

# **COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES**

---

**TUESDAY, 5th OCTOBER, 1937**

**Vol. II—No. 10**

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## **OFFICIAL REPORT**



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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Tuesday, 5th October, 1937.*

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### RECRUITMENT OF "GHIRTHS", "CHANGS" AND "BAHTIS" FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

228. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :  
(a) Will Government state whether "Ghirths", "Changs" and "Bahtis" in the Punjab are eligible for recruitment to (i) combatant, and (ii) non-combatant services of the Indian Army ? If not, why not ?

(b) Are these tribes actual tillers of the soil in Kangra, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Gurdaspur and other districts of the Punjab, and did they render valuable services in the Great War ?

(c) What is the total number of men of these tribes now in the service of Indian Army (i) as combatants and (ii) as non-combatants ? What has been the number of their recruits during each of the last five years, and whether Government intend to increase the pace of their recruitment ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first portion is that Government are aware that the main occupation of these tribes is agriculture. The reply to the second portion is that during the Great War when enlistment in the Indian infantry was thrown open to these classes the response was relatively small.

(c) The information is not available at headquarters. To collect it, it would be necessary to make a reference to all the units and recruiting officers concerned. Government consider that to do so would involve an expenditure of time and labour which would not be commensurate with the value of the results achieved.

Owing to the limited size of the Indian Army additional recruitment of the classes named could only be made at the expense of other classes now recruited and Government do not propose to take this course.

### LEASE OF LAND BY THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY FROM THE BOMBAY PORT TRUST.

229. THE HONOURABLE MR. R. H. PARKER : Are the Royal Indian Navy proposing to lease a valuable piece of land belonging to the Bombay Port

Trust at a high rental? If so, why? and why is cheaper land outside Bombay not suitable for the purpose?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** A proposal is under consideration to lease a small piece of land on an annual rental from the Bombay Port Trust. The site selected, after due consideration, is the only one suitable under the special circumstances of the case and the requirements of economy are being given full weight.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Has the Government considered the advisability of utilising military lands in Bombay—the Back Bay reclamation land?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** I am not quite sure what the Honourable Member means?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Has the Government considered the possibility of utilising military lands from the Back Bay reclamation in Bombay?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** So far as I understand, there is no reclamation land in the old Back Bay. I know Bombay well. Probably you are speaking of the old Marine Lines? There Government are building big offices.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** The Defence Department have got Rs. 2 crores worth of land in Bombay.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** They are selling the land also to the public. Lots of people have purchased.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** May we have a reply from His Excellency?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** His Excellency does not know.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN:** The Finance Department is in charge of military lands. The lands which are embodied in that scheme are now not foreshore lands at all. They are lands more or less in the middle of the Island and I imagine the purpose for which the Royal Indian Navy want the land would not be satisfied by these lands.

#### MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA.

**220. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government lay on the table of this House a copy of the Agreement arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of Burma as regards the supply of army from India in time of need? What amount of contribution from Burma was fixed for this purpose? If none, why?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** I refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave on the 2nd October, 1937, to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam's question No. 212 on the same subject.

INDIANS IN SHANGHAI, ETC.

231. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: Will Government be pleased to—

(a) state the approximate number of Indians in Shanghai and other important centres affected by the Sino-Japanese war? and

(b) lay on the table a statement giving the details of the loss of life and property suffered by the Indian community in general and Indian traders in particular in those centres?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) The total number of Indian subjects in the Shanghai district is believed to be about 3,500. In Tientsin district there are reported to be 70 Indians and in Peking district about 20.

(b) The only loss of life reported up to September 9th was two killed and 10 wounded in the Shanghai district. No estimate is possible of the loss of property.

AERATED WATER FACTORY, B.N.R.

232. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether the B.N.R. are working a soda water factory since 1935?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Yes, the B.N.R. Administration took over in 1935 the aerated water factory at Kharagpur which was previously operated by the Kharagpur Station Committee.

SALE OF WINES, SPIRITS, ETC., BY THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.

233. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether in the different refreshment rooms, run by the catering department of the B.N.R., wines, spirits, oilman stores, provisions, medicines, toilet requisites, stationery, hardware, etc., are sold not only to passengers but to others?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Possibly, but it is not always practicable for the management of the refreshment rooms to establish whether a particular customer is or is not a railway passenger.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: When there are no passenger trains, and people go from the town are things sold or not?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I think it is probably correct. A man walks into one of the refreshment rooms and he gets anything he likes.



**FREIGHT CHARGES ON WINES, SPIRITS, ETC., STOCKED BY THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.**

234. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether railway freight is charged on the transport of goods mentioned in the preceding question?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** A debit for freight charges is raised in the catering accounts.

**AERATED WATER FACTORY, B.N.R.**

235. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any provision in the contract between the Secretary of State and the B.N.R. which allows the latter to start a soda water factory and sell miscellaneous goods to the general public?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** There is no specific provision in the contract, but such activities do not contravene the general terms of the contract as they are provided for in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Is this factory a profit-earning factory?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The soda water factory is a profit-earning factory.

**CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.**

236. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether the B.N.R. obtained the sanction of the Secretary of State in writing before they started (a) the soda water factory, (b) to sell wines, spirits, beers, provisions, medicines and miscellaneous goods?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The B.N.R. obtained sanction in writing to the establishment of their catering department, the functions of which embrace the activities mentioned by the Honourable Member.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Have all other Railways the same contract with the Secretary of State to sell these miscellaneous articles?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** A certain number of Railways have catering contracts and also sell wines and spirits.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Not all the Railway Administrations?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** No, the only two other Railways which have got their own catering arrangements are the M. and S.M.R. and the S.I.R. which run certain refreshment rooms departmentally. As far as I know no other Railways do.

**SALE OF WINES, SPIRITS, ETC., ON CREDIT BY THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.**

237. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether these miscellaneous goods are sold on credit to railway officials and employees and also to recognised district Government officials?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Yes, the system of allowing railway employees to purchase stores on credit from railway refreshment rooms has been in force from the inception of the catering department, who merely followed the practice of the previous catering contractors. The privilege of obtaining goods on credit from the catering department is not extended to non-railway employees, except in the case of certain well-known persons of standing (mostly Government officers).

**CATALOGUE OF THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.**

238. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in the departmental catalogue issued by the catering department of the B.N.R. it is stated "Orders will be executed at competitive rates"?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether this statement is addressed to passengers travelling in a train?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) I am advised by the B.N.R. Administration that the reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

**PRIVATE SHOPS AT STATIONS WHERE THE SAME CLASS OF GOODS ARE SOLD AS BY THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.**

239. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether at every station, where there is a refreshment room at which miscellaneous goods are sold to the railway officials and employees as well as to outsiders, there are private shops dealing with those miscellaneous goods?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether in the refreshment rooms on other Railways than the B.N.R. miscellaneous goods, as sold in the refreshment rooms of the B.N.R., are sold?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) Government are informed that this is not the case.

(b) So far as Government are aware, the practice is in force on some Railways.

