

7th March 1939

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

Volume II, 1939

(16th February to 13th March, 1939)

NINTH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1939



PUBLISHED BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI.
PRINTED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

1939

9—10

Legislative Assembly.

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11—12

CONTENTS.

VOLUME VII.—16th February to 13th March, 1939.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
THURSDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1939—		SATURDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1939—<i>contd.</i>	
Member Sworn	997	The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1119
Starred Questions and Answers	997—1027	The Reciprocity Bill—Introduced	1120
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1027—29	The Indian Salt (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1120
Message from the Council of State	1029	The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Motion for leave to introduce negatived	1120
The Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1029	The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1120—21
The Railway Budget—General Discussion	1029—77	The Usurious Loans (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1121
SATURDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1939—		The Indian States (Protection against Disaffection) Amendment Bill—Introduced	1121
Starred Questions and Answers	1079—	The Overseas Indians Reciprocity Bill—Introduced	1121
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Restrictions on Indians by the Government of the Union of South Africa—Buled out of order	1106—10	The Indian Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1122
The Coal Mines (Stowing) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1110	The Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Amendment) Bill—[Amendment of subsection 3 (1) and 3 (3)]—Introduced	1122
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—(Amendment of section 205)—Referred to Select Committee	1110—16	The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1122
The Hindu Women's Rights to Divorce Bill—Postponed	1116—18	The Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1122—23
The Abolition of Whipping Bill—Introduced	1118	The Provincial Insolvency (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1123
The Muslim Personal Law (<i>Shariat</i>) Application (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1119	The Presidency towns Insolvency (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1123
The Foreigners (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1119		
The Control of Coastal Traffic of India Bill—Introduced	1119		

PAGES.		PAGES.	
MONDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1939—		WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1939—contd.	
Starred Questions and Answers	1125—63	The Railway Budget—List of Demands—	
The Insurance (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1163	Demand No. 1—Railway Board	1316—63
The Railway Budget—List of Demands—		Inadequate representation of Muslims in Railway services	1316—51
Demand No. 1—Railway Board	1164—1207	Detailed Administration and Policy of the Railway Board	1351—63
Long-range Policy regarding Railway Finance	1164—91		
Indianisation of higher services in Railways	1191—1207		
Demand No. 6B—Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power	1207—12		
Manufacture of Locomotives in India	1208—12		
TUESDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1939—		THURSDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1939—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1213—40	Death of His Excellency Lord Brabourne, Governor of Bengal	1365—66
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1241—42		
The Railway Budget—List of Demands—			
Demand No. 6B—Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power	1242—49		
Manufacture of Locomotives in India	1242—49		
Demand No. 1—Railway Board	1249—88		
Amenities of Third Class Passengers	1249—62		
Rate and Freight Policy	1262—76		
Reduction in Salaries	1276—88		
WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1939—		FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1939—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1289—1314	Member Sworn	1367
Unstarred Question and Answer	1315	Starred Questions and Answers	1367—92
Motion for Adjournment re Detention without trial of Messrs. Vaishampain, Jawala Prasad and Bhawani Sahai—Disallowed	1316	Short Notice Questions and Answers	1393—96
		Unstarred Questions and Answers	1396—97
		Transferred Questions and Answers	1397—1424
		Motion for Adjournment re Rejection of the Delhi Municipal Committee's Application for a Distributing Licence under the Indian Electricity Act—Leave to move granted	1424—27
		The Railway Budget—List of Demands—	
		Demand No. 3—Miscellaneous Expenditure	1427—45
		Provisions re Enquiry into Accidents	1427—45
		Demand No. 1—Railway Board	1445—66
		Railwaymen's Grievances Economy	1445—63
		Demand No. 2—Audit	1463—66
		Demand No. 3—Miscellaneous Expenditure	1467
		Demand No. 5—Payments to Indian States and Companies	1467
		Demand No. 6A—Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works	1467

	PAGE.
FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1939—contd.	
The Railway Budget—List of Demands—contd.	
Demand No. 6-B—Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power	1467
Demand No. 6-C—Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock	1467
Demand No. 6-D—Working Expenses—Maintenance and Working of Ferry Steamers and Harbours	1468
Demand No. 6-E—Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department	1468
Demand No. 6-F—Working Expenses—Expenses of General Department	1468
Demand No. 6-G—Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses	1468
Demand No. 6-H—Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department	1468
Demand No. 7—Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund	1469
Demand No. 8—Interest Charges	1469
Demand No. 11—New Construction	1469
Demand No. 12—Open Line Works	1469
MONDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1939—	
Member Sworn	1471
Starred Questions and Answers	1471—99
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1500
Statements laid on the Table	1501—11
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Labour Department	1512, 1567
The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1512
The Chittagong Port (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1513
The Indian Rubber Control (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1513

	PAGE.
MONDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1939—contd.	
The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1513
The Standards of Weight Bill—Passed as amended	1513—21
The Indian Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill—Passed	1522—23
The Insurance (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	1523—29
The Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	1529—49
The Coal Mines (Stowing) Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1550—54
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Rejection of the Delhi Municipal Committee's Application for a distributing Licence under the Indian Electricity Act—Negatived	1554—67
TUESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1939—	
Transferred Questions and Answers	1569—92
Presentation of the General Budget for 1939-40	1592—1603
The Indian Finance Bill—Introduced	1603
TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1939—	
Members Sworn	1605
Starred Questions and Answers	1605—38
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1639
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Grant of complete Independence to Palestine—Ruled out of order	1640
Position of Indian Nationals in Kenya—Adopted	1640, 1677—93
General Discussion of the General Budget	1640—77
Statement of Business	1693
WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1939—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1695—1743

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 7th March, 1939.

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

MEMBERS SWORN.

- Mr. Mead Slade, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);
- Mr. James Snelson Hardman, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and
- Mr. Kshinath Yashwant Bhandarkar, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

REPORT OF MR. J. D. TYSON ON THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF INDIANS IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

795. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mr. J. D. Tyson has finished his investigation of the economic condition of Indians in the British West Indies;
- (b) whether he has found out how many of the 25,000 Indians there desire repatriation, and when his report will be available to the Government of India; and
- (c) whether the report will be placed on the table of this House?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The object of Mr. Tyson's deputation to the West Indies is stated in a Press Communiqué dated the 17th October, 1938, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Mr. Tyson's work in the West Indies has not yet concluded.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the number of ex-indentured Indians wishing to be repatriated from Jamaica: Mr. Tyson estimates this number at 1,200.

(c) Government will consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Mr. La'chand Navalrai: What is the objection to repatriating them?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Who is to support them when they come back?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Government might do something to support them. Will the Honourable Member at least take that question into consideration and come to some settlement about it?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: We have considered that question before.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What about the Government of the Colony concerned?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of the Colony concerned has no responsibility for supporting people who choose to come away from the Colony to this country.

PROHIBITION OF ILLICIT EMIGRATION.

796. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the remark in the annual report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act in 1937 at Bombay that the difficulty in the control of illicit emigration is due largely to the passport and passenger brokers who book passages, obtain passports and assist emigrants leaving India without complying with the requirements of the Indian Emigration Act;
- (b) whether Government propose to examine this question and take steps to see that illicit emigration is prohibited completely in Bombay, as well as in other ports; and
- (c) whether the Government of India propose to take steps to procure the fullest co-operation of the Provincial Governments in this behalf?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a)—(c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to reply given by me on the 24th February, 1939, to Seth Govind Das's starred question No. 684.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (a) of the question, may I know whether these passport and passenger brokers do exist, and what are the checks imposed by the Government on their activities?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Passport brokers do exist and it is because we wish to check their activities that we are contemplating the issue of rules governing the trade in these passports.

