an amendment ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : It is in my discretion whether to put the amendment or the original Motion first. If the Resolution is carried then I would put the amended Resolution before the House. I have told you the practice of the House for the last 25 years during which I have been a Member of the House is to give the Chair the widest possible discretion in the matter.

SHEBAITY BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce :

“ A Bill relating to the Shebaity right and the office of Shebaites and the devolution of such right or office in Hindu Debutter Endowments in favour of family deities. ”

The Motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION *RE* NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE U. T. C. TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, DEHRA DUN.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Mr. Kunzru, I will ask you to now move your Resolution so that you will not lose priority. The debate will take place on the next non-official day.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. President, I beg to move :

“ That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that (a) the warrant and non-commissioned officers of the U. T. C. be rendered eligible for nomination to the Indian Military Academy on the same terms as those applicable to officers of the corresponding grades in the other branches of the I. T. F. and in the A. F. (I.) and (b) the examination for the “ B ” certificate be instituted for the members of the U. T. C. with a view to their utilisation for the supply of commissioned officers in ways similar to those prescribed for the O. T. C. in England. ”

As desired by you, Sir, I shall speak to this Resolution on the next non-official day.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 22nd September, 1937.