**CATERING DEPARTMENTS ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.**

240. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state which other State-owned Railway in India has a catering department of its own?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The M. and S.M.R. and S.I.R. run a certain number of their Indian refreshment rooms departmentally.

## AERATED WATER FACTORIES OWNED BY STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

241. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state which other State-owned Railway has a soda water factory of its own?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Government have no information.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Have the Government inquired?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Government have not inquired.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that there are no other companies?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I think it is a fact that there are none.

## CARRIAGE AND SALE OF MINERAL WATERS BY THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R., FREE OF FREIGHT CHARGES.

242. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether from the soda water factory at Kharagpur, owned by the B.N.R., aerated water as well as ice are carried without any freight paid and sold not only to the passengers but also to outsiders in every train and also sold from the refreshment rooms?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Freight is not charged on supplies of ice and aerated waters made to the various stations. Ice is however not despatched from the aerated water factory at Kharagpur. I fail to understand the Honourable Member's reference to persons travelling in trains as outsiders, as distinct from passengers.

## REPORT OF THE AGENT, B.N.R., ON THE POINTS RAISED IN THE RESOLUTION OF 12TH MARCH, 1937.

243. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether they sent a copy of the debate on catering on the B.N.R. held on the 12th of March, 1937, to the Agent of the B.N.R., asking him for his opinions on any suggestions which were made to improve matters during the debate, etc.?

(b) If so, has the Agent sent any report?

(c) If so, when was the Agent's report received?

(d) Why was a meeting of the Central Advisory Committee for Railways not called to consider the report of the Agent? and

(e) Will the report of the Agent be placed before the House for consideration?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) In June, 1937.

(d) Government did not consider that there was anything in the report to warrant consultation with the Central Advisory Council.

(e) Government do not consider it necessary to do so.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Will the reply of the Agent be laid before the Central Advisory Committee?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Normally the Central Advisory Committee deals with general questions of railway policy, not with questions concerning individual railway administrations.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Will it be laid before the Local Advisory Committee?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** No, Sir.

**CHARGES PAID BY RAILWAY OFFICIALS AT HOTELS MANAGED BY THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.**

244. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether officers of the B.N.R. are allowed to stay in hotels managed by the Company at cheaper rates?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Officers of the B.N.R. are allowed to use the rooms at the railway hotels but must give way to other persons paying full rates. The charges, I understand, are fixed on the basis of the mean average of the travelling allowances admissible to officers. The Administration considers that the concession rate is of financial assistance to the hotel, as it brings in extra customers and helps to meet overhead charges.

**PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS FOR INDIAN CATERING CONTRACTS IN INDIAN NEWSPAPERS.**

245. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether advertisements for catering contracts are published in the Indian newspapers?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** I understand that except in cases of general reorganisation, as in 1931, the occasion for calling for tenders does not ordinarily arise, the policy of the Railway Company being to renew the contracts of the existing contractors provided they continue to give satisfaction.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Are the Railway Administrations sure that they are getting satisfaction?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The B.N.R. is satisfied.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Have they received any complaints, Sir?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** I do not know whether they have or not.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Has the Railway Board received any complaints?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** We have received certain complaints on the floor of this House!

**USE OF PASSES BY RAILWAY OFFICIALS IN TRAVELLING TO PURI AND RANCHI AND THEIR STAY AT THE HOTELS RUN BY THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.**

246. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether the officers of the Company travel on the B.N.R. with free passes to Puri and Ranchi and stay in the B.N.R. hotels there?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Officers of the B.N.R., like officers of other Railways, are entitled to the privilege of free passes and presumably on occasions they make use of them for journeys to Puri and Ranchi.

#### INDIAN CATERING CONTRACTS ON RAILWAYS.

247. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) Which other State-owned Railway in India sells third class Indian catering contracts like the B.N.R.?

(b) How much licence fee is obtained by each of these Railways from the sale of third class Indian catering?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) The Indian catering contracts on the B.N.R. are not sold. Licence fees are however realised. A similar procedure is in force generally on all major Railways.

(b) Government have no information.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Do I understand that the Government have no information if other Railways sell third class Indian catering contracts?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** No. What Government have no information about is the total amount got from licensing. Government do know that other Railways do charge licensing fees.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Will the Honourable Member lay that information on the table?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** It means writing to every Railway in India and I do not think that when you get the information it will be of very much use.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Sir, will the Government be pleased to obtain the information, unless it will involve very much expenditure ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL :** Well, as a special favour to the Honourable Member, I will do so.

**PRICE OF SWEETMEATS SOLD AT RAILWAY STATIONS OF THE B.N.R.**

248. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra) : Will Government be pleased to state whether the Chief Commissioner for Railways ascertained whether prices of sweetmeats sold on platforms of the B.N.R. (a) are higher in price which is obtained in Calcutta ; and (b) the stuff supplied is worse in quality ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL :** (a) I have ascertained that the prices for sweetmeats sold on platforms on the B.N.R. are the same as, or lower than, those charged by high grade caterers in Calcutta, and, except in one instance, are the same as, or only two annas per seer higher than, those charged by low grade caterers.

(b) There is no foundation for the allegation that the sweetmeats provided are inferior in quality.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will the Honourable Member explain what he means by high grade and low grade ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL :** I am not quite sure myself. The B.N.R. have given us a complete list of the rates charged by two Calcutta caterers, one of whom was called a high grade and the other a low grade caterer.

**ORIYA FOOD CONTRACTORS ON THE B.N.R.**

249. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra) : Will Government be pleased to state if any of the seven or eight food contractors on the B.N.R. is an Oriya ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL :** No.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will the Honourable Member say why Oriyas are not given such contracts ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL :** I presume there are no Oriyas who are suitable.

**COMPETITION OF THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R., WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.**

250. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra) : Will Government be pleased to state whether a large number of important merchants dealing in wines, spirits, oilman stores, provisions, medicines, toilet requisites, stationery, hardware, and

aerated water from different districts of Orissa have applied to the Chief Commissioner for Railways, requesting him to remove the grievance of the B.N.R. competition with them? If so, what steps have Government taken to remove the grievance?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** A representation was received in May this year from the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce against the alleged trading activities of the B.N.R. This is at present under consideration of Government.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Will the Honourable Member lay on the table the decision of the Government on this at some future date?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** No, Sir.

**COMPETITION OF THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R., WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.**

251. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce have made a number of representations to the Railway Board against the B.N.R. competition with private commercial enterprise?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Board has never replied to the repeated reminders of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I have given to his immediately preceding question.

(b) The reminders have all been replied to, but for the reason I have given in my reply to the previous question Government are not yet in a position to communicate their final decision in the matter.