NON-REPRESENTATION OF INDIANS ON THE BOARD TO ADVISE ON IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS IN KENYA.

797. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Kenya propose to establish a Board under the chairmanship of the Commissioner of Land and Settlement, for the purpose of advising the Commissioner of Police on such matters as may be referred to it, for immigration into Kenya;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is no mention of Indian representation on the Board, and the Indian community is completely in the dark about its scope and functions;

- (c) whether the functions of the Board include, or it is proposed that they should include, Jewish and Indian immigration; and
- (d) whether the Government of India have taken up, or will take up, this matter with the Government of Kenya or with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and press on them that in the constitution of such a Board there should be effective and adequate Indian representation on the Board to protect Indian interests?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) to (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 8th February, 1939, to Mr. K. Santhanam's starred question No. 209.

(d) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 4th February, 1939, to part (d) of Seth Govind Das's starred question No. 56.

INDEBTEDNESS OF CANE-GROWERS IN FIJI.

798. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the report of Sir Frank Stockdale, Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who visited Fiji recently and who states in his report that cane-growers are severely handicapped by their serious indebtedness and the prevailing high rates of interest charged by moneylenders from the Punjab in the Colony; and
- (b) whether Government propose to take any steps in the matter and, if so, what steps?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 16th February, 1939, to parts (a) and (b) of Seth Govind Das's starred question No. 452.

INDIANS IN JAMAICA.

799. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of Mr. S. Satyamurti): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians in Jamaica;
- (b) whether the Government of that country are following a policy of repatriating Indians;
- (c) whether the Government of India are pressing upon that Government that, instead of being repatriated, these Indians should be enabled to settle on land there, free land being granted to them; and
- (d) what the result of the representation is?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The Indian population was estimated at 18,669, on the 31st December, 1936.

(b) Not so far as Government are aware.

(c) and (d). There are now no Indians in Jamaica eligible for assisted repatriation under the Immigration Law, but Government understand that some Indians have applied to the Colonial Government for facilities for repatriation. The question of making representations in the matter is under consideration.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What about the second part of part (c) of the question—the grant of lands to such people as desire to stay on in the Colony?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is the point which Mr. Tyson is including in the representation to the West Indies Commission.

COMPENSATION TO INDIANS FOR LOSSES IN THE BURMA RIOTS.

800. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state—

- (a) whether the Burma Riot Enquiry Committee has published any *interim* report;
- (b) whether they have assessed the losses suffered by Indians during the recent racial riots in Burma; if so, what is their valuation;
- (c) whether the Government of Burma have come to any decision on the question of compensating Indians; if so, the nature thereof; and
- (d) what steps the Indian Government have taken to obtain compensation for Indian victims of the riots?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 13th February, 1939, to Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta's starred question No. 328 and the supplementaries thereto.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know why in this *interim* report the question of the estimate of losses suffered by Indian settlers in Burma was not considered?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I believe that the Commission has not yet completed examination of all the evidence on the subject: that is the reason why.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Government of India have received information on this point from some other source—from their Agent or from any representative body of Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No. I have not received any representation or information from any source as to the reason why the *interim* report does not make any mention of the amount of losses suffered.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know how long it will be before the Government of India know or come to assess the loss suffered by Indians in these almost chronic riots which are taking place there?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I informed the House in reply to one of the supplementaries asked on the 13th of February that we were told by the Government of Burma that report of the Braund Committee was expected some time by the end of February or the beginning of this month.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Have Government got any information from any other source about the losses sustained by the Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already informed the House that according to my recollection, in a memorandum which has been presented on behalf of the Indian community to the Braund Committee, the loss has been estimated at something like Rs. 60 lakhs.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have secured the acknowledgment of the principle from the Burma Government that compensation would be given to the Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Not yet, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Government of India will issue a communiqué if and when they receive the correct information about the losses suffered by Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Only the amount or the question of compensation as well?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Not only the amount, but whether the Government of Burma agree or disagree with the suggestion for compensating Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I shall certainly consider my Honourable friend's suggestion.

INDIANS LEAVING BURMA ON ACCOUNT OF RIOTS.

801. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

- (a) the total number of Indians who had to leave Burma on account of the riots there; and
- (b) how many of them have since returned?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Approximately 11,000 persons were assisted to return to India.

(b) The information is not available.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What is the condition of these riots in Burma?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Only the other day we had a press note issued on the subject. Unfortunately the rioting in Rangoon now is not between Burmans and Indians, but between Hindus and Muslims.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: What are the causes of this riot? Have Government received any information?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I was informed by the Government of Burma that the riots arose out of a private quarrel between a Gurkha and a Muhammadan woman, and then presumably communal feelings just flamed up and there was trouble all over.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: And the Hindus sided with the Gurkhas who are not Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is a question which the Hindus alone could answer: I cannot.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have the Government of Burma taken any steps to see that these riots on account of Hindu Muslim friction come to a settlement?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: They have taken such action as presumably is open to them.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any committee appointed to intercede?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not think that the Government of Burma have appointed a committee, but I have seen press reports to the effect that the leaders of the two communities have constituted a committee of their own.

INDIANS IN BURMA.

802. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

- (a) the latest figures about the number of Indians in Burma; and
- (b) the number of Indians who entered Burma in the years 1936, 1937 and 1938, respectively?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Latest figures are not available but Government understand that the Indian population is a little over one million.

(b) 219,000, 199,000 and 189,000 Indians entered Burma during the years ending August 1935-36, 1936-37 and 1937-38 respectively.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (b) of this question, may I know whether the Government of India can inform this House as to the reason why these numbers are going down year after year?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not think there has been what might be called a constant figure of immigration into Burma over a period of years at all. I think it depends very much on the extent of employment that is available in Burma.

MUNICIPALITIES AND CANTONMENT BOARDS POSSESSING FIRE BRIGADES IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

803. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of municipalities and Cantonment Boards possessing fire brigades in the centrally administered territories;

- (b) whether there are any Government officers to supervise different fire brigades and co-ordinate the resources of different Boards suffering from paucity of funds by getting suitable fire brigades stationed at central places for a suitable number of areas; and
- (c) whether menial staffs of different Boards are being given any training in suppressing fire and incendiarism through fire brigades and other fire extinguishers?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Fire brigades exist in two municipalities in the Delhi Province, in one municipality in Baluchistan, and in three cantonments. The Delhi fire brigades are available to other local bodies in the Province on payment of prescribed charges.

(b) No.

(c) No, only the fire brigade staff is trained.

PROPOSAL TO LICENSE BEGGARS IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

804. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for Municipalities, District and Cantonment Boards, of the centrally administered territories to license beggars under certain restrictions; and
- (b) if so, how far this proposal has matured?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Not so far as Government are aware

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Don't Government consider it desirable to license beggars from the point of view of public health?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That, Sir, seems to me to be asking for an expression of opinion.

EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL FEES OF THE CHILDREN OF AGRICULTURISTS IN DELHI PROVINCE.

805. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the sons of notified agriculturists paying land revenue between Rs. 200 and 250 every year are in the enjoyment of full or half fee concessions in primary and middle departments of Government-subsidized, District Board Vernacular schools of the Province of Delhi; and
- (b) if so, what the limits of land revenue are for exemptions from school fees in the case of children of notified agriculturists in these schools?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) No.