**AERATED WATER FACTORY, B.N.R.**

252. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state whether they have arrived at any final decision about the working of the soda water factory by the B.N.R.?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Yes. The decision of Government is that there is no objection to the B.N.R. owning and operating a soda water factory, which is intended primarily to cater to the needs and convenience of those who come in contact with the Railway as passengers or otherwise.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Has the Government considered the legal aspect of this question?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Government have taken legal opinion.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Is it a fact that the Legislative Department holds this to be legal or illegal?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** It is a mere matter of opinion.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Sir, is it a mere matter of opinion what the Legislative Department thinks on this point?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** I do not think they should be asked their departmental opinion on every point.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** If the objection is to the word "opinion" we can change it to the word "decision".

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** You can ask if they have arrived at a decision.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Have the Legislative Department come to any decision and have Government arrived at a decision?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Government have arrived at a decision.

#### ENQUIRY INTO THE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CATERING DEPARTMENT, B.N.R.

253. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Chief Commissioner for Railways gave an undertaking sometime back to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce to enquire into the commercial activities of the B.N.R.?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table an account of what took place when the Chief Commissioner of Railways and the Financial Commissioner met representatives of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce recently?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) Yes.

(b) No. The meeting between the Chief Commissioner and Financial Commissioner and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce concerns only the Railway Board and Members of that Chamber.

#### NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD BY THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

254. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state how many times the Central Advisory Council for Railways was called to meet each year during the last five years?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** 1936, twice; 1935, twice; 1934, once; 1933, twice; 1932, nil.



### FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS, ETC.

255. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to what the functions of the Central Advisory Council for Railways are and when the rules prescribing such functions were framed and when adopted?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The functions of the Central Advisory Council for Railways, as its name implies, are purely advisory. It discusses such important questions of policy as may be placed before it by the Member in charge of Railways. It has not been considered necessary to frame a set of rules in regard to the functions of the Council.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Have the members any power to initiate discussion?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: Any member can send in a question for discussion.

### COMPLAINT BOOKS IN REFRESHMENT ROOMS, B.N.R.

256. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): Will Government be pleased to state in which of the railway stations of the B.N.R. complaint books in which complaints against the railway staff may be stated are kept?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: I understand that the Honourable Member refers to complaints in regard to catering. A complaint book exists at every refreshment room.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: And for other complaints?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: To what other complaints does the Honourable Member refer?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Incivility of the railway staff, etc. We want to know whether there are complaint books at every station. If not, at what stations are there complaint books?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: That does not arise from this question. This is a question about catering.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: There is no reference to catering whatever here.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The Honourable Member is correct. I am sorry I assumed that as every question I have so far answered has had to do with catering, that this also had to do with catering. Normally there is no complaint book, but every member of the travelling public has the right to write to the district officer concerned complaining of whatever he likes.

**LOSS OF INCOME-TAX DUE TO EXEMPTIONS.**

**257. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL:** Will Government be pleased to state the approximate amount of income-tax the Indian treasury is losing by reason of exemption from the tax accorded to income—

(a) Arising from pensions and salaries of Government servants residing out of India ?

(b) Arising from pensions and salaries paid by business concerns in India to persons residing abroad ?

(c) Derived by persons residing out of India by interest from Indian sterling loans ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN:** (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to his question No. 86 on the 30th March, 1937.

**FREIGHT CHARGES ON TOBACCO FROM GUNTUR TO CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY.**

**258. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rate of railway freight on tobacco from Guntur to Bombay and from Guntur to Calcutta ?

(b) If there is a large difference between the two rates, what is the reason for it ?

(c) Have Government received any complaints from persons engaged in such trade or on their behalf ?

(d) What action do Government propose to take to redress the grievance ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) The rates per maund for tobacco (unmanufactured) from Guntur to Bombay is Rs. 2-7-2 and from Guntur to Calcutta Rs. 1-8-7.

(b) The rates to Bombay and Calcutta are both special rates, quoted to meet special conditions of traffic in each case.

(c) Yes.

(d) The quotation of special rates is a question primarily for consideration by Railway Administrations and reference is being made to Railways to consider what action, if any, can be taken in this matter.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLIED FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA.**

**259. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra): (a) Will Government state whether the Government of Orissa have applied for any sort of assistance from the Central Government ?

(b) If so, what is the nature of assistance required ?

(c) To what extent is the Central Government prepared to meet the demands of the Government of Orissa ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN:** (a) No.

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

## INDO-BRITISH TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

260. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: (a) When are the Indo-British trade negotiations expected to conclude?

(b) Is the delay due to the continuation of the Ottawa concessions granted to the United Kingdom imports?

(c) What are the other causes of the delay, if any?

(d) How long are the Ottawa concessions accorded to imports from the United Kingdom proposed to be continued?

(e) What are the guiding principles proposed to be followed in these negotiations?

(f) What are the concessions asked for on behalf of either party?

(g) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the report of their Advisers in respect of these negotiations?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: (a) I wish I knew! The negotiations are in progress but it is not possible at this stage to say when they will be concluded.

(b) and (c). The delay is due to the large number, intricacy and importance of the issues under discussion.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Commerce Department press communique of the 19th October, 1936, copies of which are in the Library.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraphs 28 to 30 of the Report of the Indian Delegation to the Imperial Economic Conference held at Ottawa in 1932, copies of which also are in the Library.

(f) Government are not prepared, during the course of the negotiations to disclose the nature of the proposals put forward by each party.

(g) No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Honourable Member state if they would sign this contract without reference to the Legislature or will they await its decision?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW: No, Sir, I will not state that.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Has the Government of India arrived at any decision on that point or not?

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

## INDO-BRITISH TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN SHIPPING MATTERS.

261. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: (1) Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether it is their policy that the claims of national shipping trade should form an important part of a trade agreement which one country desires to make with another? and

(b) Whether the commercial and shipping interests in India have urged upon them the necessity of securing an adequate share of the Indo-British maritime trade as a part of the Indo-British Trade Agreement now under negotiation?

(2) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they have communicated the claims of the commercial and shipping interests to the Delegation in London and what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : 1 (a). The answer to this must obviously depend on the countries themselves and the nature of the trade agreement in contemplation. The claims of national shipping would hardly, for example, be likely to form an important part of a trade agreement between Switzerland and Czecho-Slovakia.

1 (b) Suggestions have been made to the Government of India that the present Indo-British trade negotiations should be utilised for securing greater opportunities for Indian shipping.

2. The Government of India are not prepared to disclose the nature of their instructions to their delegates, but the Government of India's delegate in London is fully cognisant of the views referred to in part (1) of this question.

#### PREFERENCE ON INDIAN SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

262. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL : Will Government state whether they have instructed their representative, in the course of the trade negotiations with the United Kingdom now going on, to secure for Indian sugar a reduced rate of import duty which has been fixed for colonial sugar?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : Government are not prepared at this stage to disclose the nature of their instructions to the Indian delegation.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is sugar included in that item?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW : Government are not prepared at this stage to disclose the nature of their instructions to the Indian Delegation.

#### INCLUSION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIAN SHIPOWNERS ON THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE.

263. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL : Have Government considered the desirability of including a representative of the Indian shipowners on the Indian Delegation to the International Telegraph Conference to be held in 1938?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW : Yes. Government decided that a representative of Indian shipowners should not be included in the Indian Delegation.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL : Any reason for that?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW :** Yes, Sir, very good reasons.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL :** May we know the reason ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW :** The International Convention which governs representation at this Conference does contemplate representation of certain private interests, but the representatives of those private interests are not included as Government Plenipotentiaries. They are separate, and in any case, the national shipping interests of a country do not appear to fall within the definition of "private enterprises" given by that Convention.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** May we ask if an adviser has been attached to the Government representative ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW :** Yes, certainly ; I think there will be four delegates. I should explain that they are all advisers to the leader of the Delegation in a sense, but naturally must comply with the instructions of the Government.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** Have the delegates been provided with any advisers to represent the Indian point of view ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW :** I trust that all the delegates will represent the Indian point of view.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** May we know the names ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW :** The leader of the Delegation, I think, is Mr. Krishna Prasad. I cannot give the names of the others at the moment.

#### NUMBER OF STUDENTS, THEIR APPOINTMENTS AND SALARIES, ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS WHO HAVE PASSED OUT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN INDIA.

264. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Will Government state the number of qualified students in service at each of the State Railways from each of the Mechanical Engineering Colleges in India during each of the last five years and on what posts and scales of salaries ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL :** The information is not readily available and Government do not consider that the amount of time and labour involved in its collection would be justified by the results.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** As Government have taken steps to find out about the "Dufferin" cadets, cannot they take the same steps to find out about the Mechanical Engineers ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL :** We can find out, but the amount of labour involved is so extensive and the result, I do not think, will justify it.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :** Is that due to any change of Government policy ? You say that it will involve a lot of labour to collect the information ? Whenever I have asked such questions before, the answer has been given. Now the answer is not being given. So, I ask whether this is due to any change of policy in the recruitment of qualified students from the various Mechanical Engineering Colleges in India ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** If the suggestion is that Government want to camouflage the recruitment scheme, the answer is "No".

**SURCHARGE ON COAL.**

**265. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Does Government intend to abolish the surcharge on the carriage of coal? If so, when? If not, why not?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** Government do not see any prospect of abolishing the surcharge on coal as the financial position of Railways is not such as to warrant a sacrifice of the revenue derived from the surcharge.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** I believe there was a promise that when the income of the Railways increases, and as soon as better times come for the Railways, this surcharge will be withdrawn.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The only promise that has ever been made was that when railway earnings come to be on a sound footing, the first general reduction in rates would be with regard to this surcharge.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** - Even now, are the income of the Railways not on a sound footing?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The finances are sound for this year so far; we do not know what is going to happen next year.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Cannot you withdraw the surcharge for this year and review the position for next year?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** No, Sir.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL:** How much will it come to if it is withdrawn?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** We will lose Rs. 64 lakhs.

**NUMBER OF EUROPEANS, ANGLO-INDIANS AND INDIANS EMPLOYED AS FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN IN WORKSHOPS OF STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.**

**266. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government lay on the table of this House a statement showing the number of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians amongst Foremen and Assistant Foremen in Workshops of each of the State-managed Railways during the last five years?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The information available with Government will be found in the classified lists of subordinate staff of all departments on scales of pay rising to Rs. 250 and above of the State-managed Railways, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Is it not a fact that in classified lists Indians include Anglo-Indians and so it is impossible for the Members to find out how many Indians and how many Anglo-Indians are employed?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** I think actually, in the classified lists, you get the men's names. You can pick them out for yourself.

**RECRUITMENT, SALARY AND PROMOTION OF FIREMEN ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.**

**267. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** (a) Will Government lay on the table of this House a copy of the Rules and Regulations for recruitment and scales of salaries, allowances and promotions as regards the literate firemen employed on each of the State Railways?

(b) From what year was such recruitment introduced and during the period ending 31st March, 1935, how many of these firemen were promoted to driver's grade on each of the State Railways?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** (a) Rules for the recruitment and promotion of firemen are contained in the Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Statements showing the revised scales of pay of subordinate staff, including firemen, have also been placed in the Library of the House. As regards allowances to firemen, I am obtaining information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course.

(b) As regards the first part, recruitment under the Rules referred to in paragraph (a) above was introduced in 1931. As regards the second part, Government have no information, and they do not consider that the amount of time and labour involved in its collection would be justified by the results.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Is this House not entitled to get the information as regards the working of this new policy of Government in regard to the employment of literate firemen?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** I think the House is entitled to get any reasonable amount of information they want, but honestly I do not think if they got this information they would be able to deduce anything from it.

**SEA-BORNE COASTAL TRADE OF INDIA CARRIED BY STEAMERS OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES AND SAILING VESSELS.**

**268. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government lay on the table of this House a detailed statement of the sea-borne coastal trade of India carried by (a) British steamers, (b) Indian steamers, (c) foreign steamers, (d) sailing vessels during the last five years?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW:** The available information is contained in the monthly Accounts relating to the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India, copies of which are in the Library.

**ACTION TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SALE OF PURE GHEE.**

**269. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government lay on the table of this House the detailed proceedings and recommendations of the recent Ghee Conference and state what action they intend taking to ensure the sale of pure ghee?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD:** The proceedings of the recent Ghee Conference convened by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser

to the Government of India will be placed in the Library of the House when they have been printed. Arrangements are being made by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser for the opening of grading and marking stations for pure ghee under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937, and funds have already been allotted by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the purpose.

**THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Can I ask how many such stations have so far been opened?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD:** I am afraid I have not the information. I must ask for notice of that question.

**PRINCIPAL RAILWAY STATIONS WHERE PORTERS ARE ENGAGED BY RAILWAY AUTHORITIES AND WHERE OBTAINED THROUGH CONTRACTORS ON THE E.I.R., G.I.P.R. AND N.W.R.**

**270. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the principal railway stations (i) where porters are engaged directly by the Railway authorities; and (ii) where they are obtained through contractors on the E.I.R., G.I.P.R. and N.W.R.?

(b) What are the terms on which the contractors supply porters?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

**REGULATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CONTRACTORS AND PORTERS BY RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS.**

**271. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Do Government regulate the relations between the contractor and the porters? If so, in what way?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** The relations between a contractor and his porters are not regulated by Railway Administrations except in so far as the contractor is required to control his employees to the satisfaction of the Administration.

**PROHIBITION OF THE EXHIBITION OF MOTION PICTURES ON SUNDAYS IN FIJI.**

**272. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Fijian Government has prohibited the showing of motion pictures on Sundays, and that in consequence of this prohibition Indian films cannot be exhibited on Sundays?

(b) Does this prohibition result in depriving Indian labourers, who have a holiday on Sundays only, from having opportunities of going to a cheap Indian entertainment?

(c) What action do Government propose to take in this matter?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD:** (a) and (b). Representations to this effect were made in communications addressed to Government by the Motion Picture Society of India and the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association.



(c) Government understand that the Motion Picture Society have made representations to the Secretary for Indian Affairs, Fiji, and have asked to be furnished with a copy of that officer's reply when received. Meanwhile they are also making enquiries. The question as to whether any action on their part is called for will be determined when the result of these enquiries becomes available.