(b) Children of notified agriculturists are exempt from the payment of fees in primary classes of all recognised schools and are required to pay

only half fees in secondary classes of Government and Board Anglo-Vernacular Schools or Government Intermediate Colleges as also in the English classes of Government or Board Vernacular Middle Schools, provided that their parents pay less than Rs. 50 per annum as land revenue.

AGRICULTURIST ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DELHI DISTRICT BOARD.

806. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that statutory agriculturists number more at present than non-agriculturists among elected members of the District Board, Delhi; and
- (b) if so, whether the balance between representatives of different interests is being maintained by nominations?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). All the present members of the Delhi District Board who have been elected or appointed by name are statutory agriculturists, but they do, in fact, represent a variety of professions and interests.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Is it not the policy of the Central Government to make up by nomination for the deficiency of representation of any interests in these Boards?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, I have already informed the House that although the members may belong to the class of statutory agriculturists, they do represent a variety of interests and professions.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that statutory agriculturists also represent the interest of non-agriculturists?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Well, Sir, if they happen to be something else professionally, it may be assumed and presumed that they do represent those interests as well.

SUGAR-CANE CRUSHED IN FACTORIES, ETC.

807. *Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the quantity of sugar-cane crushed in sugar factories, the quantity used for the manufacture of *gur*, the quantity of cane used for khandsari, and for chewing and planting, etc., since 1934-35 to 1937-38, along with official estimate and the total cane crop for each of these years?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the utilisation of cane crop in India.

Year.	Cane used in factories.		Cane equivalent of gur used in refineries.		Cane used for gur manufacture.	
	Quantity to the nearest 1,000 tons.	Per cent.	Quantity to the nearest 1,000 tons.	Per cent.	Tons.	Per cent.
Nov./Oct.—						
1935-36	9,802,000	16.0	875,000	1.4	39,018,000	63.8
1936-37	11,874,000	17.6	316,000	0.5	43,723,000	64.9
1937-38	*9,916,000	*17.8	278,000	0.5	34,481,000	62.0

Year.	Cane used for chewing, setts and khandsari sugar.		Total cane crop.	
	Tons.	Per cent.	Tons.	Per cent.
1935-36	11,507,900	18.8	61,202,000	100
1936-37	11,409,000	16.9	67,322,000	100
1937-38	10,962,000	19.7	*55,637,000	*100

*Excluding Burma.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF GUR.

808. *Setn Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the gur production and consumption during the last four years, showing the average price of gur and the quantity of cane consumed for the manufacture of gur?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Information, as far as available, is given in the statements placed on the table of the House.

I.—Production of gur.

Year.	Calculated net production of gur. Tons.
1934-35	3,701,000
1935-36	4,101,000
1936-37	4,268,000 (revised).
1937-38	3,364,000

Figures for net production of gur are calculated from the figures for total yield of gur in the 'Final General Memorandum' each year allowing for the

gur equivalent of cane used for other purposes. As regards consumption, it may be pointed out that whatever *gur* is produced in the country is available for consumption, the export and import of *gur* being negligible. As regards the quantity of cane consumed for the manufacture of *gur* the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement laid on the table in reply to his starred question No. 807.

II.—Average price of *gur* per maund.

<i>Gur</i> market.	1935.			1936.			1937.			1938 (10 months).		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Lyallpur	4	15	0	3	13	0	3	0	0	3	9	10
2. Meerut	4	5	7	3	6	5	2	10	11	3	7	4
3. Siswa Bazar	3	7	6	2	10	6	1	7	2	2	3	6
4. Bhagalpur	4	4	0	2	15	10	2	1	1	3	10	5
5. Calcutta	4	8	9	3	5	0	4	0	7	5	6	6
6. Dacca	5	3	4	4	0	11	4	9	9	7	1	8
7. Madras	5	10	11	3	14	2	3	1	8	4	13	2
8. Ahmednagar	6	1	2	3	14	1	3	4	2	5	12	5

MANUFACTURE OF POWER ALCOHOL FROM MOLASSES.

809. *Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon: Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that Mysore has started the manufacture of power alcohol from molasses for use in internal combustion engines, and that it has been attended with success?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am not in a position to appraise the results of the Mysore experiment.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government themselves considering the possibility of manufacturing power alcohol from molasses, and have they received the Report of the Bihar Committee?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: It was a Joint Committee appointed by the Government of Bihar and the Government of the U. P., and the Governments of those provinces have not themselves formulated any conclusions so far, nor have they communicated their views to the Government of India.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Have the Government of India got their sugar technologists at Cawnpore to consider this problem?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Not the question of power alcohol.

MANUFACTURE OF POWER ALCOHOL FROM MOLASSES.

810. *Seth Haji Sir Abdoola Haroon: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the views of the Provincial Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar for promoting the manufacture of power alcohol and the necessity of suitable legislation for compulsory admixture of power alcohol with petrol?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: So far as the Government of India are aware the Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar have not yet formulated any views.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE OF INSPECTORS ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF RAILWAY LABOUR.

†**811. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state the amount of the travelling allowance earned by the Inspectors attached to the office of the Supervisor of Railway Labour? Are they paid fixed travelling allowance like others?

(b) Why are they not paid daily allowance according to the number of days they are out of their headquarters?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No travelling allowance is paid as they travel on warrants.

(b) They are paid a consolidated allowance of Rs. 50 a month on the assumption that they will be absent from headquarters on an average of 20 days a month.

ARTICLES FOUND MISSING FROM THE BIOCHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE.

812. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that Government audited the accounts of the Science Institute, Bangalore?

(b) Is it a fact that several valuable articles, including platinum wire, etc., have been found to be missing from the Department of Biochemistry? If so, what action was taken thereon?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The accounts of the Institute are audited by an Auditor appointed by His Excellency the Visitor. He last audited the accounts for the half year ending 30th September, 1938.

(b) Government have no information.

CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION RE INDIA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

†**813. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Law Member state:

(a) whether Government have considered the Resolution passed by the Assembly recommending that notice of India's intention to leave the League of Nations be given:

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

- (b) if so, to what conclusion they have come; and
 (c) what action they have taken in view of that Resolution?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) to (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Sardar Mangal Singh's question No. 716 on the 24th February, 1939.

DELEGATIONS TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

814. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state the cost which Government have incurred in respect of delegations to the League of Nations during the last five years, including the nine months of 1938-39?

(b) Has there been any complaint from any delegate as to the inadequacy of the arrangements or of the allowances?

(c) Is the selection of the delegates made by the Government of India or by His Excellency the Governor General? If it is by the former, on what principles is it done in the case of delegates (i) to the League sessions and (ii) to the International Labour Conference?

(d) Have there been any differences between delegates and, if so, in what form and where are they recorded?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) For the figures up to the 31st March, 1936, the Honourable Member is referred to the statement laid on the table on the 4th September, 1936, in reply to starred question No. 1648, asked by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar on the 16th April, 1936. Figures for the subsequent period are being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(b) No.

(c) Delegates are appointed by the Secretary of State acting in consultation with the Government of India. Subject to the provisions of Article 389 of the Peace Treaty in the case of non-Government delegates to the International Labour Conference, the principle of selection followed is the desirability of securing the most suitable delegation available.

(d) Government are aware of no differences between Government delegates.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (c) of the question, Sir, may I know on what principle are the delegates selected to the League of Nations?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I may repeat the answer I just gave, namely, the principle of selection followed is the desirability of securing the most suitable delegation available.

VISIT OF SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY TO INDIA.

815. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state when the archaeological expert, Sir Leonard Woolley, set his foot in India?

(b) When did he leave the shores of India?