**ENQUIRY ON COST OF CULTIVATION IN DIFFERENT KINDS OF LANDS AND DIFFERENT MEANS OF IRRIGATION IN VARIOUS PROVINCES.**

**273. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :**

(a) Will Government kindly state what progress has so far been made by the authorities of the Indian Agricultural Research in determining the cost of cultivation in different sort of lands and different means of irrigation, in various provinces of India ? Will it also state on what basis, and on what scales of wages of labour and rates for produce such enquiry is being carried out ?

(b) If such an enquiry has not been completed, when is it likely to be completed and when is the relative report expected to be published ?

(c) Has a sum of about rupees two and a half lakhs been contributed by the Indian Committee towards the cost of such enquiry ; what has been the total cost on such an enquiry so far ?

(d) If such an enquiry has been completed in a certain province or provinces, will Government kindly lay such a report or reports on the table of this House ? If not, why not ?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD :** (a) The collection of primary data from the provinces has been completed and the preparation of a report is in hand. It will give details showing how the scales of wages of labour, rates for produce, etc., have been calculated.

(b) The report is expected to be ready sometime towards the end of this year when it will be considered by a Joint Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Central Cotton Committee. If the Joint Committee so decide it will be published early next year.

(c) The total cost of the enquiry is estimated to be Rs. 5,25,800, which is being borne equally by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

(d) No ; such reports as have been prepared are provisional and moreover their publication will rest with the Joint Committee of Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION AND COST OF THE WAITING ROOM AT QADIAN, N.W.R.**

**274. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** (a) Will Government state—

(i) the date of construction and the cost of a waiting room at Qadian ?

(ii) the number and the cost of 1st and 2nd class tickets issued and collected at Qadian in the years 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 ?

(b) Is there any other terminal branch line station in India (not being a junction) where a waiting room for the 1st and 2nd class passengers has been constructed? If so, which?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: (a) (i) The waiting room was completed in June, 1937 at a cost of Rs. 3,107.

(ii) A statement is placed on the table.

(b) Yes. Simla, Dehra Dun, Kotdwara, Jammu Tawi, etc.

Statement.

Year.	No. (Issued).	Cost of tickets.	No. (collected).	Cost of tickets.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs. as.		
		I Class.		
1934-35 ..	3	6 9	6	} Not available.
1935-36 ..	1	4 5	8	
1936-37 ..	6	123 15	11	
		II Class.		
1934-35 ..	392	1,865 9	424	} Not available.
1935-36 ..	314	1,780 15	488	
1936-37 ..	310	1,103 11	439	

Note.—Column 3 includes the cost of the return halves of return tickets.

LICENCES TAKEN OUT BY THE N.W.R. FOR PLYING MOTOR LORRIES ON THE  
LYALLPUR-JHANG ROAD.

275. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will Government state whether the N.W.R. has secured 10 licences for plying motor vehicles out of 20 licences that the authorities have decided to issue in all on the Lyallpur-Jhang Road in the Punjab? If so, what is the fare that Railway intend to fix and whether petrol or deisel lorries will be used by the Railway? What will be the basis for determining fares?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: The question of the N.W.R. taking out licences for ten motor lorries to ply on the Lyallpur-Jhang Road is under consideration. No decision has yet been taken on the matter and I am unable to state at this stage what fares will be fixed and whether petrol or diesel lorries will be acquired, if the service is undertaken.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Is it not a fact that the N.W.R. has secured the licences for 10 lorries?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** I do not know. They may have had the offer but they have not taken them up.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** The last part of the question has not been answered. What will be the basis for determining the fares?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL:** That will be decided when we decide to take this up. I can assure the Honourable Member it will be on an economic basis.

#### APPOINTMENT OF AN ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

**276. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL:** (a) Whether the Economist to whom the offer has been made for the post of the Economic Adviser has now refused the offer?

(b) If not, how long is the offer open?

(c) What are the qualifications required of a person eligible for the post?

(d) Before making the offer to any other person, do Government propose to consult the Standing Finance Committee in the matter?

(e) When was the offer made and at what time before the answers given in the Council of State on the subject did Government inform the public about this offer?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No time-limit has been fixed for acceptance of the offer.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave in this House on the 20th instant to a similar question by the Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru's supplementary to question No. 127 by the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh, and also to pages 124—26 of the Proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee held on the 11th February, 1937, a copy of which is in the Library.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) It is not customary for Government to make a public announcement of offers of appointments, and there was no reason in this case for making a departure from the usual practice. A definite offer of this appointment was made on 8th September last.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL:** As no time-limit has been fixed will it be open to him for two months more to accept or reject the offer?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW:** The offer will be open for what in the circumstances we consider a reasonable time.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Is a month "reasonable time"?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW:** That would depend entirely on circumstances, knowledge of all of which we may not at present be in possession of.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** What are the qualifications of the gentleman to whom the offer has been made ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. DOW :** That question, Sir, I have already answered.

**LEVY OF MINIMUM CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY BY THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.**

**277. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** (a) Has the New Delhi Municipal Committee fixed a minimum charge for the supply of electrical current in the houses situated within the New Delhi municipal area ?

(b) In computing the minimum watts required in a house have they calculated at the rate of 60 watts for each lighting point and 120 watts for each fan point in a house ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, will they be pleased to state under what section of the Electricity Act the New Delhi Municipality is entitled to fix 60 watts and 120 watts for the purposes of computing the minimum watts required in a house ?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD :** With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 277, 278 and 279 together. Information is being obtained and will be supplied to the House in due course.

**LEVY OF MINIMUM CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY BY THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.**

**278. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMAR SANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :** (a) Are the licencees for the supply of electricity required under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to enter into an agreement with the consumers of electricity before such connections are given in a house ?

(b) In all such agreement forms is the consumer of electricity required to put down the maximum number of watts that he would require in the house before a connection is given to the consumer of electricity ?

(c) In all such agreement forms are the following statements required to be filled by the consumers of electricity before they are given electric connections to their houses :—

Number of lighting points.	Number of points with 20 watts.	Number of points with 30 watts.	Number of points with 60 watts.	Maximum number of watts required.

If so, were the tenants of the A, B, C, D and E type quarters of the New Delhi Government quarters ever asked to give their requirements ? If not,

why not? If so, when was the first agreement made with the tenants and will Government be pleased to state what percentage of tenants gave undertaking to use 60 watts lamps?

(See reply to question No. 277.)

**LEVY OF MINIMUM CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY BY THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.**

**279. THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY :**

(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any licence for the supply of electricity in New Delhi? If so, will they be pleased to place a copy of the agreement on the table of the House? If not, why not?

(b) If there be no agreement, is the electric plant the property of the Government of India? If so, will they be pleased to state whether there was any agreement between Government and the New Delhi Municipality for the supply of electricity to the owners or tenants of the houses in New Delhi as required by the Electricity Act of 1910? If so, will they be pleased to place a copy of such agreement on the table of the House?