(c) What are the places visited by him? What is the work done by him?

(d) Is there any report submitted by him? If so, will it be available to the Members of this House?

(e) What is the total cost to the treasury on account of this expert's visit and survey?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The historic moment has not been precisely recorded.

(b) My reply to (a) covers this part also.

(c) As regards the first part, a statement is laid on the table. As regards the second part, the objects of the visit were detailed in a press communiqué dated the 16th June, 1938, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(d) The report is awaited. The question of making it available to the Honourable Members of the House will be considered on its receipt.

(e) Attention is invited to the reply given to part (d) of starred question No. 63 asked by Mr. K. Santhanam answered on the 9th August, 1938.

Statement showing the places in India visited by Sir Leonard Woolley.

Taxila.	Paithan.
Peshawar.	Hyderabad.
Sardheri.	Madras and sites in the neighbourhoods.
Swat Valley.	Mahavalipuram.
Lahore.	Bombay and Elephanta.
Kala Shah Kaku.	Maski (Hyderabad).
Harappa.	Bellary.
Mohenjodaro.	Kudatini.
Rohtak.	Hampi.
Moradabad.	Coimbatore and sites in the neighbourhood
Ramnagar (Bareilly District).	Ootacamund.
Muttra.	Madura.
Agra.	Tinnevelly.
Fatehpur-Sikri.	Adichinallur.
Allahabad.	Tenkasi.
Kosam.	Courtallam.
Benares.	Trichinopoly.
Sarnath.	Nagarjunikonda.
Nalanda.	Calcutta.
Rajgir.	Paharpur.
Ajanta.	Lucknow.
Ellora.	Delhi.
Aurangabad.	

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

Simla, the 16th June, 1938.

Press Communiqué.

The extensive excavations carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India at Mohenjodaro, Harappa, and other places have revealed the existence in these regions of a widespread ancient civilisation similar in many respects to the Sumerian Civilization of the Near East with which it had established contacts. In order to provide for fruitful co-operation in this particular field of exploration between archaeologists in India and archaeologists working in the Near East, it appeared desirable to the Government of India that the Archaeological Survey of India should have the benefit of the services of some eminent, archaeologist who had worked on Sumerian exploration in Iraq and other countries of the Near East. They have accordingly invited Sir Leonard Woolley to spend next winter in India. Sir Leonard who has accepted the invitation will arrive in India by the end of October and stay in the country till the middle of January. During this period he will visit Mohenjodaro and Harappa, Chanhudaro and Amri, Taxila and Sarnath, Nalanda and Paharpur and other centres of archaeological activity in Northern and Southern India. This will enable officers of the Archaeological Survey of India to exchange views with him as regards the technique of exploration. Advantage will also be taken of Sir Leonard's visit to utilize his vast experience of exploration for the purpose of suggesting sites which promise the best results from intensive exploration. In a country of the size and archaeological wealth of India, selective exploration is essential for deriving the maximum benefit from the limited funds that are likely to be available for expenditure on this kind of activity.

Sir Leonard Woolley is one of the most eminent living British archaeologists and his qualifications for the work before him are well known to the world in general. His achievements in the Near East culminating in his notable work at Ur have focussed upon him the attention of archaeologists throughout the world. He has recently been engaged on an exploratory survey in North West Syria with a view to obtaining links between the Mesopotamian and Cretan cultures and will continue this work after his visit to India.

(Sd.) G. S. BAJPAI,

Secretary to the Government of India.

†816*.

REPAIR OF ROAD ROLLERS OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
NEW DELHI.

817. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (on behalf of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani): Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are some road rollers under the Provincial Division, Central Public Works Department, New Delhi; if so, the total number of such road rollers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these road rollers are frequently got repaired on the recommendation of the Chief Inspector of Boilers, Delhi;
- (c) whether quotations are called for the repairs of these road rollers; if so, on how many occasions during the last three years quotations were called;
- (d) the amount spent on such repairs during the last three years;
- (e) whether it is a fact that representations have been made to the higher authorities by some boiler repairing firms, protesting against monopoly of contract by one firm only; and

†This question was postponed to be answered on the 17th March, 1939.

- (f) whether it is a fact that some local boiler repairing firm has brought serious allegations against the officers of the Boiler Inspectorate and the Central Public Works Department, New Delhi; if so, the action taken on such allegations?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes. Twelve steam rollers and six of other types.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is not obligatory under the departmental orders to call for tenders for any work costing below Rs. 2,500 and the cost of repairing the road rollers has not exceeded that figure on any occasion during the last three years. Quotations were, however, called for in eight cases during that period.

(d) Rs. 15,352.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes, but the allegations were withdrawn when the Superintending Engineer, Delhi Provincial Circle, enquired into the matter.

RESTRICTION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF GATES TO RESIDENTIAL HOUSES IN NEW DELHI.

818. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Will the Education Secretary please state:

- (a) the number of ornamental high gates (over nine feet height) in New Delhi to residential houses, and whether there are any restrictions upon the size and architecture of gates of private houses;
- (b) whether the permission to build such gates is a privilege confined to certain rulers of States;
- (c) whether the privilege is allowed to the ruler of any State;
- (d) whether there are any rules concerning gates, if so, what;
- (e) whether Government have considered the abolition of all restrictions on gates; and
- (f) whether he is aware that high ornamental gates are a common feature of houses with a compound in Calcutta?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The total number of gates in New Delhi answering to the description given by the Honourable Member is thirty. The only restrictions are those imposed by the standard perpetual lease, which provides that all buildings must conform to architectural and structural specifications approved by Government.

(b), (c) and (d). No. Cases are dealt with on purely architectural grounds, according to the size and location of the proposed building.

(e) No.

(f) Government have no information.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: May I know, Sir, whether in preparing those architectural specifications for the gates, the traditions of the Moghul Empire were kept in view?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I confess, Sir, that I cannot easily find the relation between the gates constructed in 1939 and the Moghul Empire.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Is it a fact that only the houses of the Crown Representative, the Commander-in-Chief and Princes of higher status have gates answering to the description given in (a)?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already answered this question. I have stated that there is no consideration of snobbery which governs the decision of Government, but only considerations of æsthetics.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: May I know, Sir, whether these ornamental high gates are an indication of any higher political status of the rulers or officers?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, Sir; none whatsoever.

REPRESENTATION FOR THE RESERVATION OF TERRITORIES IN AFRICA FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INDIANS.

819. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

- (a) whether the Government of India ever made representations to His Majesty's Government for the reservation of suitable and adequate territories in the British possessions of Africa for the settlement of Indians; if so, when and with what result;
- (b) whether the Government of India have come to the conclusion that no 'colony' is necessary for the expansion of the Indian population;
- (c) whether they propose to finance the settlement of Indians on land in any part of the British Empire;
- (d) whether the Government Committee has recently proposed an increase in the White settlement in Kenya and recommended that the Government of Kenya should raise a loan of a quarter million sterling for financing such schemes; assistance may be in the form of 90 per cent. of the purchase price of land; other schemes provide attractive terms on which retiring civil servants may be induced to settle in the country; and
- (e) whether the Government of India intend to take similar measures for Indians in Kenya and other British possessions?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) No.

(b) Government have come to no such conclusion.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) A report to this effect appeared recently in the Press, and it says that assistance may be in the form of advances up to a maximum of 20 per cent. of the purchase price of land.

(e) No.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Have Government ever considered the needs of the growing Indian population in relation to the unemployment problem, and have they ever considered the question of setting apart a separate colony for Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, Sir.

SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY OF AJMER.

820. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands refer to my questions Nos. 192 and 204, asked on the 25th January, 1937, and the answers given thereto and state whether the question of Ajmer sanitation and water supply has been fully reviewed and considered by him?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken so far?

(c) Will a detailed statement be laid on the table regarding any schemes or proposals that have been decided upon for the improvement of the sanitation and water supply of Ajmer?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a), (b) and (c). The matter is under review and no measures have yet been decided on.

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: How long is it going to remain under review?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The report of the officer reached us only at the end of last month. I cannot say how long it will take to consider the report.

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will Government expedite the matter as far as this question is concerned?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: We will certainly consider the report as soon as circumstances and work permit.

SCARCITY OF WATER IN AJMER AND BEAWAR.

821. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that, owing to failure of monsoon, there is an acute scarcity of water in Ajmer and Beawar, which is causing much anxiety to the public for the coming hot weather?

(b) Do Government propose to relieve this anxiety and devise means for meeting this scarcity?

(c) Will Government state whether such scarcity of water has been experienced before in Ajmer and when?

(d) Have Government considered the advisability of adopting some permanent means to combat this difficulty?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) The local authorities are taking steps to meet the scarcity.

(c) Yes. A similar situation arose in 1923-24.

(d) Government have just received the report of a departmental enquiry regarding public health conditions of Ajmer city, including that of water supply. They have not yet had time to examine the report and are unable to say whether it would be feasible to make any permanent provision against water scarcity due to the failure of the monsoon and, if so, how they could intervene in a matter which is primarily the responsibility of the local bodies concerned.

ENQUIRY INTO THE SANITARY AND HOUSING CONDITIONS OF AJMER.

822. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands state if a special officer was appointed to enquire into the sanitary and housing conditions of Ajmer and suggest measures for improvement of Ajmer by constituting an Ajmer Improvement Trust?

(b) Has he completed his enquiry and submitted his report?

(c) Will the report be published and, if not, why not?

(d) Have Government considered this report, and what action is proposed to be taken?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) A special officer was appointed to hold a departmental enquiry and bring together all facts bearing on the public health conditions in Ajmer City.

(b), (c) and (d). Government have just received a copy of the report and have not had time yet to examine it. They are unable to say at present whether the report will be published.

SCHEMES FOR WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE FOR AJMER.

823. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands refer to his reply to part (c) of my question No. 192, asked on the 25th January, 1937, and state if advice has been sought from the Superintending Engineer, Health Services, Delhi, by the Local Government of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Is it a fact that when this officer was requested by the Ajmer Municipality to give his advice, specialist's fee was demanded from the Municipality?

(c) Has such fees been charged from other Municipalities of Delhi, the Punjab and the United Provinces?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) to (c). I have asked for information and shall supply it to the House as soon as it is available.

SCHEMES FOR WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE FOR AJMER.

824. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a whole time Superintending Engineer for Health Services is being appointed under the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of asking this officer to prepare schemes for water supply and drainage for Ajmer?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) No.

(b) The preparation of the schemes referred to by the Honourable Member is the concern of the Ajmer Municipal Committee which can secure, on payment of the usual departmental charges, expert advice in all engineering matters including public health from the Central Public Works Department.

RAISING OF THE RATE OF CESS LEVIABLE ON TEA EXPORTED FROM INDIA.

825. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state, with reference to his replies to starred question No. 459, dated the 16th February, 1939, by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:

- (a) whether he proposes specifically to hold an inquiry into the affairs of the Tea Market Expansion Board regarding waste of money and inadequate employment of Indians, disclosed in this House during the debate on the motion to add a member to the Board; if not, why not;
- (b) the approximate additional amount that will be available if the increased rate of cess proposed is sanctioned;
- (c) the reasons given by the Board in asking for increase in rate of the cess;
- (d) if he will place on the table of the House the communication from the Board asking for the increase; and
- (e) whether Government have definitely decided that the House will not be consulted about increasing the rate; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government do not consider that an inquiry is called for. They have, however, called for up-to-date information regarding the employment of Indians by the Board.

(b) About Rs. 4 lakhs per year.

(c) The main reasons are the growing needs of the propaganda both abroad and in India and the necessity for the Board to increase its balance so as to meet its regular expenditure during that part of the year when no receipts are coming in.

(d) No, but the proposals of the Board have been circulated for the opinion of all recognised Chambers of Commerce and commercial associations.

(e) No. Under section 3 of the Indian Tea Cess Act, Government are competent to prescribe a rate of cess not exceeding Rs. 1/8 per 100 lbs. on the Board's recommendation.

SUPERSESSIONS OF MUSLIMS IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

826. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state how many supersessions of Muslims by Hindus have been sanctioned in the Archæological Department since April, 1935, in gazetted and non-gazetted services?

(b) Were the grounds of supersessions communicated to the persons concerned?

(c) Did the Honourable Member himself examine these cases of supersessions?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Two Muslim gazetted officers were superseded when the officer, now the Director General of Archæology, was appointed to his present post. Complete information regarding non-gazetted posts is not available but is being obtained and will be communicated to the House as soon as possible.

(b) No.

(c) The selection referred to in (a) was made by the Governor General in Council.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether there has been any instance in this Archæological Department where a Muslim got a higher appointment by means of supersession?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I cannot say. I would like to have notice.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that in the eyes of the Archæological Department all the Mussalmans are incompetent?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is an insinuation, not a question.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it a fact? It is not an insinuation. Is it a fact that in the eyes of the Archæological Department all the Mussalmans are incompetent?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, Sir. I should not say so.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: If it is not a fact that Muslims in the Archæological Department. . . .

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

INCLUSION OF A WOMAN AS DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

827. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of India included women in their delegation to the International Labour Conferences in 1936, 1937, 1938; and if not, why not;
- (b) whether the International Labour Bureau have drawn the attention of the Government of India to the importance of the inclusion of women in their delegation to the Conference; and
- (c) whether Government propose to include women in their delegation to the session of the Conference this year; and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No. None of the items discussed at the International Labour Conferences in 1936, 1937 and 1938 specially affected women to such an extent as to attract the recommendation in paragraph 2 of Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles relating to the appointment of a woman as Adviser.

(b) No, except to the extent of inviting attention of Governments to the fact that women are equally eligible with men for nomination.

(c) No, for the reason given in answer to (a).

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, does it mean that Government think that women are not interested in any matters which do not relate to them in particular?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. Women may be equally interested in many matters that relate both to men and women.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will Government consider the advisability of including women in their delegations to the International Labour Conferences?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: They have always had that advisability in view, but the principle on which they are prepared to include women in the delegations is stated in my reply to part (a) of the question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will they extend this principle to the Executive Council?

(No reply.)

INDIAN SETTLERS REPATRIATED TO INDIA.

828. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian settlers, men, women and children who have been repatriated to India during the years 1937 and 1938 ending 31st December, 1938;
- (b) the countries from which they have returned;
- (c) whether their return was voluntary, or because of pressure from the Governments of those countries; and, if this Government have made detailed investigation into the causes of their return:
- (d) whether the Government of India, or the Government of other countries, gave any financial assistance to these people for migration, and if the Government of India give any assistance to them on their arrival in India; and if so, in what form;
- (e) whether the Government of India have any definite policy on the subject of repatriation; and if not, why not; and
- (f) whether Government have considered the question of appointing a Central Board with representatives from all the Provinces, to look after the interests of repatriated Indians and to advise the Government of India on the subject?