(c) In the absence of any such agreement referred to in paragraph XI-A of the Schedule to the Electricity Act, 1910, is the New Delhi Municipality authorised to fix a minimum charge in a manner not specified in any agreement?

(d) Do most of the tenants of A, B, C, D and E type clerks' quarters use the maximum of 30 and 40 watts lamps in their quarters? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons how and why the New Delhi Municipal Committee have computed the minimum watts required in such quarters at a minimum of 60 watts per lighting point?

(See reply to question No. 277.)

**DESIRABILITY OF MAKING RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE AFTER COMPLETION OF 25 YEARS OF QUALIFYING SERVICE THE NORMAL RULE.**

**280. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU :** (a) Will the Government of India examine the question of the desirability of making retirement from public service after completion of 25 years of qualifying service the normal rule, with a view to relieve to some extent unemployment among the educated youngmen who are qualified to enter public service?

(b) Are extensions now given to officers and members of the establishment of the Central Secretariat and attached offices after the completion of the 55th year of their age? If so, in what circumstances and under what condition?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. R. M. MAXWELL :** (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to clauses (a) and (b) of Fundamental Rule 56 which lay down that extensions of service after the age of 55 cannot be granted to officers other than ministerial officers except on public grounds and that ministerial officers may be retired at 55 years of age but should normally be retained in a service till they attain the age of 60. As regards making a change in that rule I would say that proposals of this nature have been considered from time to time and the possible effect on the unemployment question of a change in the rules governing the age of retirement is still under consideration.

**ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN CENTRAL BANKING ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.**

281. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what action has so far been taken on the several recommendations of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee ?

(b) Are there any recommendations of the Committee which are still under the consideration of Government with a view to take action and, if so, what are those recommendations ?

(c) Is the Government of India contemplating legislation to deal with Banking in India, and, if so, when is a Bill on the subject likely to be introduced ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Certain provisions relating to banking have been included in the Indian Companies Act by the Amending Bill which was passed last year. Government do not at present contemplate any further legislation on this subject.

**STATEMENT.**

(A) *Recommendations on which no action by Government is required :—*

10, 39, 82, 89, 99, 109, 110, 112—116, 130—134, 137—139, 143, 144, 147—149, 151, 152, 159, 161, 163, 165, 175, 176, 184, 185, 189, 201, 205, 206.

(B) *Recommendations which are mainly the concern of the Provincial Governments :—*

1—9, 11—12, 19—38, 42—45, 49—81, 83—88, 90, 91, 95—98, 100—108, 117—129, 162, 164, 186, 188, 200, 203, 207—209.

(C) *Recommendations which were considered in connection with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, or which are now mainly the concern of the Reserve Bank :—*

13—18, 46, 135, 136, 140—142, 145, 146, 157, 158, 166—174, 177, 190—199.

(D) *Other recommendations—*

40. In practice remittance for proper co-operative purposes is freely granted.

41. This is actually being done.

47, 48, 92, 93 and 94. Not accepted.

111. Accepted—vide paragraph 150-A of the Public Works Account Code.

135 and 136. Not accepted.

154. The provisions of section 58 (f) of the Transfer of Property Act have been extended to certain towns in Madras, Bengal and the United Provinces.

155. Section 85 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, has been suitably amended.

156. Not accepted.

160. Provincial Governments have been consulted.

178. The limit has been raised to Rs. 5,000.

179(b). Accepted.

179(a) and (c) and 180. Not accepted.

181 and 182. No action can be taken at present as it is not possible to consider the issue of savings certificates payable in gold until the rupee has been stabilised in terms of gold.

183. Not accepted.

187. Provisions to this effect have been included in the Insurance Bill.

202. The Midland Bank, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China and Barclay's Bank have expressed their willingness to consider applications for higher banking training.

204. The Indian Institute of Bankers, Bombay, have agreed to co-operate in the matter of vernacular banking education and lectures in co-operative banking.

ACQUISITION OF THE GRAND HOTEL, SIMLA, FOR THE USE OF THE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

282. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Do Government intend to acquire the Grand Hotel in Simla for the use of the Federal Legislative Assembly when constituted?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. G. CLOW: No such proposal is under consideration of Government.

PROHIBITION OF THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AT RAILWAY STATIONS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS DISTINGUISHED FROM *bona fide* TRAVELLERS.

283. THE HONOURABLE MR. RAMADAS PANTULU: Do the Government of India propose to consider the desirability of prohibiting the sale of alcoholic drinks on Railway station platforms to the general public as distinguished from *bona fide* travellers?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL: It is not considered feasible to prohibit the sale of alcoholic drinks to the general public as distinguished from *bona fide* travellers, if only on account of the difficulty Refreshment Room waiters would have in making the distinction.

EXPULSION OF MR. KODANDA RAO BY THE AUTHORITIES OF FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

284. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: (a) Are Government aware that Mr. P. Kodanda Rao informed the Governor General of French Indo-China of his intentions to visit Saigon with a view to studying the conditions of Indians therein and, that the Director of the Central Tourist Bureau acknowledged Mr. Kodanda Rao's letter to the Governor General, and welcomed the prospect of his visit and offered facilities for his investigation, but when he was actually on his way to Saigon, after previous notice to the authorities, he was not allowed to proceed to Saigon but turned back from Phom Penh?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have made any inquiries into the matter, and, if so, what is the result of such inquiries?

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The expulsion was apparently due to some misunderstanding on the part of the French authorities.

Sir, I may amplify this answer. I very much regret the inconvenience caused to Mr. Kodanda Rao and I can assure my Honourable friends opposite that we have taken steps to see that much misunderstandings do not occur in the future.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: May I ask whether the Government of India have inquired how this misunderstanding arose? Mr. Kodanda Rao sent a copy of his letter of introduction which he received from the Government of India to the Private Secretary to the French Governor General and subsequently received a very cordial reply from the Director of the Tourist Bureau. What happened then to create the misunderstanding?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD :** Sir, it is perfectly correct to say that Mr. Kodanda Rao did write to the Private Secretary to the Governor and that the letter was then forwarded to the Director of the Tourist Bureau, who, in December I believe, replied to Mr. Kodanda Rao. I think this misunderstanding occurred in May and from the information that we have I gather that the French Government did not regard the credentials of Mr. Kodanda Rao as sufficient, because no information was sent direct from the Government of India to the French Government that Mr. Kodanda Rao was likely to visit Saigon, and the reason for that was that before Mr. Kodanda Rao started on his itinerary he had given the Government of India no information that he was going to Indo-China. He had a general letter of introduction and I gather that he sent a typed copy of that letter to the French Government and I understand that that was not regarded as enough. As I told my Honourable friend, we shall see that in future this sort of misunderstanding does not occur.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** Was not the copy of the letter sent by Mr. Kodanda Rao regarded as sufficient in the first instance by the Government of Indo-China ?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD :** As I say, Sir, the reply was from the Director of the Tourist Bureau. Mr. Kodanda Rao did not get any reply to the first letter from the Government, but only from the Tourist Bureau in December and subsequently the French Government did not regard the copy as sufficient. That was the view they took.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** Is my Honourable friend aware that Mr. Kodanda Rao's letter was forwarded to the Director of the Tourist Bureau by the Governor General of Indo-China ?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD :** I said it is perfectly true that the letter was sent to the Director, but the reply was from the Director. I cannot say whether the reply of the Director of the Tourist Bureau can be taken as the reply from the Government of French Indo-China. As I said, this happened in December and Mr. Kodanda Rao went there in May.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** Is it not clear that the Governor General had in the first instance no objection to Mr. Kodanda Rao's visit to Saigon ?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD :** That is a possible interpretation. On the other hand, it is quite likely that the French Government merely sent the letter to the Tourist Bureau and the Director replied on his own. Both interpretations are possible. Subsequent enquiry shows that the French Government did not regard the copy of the letter from the Foreign Secretary as a sufficient introduction.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU :** Have the Government made enquiries and obtained any definite information from the Government of Indo-China or not ?

**THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD :** We have had replies from the Consul General. What I am stating is based on the reports that the Foreign Office in England received from the British Consul General



of which copies were received by the Government of India, and, as I said, the French Government did not consider that a copy of the letter which was given to Mr. Kodanda Rao by the Foreign Department here was a sufficient credential. As I have said, we are taking steps to see that this sort of thing does not recur. I hope that will satisfy my Honourable friend.

### INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

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.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN (Finance Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 123 asked by the Honourable Mr. Abdur Razzak Hajee Abdus Sattar on the 20th September, 1937.

#### Statement.

Name of Office.	(a) No. of posts carrying pay		(b) No. of Muslims employed on salaries		(c)	(d)
	Up to Rs. 100.	Above Rs. 100.	Up to Rs. 100.	Above Rs. 100.		
(i) Collector of Customs, Calcutta (Calcutta and Chittagong Custom Houses) ..	93	719	47	102	Yes.	Usually not advertised.
(ii) Accountant General, Bengal .. .. .	54	573	15	65	Yes.	Do.
(iii) Controller of the Currency (including Mints at Calcutta and Bombay) .. .. .	16	129	1*	1*	Yes.	Yes.

\* The majority of the posts in the Mints require high technical qualifications and they have been excluded from the scope of the orders regarding communal representation in the Services.

### NAMES, CONSTITUENCIES, AND AMOUNTS OF ELECTION EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION, 1936.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. DEC. WILLIAMS (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to question No. 206 asked by the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam on the 29th September, 1937.

*Statement showing names, constituencies and amounts of election expenses of candidates for election to the Council of State at the general election, 1936.*

Name of candidate.	Constituency.	Amount of election expenses lodged with the Returning Officer.
		Rs. A. P.
Rao Bahadur K. Govindachari (Elected)	Madras (Non-Muham- madan).	1,185 9 6 Incurred disqualifica- tions (Removed).
Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas (Elected) ..	Ditto ..	10,394 4 0
Mr. M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettiyar (Elected).	Ditto ..	8,125 3 10
Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu (Elected) ..	Ditto ..	5,748 8 9
M. R. Ry. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar ..	Ditto ..	Nil. (Withdrew his candidature).
Saiyed Mohd. Padshah Sahib Bahadur (Elected).	Madras (Muhammadan)	454 8 3
Moulvi Hafiz A. M. Ahmed Miran Sahib Bahadur.	Ditto ..	271 8 0 Incurred disqualifica- tions (Removed).
Mr. Govindlal Shivlal Motilal (Elected) ..	Bombay (Non-Muham- madan).	11,230 4 4
Mr. Maneckji Nadirshaw Dalal ..	Ditto ..	10,605 12 0
Mr. Nowroji Maneckji Dumasia ..	Ditto ..	5,476 12 0
Sir Phiroze C. Sethna, Kt., O.B.E. (Elected)	Ditto ..	1,168 10 9
Sir Prabhashankar D. Pattani, K.C.I.E. (Elected).	Ditto ..	9,044 14 4
Mr. Shantidas Askuran .. ..	Ditto ..	7,477 9 9
Sir Suleman Cassum Haji Mitha, Kt., C.I.E. (Elected).	Bombay Presidency (Mu- hammadan).	557 8 6
Khan Bahadur Alli Baksh Muhd. Hussain (Elected).	Sind (Muhammadan) ..	2,150 11 3
Mr. Khuda Baksh Nabi Baksh Kazi ..	Ditto ..	553 0 6
Khan Sahib Allah Baksh Khudadad Khan Gabol.	Ditto ..	258 7 0
Mr. R. H. Parker (Elected) ..	Bombay Chamber of Commerce.	Nil.
Mr. Kumarsankar Ray Choudhury (Elected).	East Bengal (Non- Muhammadan).	2,177 7 9

Name of candidate.	Constituency.	Amount of election expenses lodged with the Returning Officer.
		Rs. A. P.
Mr. Jagadiah Chandra Banerjee ..	East Bengal (Non-Muhammadan).	1,117 3 6
Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha (Elected).	West Bengal (Non-Muhammadan).	1,674 3 6
Mr. Biren Roy .. ..	Ditto ..	607 15 0
Mr. Binode Gopal Mukharjee .. ..	Ditto ..	2,848 0 0
Mr. S. C. Ghosh Maulik .. ..	Ditto ..	2,829 2 9
Mr. Surpat Singh .. ..	Ditto ..	2,873 4 9
Mr. J. C. Banerjee (Elected) .. ..	Ditto ..	5,568 6 6 (Deceased).
Mr. S. K. Roy Choudhury .. ..	Ditto ..	433 13 6
Mr. Satyendra Nath Sen .. ..	Ditto ..	70 12 6 Incurred disqualifications (Removed).
Khan Bahadur Ihtisham Hyder Chaudhury (Elected).	East Bengal (Muhammadan).	583 11 3
Mr. Abdul Razak Hajee Abdool Sattar (Elected).	West Bengal (Muhammadan).	1,160 15 3
Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy .. ..	Ditto ..	571 2 0
Mr. C. G. Arthur (Elected) .. ..	Bengal Chamber of Commerce.	Nil.
Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh (Elected) ..	United Provinces Central (Non-Muhammadan).	24,342 5 4
Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Merhrotra.	Ditto ..	1,980 12 6
Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzra (Elected) ..	United Provinces Northern (Non-Muhammadan).	1,145 13 9
Mr. Girdhari Lal .. ..	Ditto ..	1,860 0 0
Mr. Sahy Durga Saran .. ..	Ditto ..	954 4 0
Mr. P. N. Sapru (Elected) .. ..	United Provinces Southern (Non-Muhammadan).	1,029 6 0
Haji Muhammad Hamein (Elected) ..	United Provinces West (Muhammadan).	520 14 0
Khan Bahadur Hafiz Muhammad Hakim ..	Ditto ..	52 12 0

Name of candidate.	Constituency.	Amount of election expenses lodged with the Returning Officer.
		Rs. A. P.
Kunwar Haji Ismail Ali khan, O.B.E. ..	United Provinces West (Muhammadan).	48 14 6
Khan Sahib Shaikh Rashiduddin ..	Ditto ..	6 0 0
Shaikh Mushir Hossain Kidwai (Elected)	United Provinces East (Muhammadan).	Nil.
Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, C.I.E. (Elected).	Punjab (Non-Muhammadan).	259 8 6
Dr. Nand Lal, Bar-at-Law .. ..	Ditto ..	146 4 9
Sardar Buta Singh (Elected) .. ..	Punjab (Sikh) ..	623 11 9
Sardar Rajendar Singh .. ..	Ditto ..	594 12 6
Chaudhri Ata Ullah Khan (Elected) ..	East and West Punjab (Muhammadan).	5 9 0
Lieutenant Najibullah Khan ..	Ditto ..	14 14 0
Chaudhuri Ferozaddin .. ..	Ditto ..	5 2 0
Rai Bahadur Kasi Nath Singh .. ..	Bihar (Non-Muhammadan).	145 1 3
Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E., of Darbhanga (Elected).	Ditto ..	46,139 14 0
Mr. Nagendranath Rakshit .. ..	Ditto ..	3,194 11 9
Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha (Elected)	Ditto ..	5,570 7 3
Raja Sir Raghunandan Prashad Singh, Kt.	Ditto ..	15,127 7 0 Incurred disqualifications (Removed).
Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra (Elected)	Orissa (Non-Muhammadan).	1,737 0 0
Diwan Bahadur Srikrishna Mahapatra ..	Ditto ..	1,041 4 0
Mr. Hossain Imam (Elected) .. ..	Bihar and Orissa (Muhammadan).	4,047 1 3
Shah Muhammadan Naimatullah ..	Ditto ..	1,615 13 0
Mr. V. V. Kalikar (Elected) .. ..	Central Provinces (General).	3,028 1 9
Mr. N. K. Kelkar .. ..	Ditto ..	1,090 11 9 Incurred disqualifications (Removed).
Mr. Brijlal Nandlal Biyani (Elected)	Berar (General) ..	4,106 6 9

Name of candidate.	Constituency.	Amount of election expenses lodged with the Returning Officer.
		Rs. A. P.
Mr. Shankar Govind Jég .. ..	Berar (General) ..	Nil.
Mr. Yedao Mahdao Kale .. ..	Ditto ..	Nil.
Mr. Narayan Pralhad Hirurkar .. ..	Ditto ..	1,149 8 8
Mr. Pandurang Vyankatach Desmukh .. ..	Ditto ..	14 15 0
Maulvi Ali Asgar Khan (Elected) .. ..	Assam (Muhammadan)	1,372 13 9
Maulvi Dewan Abdul Matin Chaudhury .. ..	Ditto ..	754 10 0
Maulvi Abdul Majid Chaudhury .. ..	Ditto ..	42 0 0

### 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 consolidate and amend the law relating to the business of insurance which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 2nd October, 1937.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. DEC. WILLIAMS (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, owing to the very large number of amendments which have been made in the Bill which has just been laid on the table, it has been impossible to supply Honourable Members with printed copies of the Bill today. We hope to get printed copies on Friday, but anyhow as soon as we get them from the press, they will be posted to Honourable Members.

### INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN (Finance Secretary): Sir, I move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

This Bill, Sir, is of a very simple character and its nature is, I think, fully explained by the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Briefly the position is that under section 11 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, when a duty specified for any article in the First Schedule is characterised as protected in the Third Column of that Schedule the duty only has effect up to the date, if any, specified in the seventh column of that Schedule. Well, the duty on wheat and wheat flour had effect up to the 31st of March, 1937, and as no proposal for extension was put forward the duty lapsed with effect from the 1st of April. It lapsed, that is to say, as a protective duty. Then what happens? What is the

position ? We intended and understood that the effect of the non-continuance of the special protective duty on wheat would be that wheat would relapse into item 10 which covers various grains and would become free on import and that wheat flour would relapse into item 11 which is flour, not otherwise specified, and would become liable to a revenue duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. Now, the view has been put forward, and as a matter of fact it was acted on by the Government of Burma, that that was not the effect and that although the column which contained the protective duty ceased to contain any figure with effect from the 1st April against these items, these items continue in the first and second columns and therefore these commodities continue to be specified and as they were specified they could not be included in items which say "not otherwise specified." It is in order to remove this doubt that we will now exclude from the tariff the entries in the first and second columns, so that these articles being no longer otherwise specified will go back to their natural homes in the inclusive items which formerly contained them. I am sorry that is not very limpid, but it is a somewhat complicated technical proceeding.

Sir, I move.

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

## INDIAN SECURITIES (AMENDMENT ) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Securities Act, 1920, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

This Bill, Sir, is also of a simple character and it is not even complicated by technicalities. Here the position is quite simple, that we intend to abolish the post of Controller of Currency. But the Controller of Currency has been performing certain functions under the Indian Securities Act in connection with the management of the public debt, with the renewal, conversion, consolidation and other processes connected with the Government securities. On the abolition of his post, it is necessary to prescribe a suitable agency to continue to perform these functions which are, of course, of great importance from the point of view of the public and the holders of Government securities. It has been decided that the Reserve Bank of India is the most suitable agent to perform these functions and the effect of this simple Bill is to substitute for the word "officer" in certain places the word "authority" and consequentially to substitute for the word "him" in certain other places the word "it".

Sir, I move.

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**THE HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY** (East Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, on a point of information. May I ask how the substitution of the word " authority " for the word " officer " brings in Reserve Bank ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN** : The substitution of the word " authority " does not by itself bring in the Reserve Bank, but the phrase used in these various sections of the Act is " the prescribed officer ". On the substitution of the word " authority " for " officer ", it will be open to the Government to prescribe the Reserve Bank as the authority to carry out these functions.

**THE HONOURABLE RAO BAHADUR SIR A. P. PATRO** (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : May I ask the Honourable Mover whether the functions transferred from the Controller of Currency to the Reserve Bank will continue to be controlled by the Government of India ? If so, in what manner will such control continue ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN** : In these matters, Sir, the prescribed officer or authority will still remain the agent of Government and will therefore be under the general direction of Government and it is clearly understood that in cases other than routine cases, i.e., cases which raise matters of policy or principle, the Bank will ascertain the views of Government.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT** : The Question is :

" That the Bill further to amend the Indian Securities Act, 1920, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. A. J. RAISMAN** : Sir, I move :

" That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT** : Honourable Members, this concludes the work of this session. His Excellency the Governor General has issued a Notification which I shall read to you :

" No. F. 114-III/37-C. & G.—With reference to Notification No. F. 114-II/37-C. & G., dated the 16th June 1937, His Excellency the Governor General, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (2) of section 63D of the Government of India Act as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, is pleased to direct that the session of the Council of State which commenced at Simla on Monday, the 13th September, 1937, shall be continued in New Delhi."

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 15th November, 1937, in New Delhi.