Sir Gtrja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). On the assumption that the Honourable lady refers to countries within the British Empire, a statement containing the available information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) So far as Government are aware, these people returned to this country voluntarily.

(d) The Government of India gave no financial assistance to these people to return to India. The Governments of the countries concerned offer certain facilities to intending repatriates such as the grant of free passages, payment of bonuses, pensions, etc. In India, the Protector of Emigrants at each port of disembarkation receives the repatriates and arranges to have them sent to their homes. He also keeps in safe custody

monies brought by them, if requested to do so, and generally renders such assistance as he can by way of securing temporary or permanent relief to the repatriates. In the case of persons returning to India from South Africa under the Assisted Emigration Scheme, which has practically exhausted itself, the Provincial Government concerned assist the repatriates in obtaining employment.

(e) Conditions are different in different countries but as a matter of general policy Government consider the repatriation of Indians, who are unable to support themselves or without friends or relations who would do so, to be undesirable in the interests of the repatriates themselves.

(f) The need for such a central organisation has not been felt so far.

Statement showing the number of Indians repatriated during the years 1937 and 1938 and the countries from which they embarked.

Countries.	Number of persons returned.							
	1937				1938			
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
South Africa	185	48	31	264	136	32	32	200
Fiji . .	118	22	30	170	*	*	*	195
Mauritius .	33	3	..	36	..	..	..	..
British Guiana .					528	239	100	867
Trinidad .								
Surinam .	..	..	..	..	11	2	..	13
Malaya .	3,484	1,314	1,773	6,571	20,561†		8,492	29,043
Ceylon .	3,714	3,371	3,237	10,322	2,070†		934	3,004

NOTE.—* Details not yet available.

† No. of adults : separate figures of males and females not yet available.

LEGISLATION TO RELIEVE RURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

†829. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Education Secretary state whether Government propose introducing legislation to relieve rural indebtedness in the centrally administered areas or in the Commissioners Provinces?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to parts (b) and (c) of Sardar Mangal Singh's starred question No. 461 on the 16th February, 1939.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

DENIAL OF RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP TO INDIANS IN MALAYA.

830. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state whether there are no citizenship rights to Indians in Malaya? If so, why not?

(b) Is there any demand for a guarantee of citizenship rights to Indian labourers and rights both of entry and citizenship to Indians of non-labouring classes? If so, what has been done to meet the same?

(c) Is there any move to lift the ban on the emigration of Indian labourers to Malaya?

(d) Is there any representation from the Government of Malaya to lift the ban?

(e) Is there any undertaking by the Government of Malaya with regard to (i) the wages of labourers, (ii) the quarters provided for their residence, (iii) medical attention for the labourers and their families, (iv) educational facilities for their children, and (v) repatriation? If so, is the undertaking a mere formal one, or was it strictly adhered to by both the parties?

(f) Are the Government of Malaya disallowing the entry of Indians of non-labouring classes to Malaya? If so, why?

(g) Is it a fact that in pursuance of a policy of so-called decentralisation introduced by the British Government, Indians born in the Malayan States and resident therein for long are declared aliens for all time, and subject to banishment at the will of the British Resident?

(h) How many Indians were banished from Malaya States and the Straits Settlements during the period between 1911 and 1931, as the result of the so-called decentralisation scheme?

(i) Are Government prepared to demand a written convention from the Government of Malaya on the model of covenants now in existence among the various countries of Europe, reserving and guaranteeing the rights of Indians of the non-labouring classes?

(j) Is it a fact that under the Passenger Restriction Ordinance, an incoming Indian can be denied admission into the Straits Settlements without any reason being assigned? If so, what is the action, reciprocal or otherwise, taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a), (f) and (j). There is no law of domicile in the Federated and Unfederated Malay States and no British subjects in these States irrespective of race or the country of origin can acquire the status of Malays.

Subject to the provisions of the Passengers Restriction Ordinance of 1919, which is of general application Indians of all classes are permitted to enter Malaya.

(c) No.

(b), (d) and (i). As the Honourable Member is aware, the question of emigration to Malaya and other connected matters including those raised by the Honourable Member in this question are under review.

(e) There have been undertakings on the various points mentioned by the Honourable Member and they have been generally observed.

(g) The law of Banishment is applicable to all non-Malay residents in the Malay States; the Resident has the power to banish any person if there

are reasonable grounds for believing that such banishment is conducive to the good of the State. Government are not aware that this enactment has any connection with any policy of decentralisation.

(h) The information has been called for from the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

EXCLUSION OF INDIANS IN CEYLON FROM THE FRANCHISE.

831. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state whether it is a fact that Indians in Ceylon were excluded from the franchise? If so, why?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce blamed Indian residents in Ceylon for creating ill-feeling between India and Ceylon by misrepresentation of facts to the Government of India and the Indian leaders? If so, have the Government of India repudiated the remarks of the above said Minister?

(c) How many Indians are there settled in Ceylon?

(d) Is it a fact that the Indians in Ceylon are subjected to anti-Indian policy—both legislative and administrative—of the Ceylon Government? If so, what is the protection offered by the Government of India to the Indians in Ceylon? If none, why not?

(e) Are Government aware that there is a feeling of insecurity amongst Indians as a minority since the inauguration of the Donoughmore Constitution?

(f) Is it a fact that the Indian estate labourers in Ceylon are denied the village committee franchise which isolates them? If so, what is done by the Government of India to prevent such isolation?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) If the Honourable Member refers to political franchise, the reply is in the negative. As regards franchise for village committees, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. Satyamurti's starred question No. 1300 on the 17th November, 1938.

(b) Government have seen a press report of an interview given to the press by the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, on his return to Ceylon. Government do not think that his remarks call for any action on their part.

(c) Of the 800,000 Indians in Ceylon at the end of 1937, 70 to 80 per cent. are estimated to be permanently settled there.

(d) The House is aware of the position of the Indian community in Ceylon. The Government of India are always doing what they can to protect legitimate Indian interests in that country.

(e) Government have seen a resolution passed by the Ceylon Indian Association referring to the existence of such a feeling amongst Indians in the Colony.

(f) and (g). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. S. Satyamurti's starred question No. 73 on the 4th February, 1939, and to the supplementaries arising out of it.

PERSONS APPLYING FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES IN THE BURMA RIOTS.

832. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

- (a) the number of persons who have applied for compensation for (i) loss of life or limb, and (ii) loss of property, arising out of anti-Indian riots in Burma in the current year;
- (b) whether any machinery has been set up for the award of compensation, if so, what;
- (c) the number of cases in which an award has been given; the total of such awards as against claims;
- (d) of the applicants, how many are (i) Bengali Hindus and (ii) Bengali Muslims; and
- (e) the number of wounded sent to hospitals?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) to (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me to Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta's starred question No. 328 and Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No. 474 on the 13th and 16th February, 1939. respectively.

(e) The information is not available.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether, in September last, when the riots started, the Government of India wrote to the Government of Burma asking them to accept the principle of compensation for injury to Indians?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already informed the House that the Government of India have asked His Majesty's Secretary of State for India who is also the Secretary of State for Burma to accept the principle of payment of compensation for the loss suffered by Indians.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When was that request made and may I know why no reply has been received all these months?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The fact that the reply has not yet been received has already been communicated by me to the House. We are reminding the Secretary of State.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When was the request made?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Speaking from memory, I think it was made early in October.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if Government have sent any reminders since then, as many months have passed since then?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Two reminders.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what Government propose to do in order to get the acceptance of the principle of compensation?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My Honourable friend has already been informed and the House has been informed that the Braund Committee has been asked to assess the amount of damage done. That report is not yet available. Presumably the question of the acceptance of the principle and the application of that principle are dependent upon the availability of that report.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: With reference to part (e) of the question, may I know whether the Honourable Secretary said that the Government of India did not even know the number of persons who were wounded and sent to hospital?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: What I told the House was that the information is not available. I asked the Agent General in Burma on receipt of this question to obtain the information for us and his reply has not yet reached us.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Then, do I understand that Government took no action to find out this information until the receipt of this question.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: With regard to the questions relating to casualties and so on, I have given the House such information as I have. This question refers not to the total number of persons wounded or killed but the total number of persons who were wounded and admitted to hospital. My Honourable friend knows that these disturbances were not confined to Rangoon. They occurred over a considerable area. I said that on this question I asked the Agent General to obtain the information. We have not got it yet. I do not know how the Government of India could have done more than what they have done.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member communicate the information to the House when the reply is received?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: When we get the information, I shall certainly communicate it to the House.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Does it mean that the Government of India took no action to find the number of wounded who were admitted to hospital until the receipt of this question?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Honourable Member is not justified in drawing any such inference. This question relates to the number of people who were admitted to hospital. It is only in regard to that that we have asked for information. With regard to the number of people wounded, we have statistics.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM REGARDING THE BURROWS COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON SAFETY AND CONSERVATION OF COAL.

833. *Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether his Department had any correspondence with the Government of Assam relating to the subject-matter of the Burrows Committee's report on safety and conservation in coal mines and the Coal Mines (Stowing) Bill now before the Assembly? If so, will he place copies of the correspondence with the Assam Government on the table?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes. Copies of the circular letter issued by the Government of India on the 7th July, 1938, and the Assam Government's reply thereto are in the Library of the House.

LOSS OF UNIQUE ANTIQUITIES DISCOVERED AT SARDHERI.

834. *Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the loss of unique antiquities (discovered at Sardheri) by the Draftsman of the office of the Director General of Archæology was brought to the notice of the authorities?

(b) Was the subordinate who reported the loss discharged?

(c) Will the Secretary kindly place on the table a copy of the report of the discharged subordinate and of further proceedings in the case?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) No antiquities discovered at Sardheri were reported to be lost by the Draftsman but certain articles found by Dr. Simone Corbiau during a tour in the North-West Frontier Province were reported to be missing. On enquiry it was found that these so-called missing objects had been rejected as being of no archæological importance.

(b) The services of the subordinate were terminated on completion of the work for which he was engaged and had nothing to do with the matter referred to in part (a).

(c) No.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Government of India received a report from the head of the Archæological Department that these things which are reported to have been missing were found in broken form somewhere?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have given the House the information that I have received from the head of the Department, namely, that there were no losses. Only certain articles were considered to be of no archæological importance, and they were rejected.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it a fact that these archæological articles are really important things and they were found missing?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already informed my Honourable friend that nothing was missing in the sense of having been stolen or taken away. Certain things were considered to be of no value and they were rejected.

SUPERSESSIONS OF MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

835. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (on behalf of Khan Bahadur Nawab Siddique Ali Khan): (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state how many supersessions of Muslims and Christians by Hindus and Sikhs have been sanctioned in the Department of Education, Health and Lands since April 1935?

(b) Were the grounds of supersessions communicated to the persons concerned?

(c) Did the Honourable Member himself examine these cases of supersessions?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) A statement containing the information is laid on the table.

(b) No, it is not usual to do this. Departmental promotions are made by selection and do not depend merely on seniority.

(c) Yes.

Statement showing Supersessions in the Department of Education, Health and Lands as a result of permanent promotions since April 1935.

No. of permanent promotions.				No. of persons superseded in consequence of the promotions referred to in column 1.			
Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.
1	1	1	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	1	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
1	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	3	3	2	<i>Nil.</i>
1	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	6	4	1	<i>Nil.</i>

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: In this particular case also, I would like to know whether there has ever been a case where a Muslim got a higher post by means of supersession?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: If my Honourable friend will look at the statement, he will find his question answered in the affirmative.

MONUMENTS, ETC., TAKEN UNDER PROTECTION BY THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

836. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (on behalf of Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha): (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state how many ancient monuments, sites, etc., in India have been taken under protection by the Archæological Department during the last two years?

(b) How many of them are Muhammadan monuments?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) 18 monuments and 30 sites have been declared protected.

(b) Of the 18 monuments only ten can be said to be of a religious character; of these four are Muslim and six Hindu. The sites are for purposes of excavation and, as excavation has not been started it is impossible to classify these communally.

Mr. R. N. Basu: Is there a communal basis for applying this Act?

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: The Archæological Department is administered on communal basis.

CASES OF FRAUDULENT DRAWAL OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE BY
SUBORDINATES IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

837. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (on behalf of Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state how many cases of fraudulent drawal of travelling allowance by subordinates in the Archæological Department have been reported during the last two or three years, and what punishments have been given in each case?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Allegations of fraudulent drawing of travelling allowance were made against two subordinates but were not proved.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that there is great confusion about this one man, Majumdar, who is a draftsman and who was in charge when all these things were lost. Is it a fact that he was in debt and the Government of India put this man to distribute the money?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: This question relates to fraudulent travelling allowance. As to whether any particular individual is in debt, and, if so, what his financial condition is, I am unable to say without notice.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that this man was in debt?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: If the Honourable Member will give me notice, I will obtain the answer. I cannot say offhand.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT SAR DHERI NEAR PESHAWAR.

838. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (on behalf of Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha): (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if the excavations at Sar Dheri near Peshawar were carried out by the Draftsman attached to the office of the Director General of Archæology? If so, will the Honourable Member please state if he is a qualified excavator?

(b) Is it one of the functions of the Draftsman to be independently in charge of excavations? How many drawings has he prepared since his appointment in May or June 1937?

(c) Is it a fact that he was never put in charge of any excavations during the period of his previous employment as Draftsman in the Department before retrenchment, *viz.*, 1926-31?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes, under the supervision of the Director General of Archæology and with the scientific advice of Dr. Simone Corbiau. The Draftsman has experience of excavation work.

(b) As regards the first part, it is part of his duty to act as excavation assistant when required to do so. As regards the second part, he has prepared numerous drawings but no record of the number of drawings prepared by draftsmen is maintained.

(c) Yes, but he has assisted in the supervision of excavation work.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Why was this draftsman selected when they had an executive assistant present and was available?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: There is only one executive assistant for the whole of this circle and he was employed elsewhere.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is this the same draftsman that I have been speaking of, who was frightfully in debt? I ask, is he the same person mentioned in the previous question?

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know, Sir, if a question can be asked in this House about an individual in office?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If it is a matter of public concern, it can be asked.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Well, Sir, so far as I know, the question relating to travelling allowance relates to a gentleman called "Mazumdar", and the question with regard to excavations relates to a man called "Mookerji" so the two are not identical.

DEMAND FOR DAFTRIES QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

839. *Mr. Manu Subedar (on behalf of Prof. N. G. Ranga): Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the demand of daftries' quarters in New Delhi is 468;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are only 234 such quarters in New Delhi at present;
- (c) whether the Honourable Member will refer to his supplementary answer to question No. 568, asked in this House on the 29th August, 1938, and state whether the figure 438 is correct; and
- (d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of providing each daftry with a quarter, or to give to each man who is not provided with a quarter a house rent allowance of not less than Rs. 12 per mensem?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The demand fluctuates from year to year; it was 462 for the current winter season.

(b) and (c). The correct figure is 234.

(d) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, with regard to part (c) of the question, if the figure "438" is correct?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No—I am afraid that was a mistake.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether it is a fact that as regards the daftries, who are receiving a little higher salary and who are doing a superior kind of work, these quarters were originally reserved for them but that these quarters are now being raided by another cadre of the service?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There is a question down to that effect—I think it is the next question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask what monthly allowance for rent is given to these daftries?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot say without notice.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that they are charged Rs. 8 and paid Rs. 1-8 on account of rent?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot give a reply with regard to figures without notice.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member please look into the question that they are being charged Rs. 8 and paid Rs. 1-8 only which is a very disproportionate sum?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not know whether the figures given by the Honourable Member are correct.

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

ALLOTMENT OF DAFTRY QUARTERS TO JAMADARS IN NEW DELHI.

840. *Mr. Manu Subedar (on behalf of Prof. N. G. Ranga): Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that daftry quarters will be allotted to jamadars for the next year;
- (b) whether these quarters were constructed for the use of daftries only; if so, why they will be allotted to jamadars;
- (c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of providing daftries with 'E' type quarters, if daftry quarters are being taken away from them and allotted to jamadars; and
- (d) under what rules the quarters are allotted to jamadars?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Jamadars are now eligible for the same type of quarters as daftries and record sorters.

(b) The quarters were intended for daftries and record sorters. The status and pay of jamadars and of daftries or record sorters are more or less the same, and Government see no reason why a difference should be made any longer between these classes of servants in the matter of residential accommodation.

(c) No.

(d) There are no rules governing the allotment of quarters to jamadars. The practice, however, is that quarters for inferior servants, including jamadars, are distributed to the various departments *pro rata* on the basis of their demands and allotments to individuals are left to the discretion of each Department

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that there is, on the whole, a shortage in these quarters for these poor employees of Government?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member means by "shortage" that there are not enough quarters to go round, that is so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In that case, may I inquire if the Honourable Member is satisfied that when a person cannot get quarters, there is a general shortage and many a man has to fend for himself; and in that case, may I know if there is an adequate house-rent allowance?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The question of house-rent allowance does not arise on this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member look into the question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I will not look into a question which does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what steps the Government propose to take in order to make up for this inadequacy?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already submitted that the question of the adequacy or inadequacy of the house-allowance does not arise.

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I merely ask the Honourable Member what steps he is taking in order to make up for the deficiency of the house accommodation. Will he build more quarters?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: We will build more quarters when we have money to build them.

REPAIR OF BOILERS OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI.

841. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of boilers under the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, and the total number of boilers repaired during the last three years;
- (b) the name or designation of the authority under whose instructions boilers are repaired;
- (c) whether quotations, if any, have been called for from the boiler repairing firms of Delhi during the last three years; if so, the names of the firms who gave the highest and lowest quotations for repairs of such boilers during the last three years;
- (d) the names of the firms whose quotations were approved by the authority concerned during the last three years;
- (e) the authority which approved quotations of various boiler-repairing firms in Delhi; and
- (f) the authority which certified the repair works done by boiler-repairing firms during the last three years?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Information has been called for and will be supplied in due course.

CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS AND BOARDS CHARGED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN SUBJECTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT.

842. *Mr. K. S. Gupta (on behalf of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar): Will the Education Secretary please state:

- (a) the number and names of Central Institutes and Institutions and Boards under the Government of India which are charged with the duty of administering and transacting business in any way connected with subjects which are under the Government of India Act, 1935, declared to be 'Provincial';
- (b) in whom the control in respect of appointments in these bodies vests; and
- (c) whether the Government of India propose to consider the desirability of making arrangements in respect of all these bodies similar to those which now exist in respect of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Government are not aware of defects in the constitution of these bodies which call for any change.

Statement regarding Central Institutes and Institutions and Boards under the Government of India which deal with matters in any way connected with provincial subjects.

Serial No.	Names of Institutes and Institutions or Boards	Authority vested with the control of appointments to the Board or Institute.	
1.	Indian Medical Council	Appointment is made under sections 3 and 10 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, to which a reference is invited.	
2.	Central Advisory Board of Health	Appointment is made under the Department of Education, Health and Lands Resolution No. 52-79/36-H., dated the 13th February, 1937, to which a reference is invited.	
3.	Central Advisory Board of Education.	Appointment is made under the Department of Education, Health and Lands Resolution No. F-122-3/35-E., dated the 8th August, 1935, to which a reference is invited.	
4.	Central Research Institute, Kasauli.	These are under the direct control of the Government of India.	
5.	All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.		
6.	Bio-Chemical Standardisation Laboratory, Calcutta.		
7.	Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun.		
8.	Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi.		
9.	Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Muktesar.		
10.	Imperial Dairy Institute, Bangalore.		
11.	Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore.		
12.	Industrial Research Bureau, Delhi		
13.	Central Irrigation and Hydro-Dynamic Research Station at Poona.		
14.	Board of Forestry		The Government of India and Provincial Governments nominate their respective representatives.
15.	Central Board and Bureau of Irrigation.		The Board consists of Chief Engineers of Irrigation who are members <i>ex-officio</i> .

IMPORT DUTY ON RACE HORSES.

843. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the amount of duty collected on the import of race horses in 1936-37, 1937-38 and 1938-39 (up-to the latest date for which figures are available)?

(b) At what rate is the duty collected, and in what way is the value ascertained for the purposes of the duty, and is the rate of duty the same for ordinary animals imported for other purposes?

(c) Is there a special duty on old race horses imported into India for stud purposes?

(d) Have Government considered the proposal to increase the import duty on race horses and putting them in the class of luxury imports?

(e) Have Government received any representation on this subject from turf clubs or any other source?

(f) Is any drawback given on horses sent back? If so, what was the amount of drawback in the periods referred to in part (a)?

(g) What are the reasons which have induced Government to give this drawback?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g). No duty is leviable on living animals. Parts (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g), therefore, do not arise.

(d) and (e). It has not hitherto been part of the tariff policy of the Government of India to levy duty on live animals and previous suggestions for the imposition of a duty on horses have after consideration been rejected. It is not possible administratively to differentiate between race horses and horses used for other purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government had this question examined as to whether it is possible to differentiate between them or not by any technical staff, for example, the animal husbandry expert or anybody else?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Does the Honourable Member think that it is possible to distinguish, on importation, between horses intended to be used for racing and those not intended to be so used?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not possible to take a declaration from the importer that these horses will not be used for racing here, and that otherwise they will have to pay a duty?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Supposing he gives that declaration and next day sells the horse to somebody who will not be bound by that declaration?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We cannot have any discussion.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUPERSESSIONS IN THE BINDING DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

26. Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that since the abolition of the piece system in the Binding Department of the Delhi Press, all the 19 posts of the Piece-Binders transferred from Calcutta Press have been merged into permanent fixed establishment of the Bindery Department, with the result that the new recruits, who were temporarily appointed on piece rates were confirmed on permanent establishment on Rs. 25 per mensem, superseding their seniors who have had 10 to 15 years' services at their credit and getting Rs. 22 per mensem only?

(b) If the above be a fact, do Government propose to consider the claims of the senior employees in the light of the facts explained in their memorials, which were submitted to the Controller of Printing and Stationery?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The posts of binders in question were distinct from the salaried posts and did not lie in the normal range of promotion of the salaried staff in the Bindery. In 1938, the piece posts were converted into salaried ones without any change in their incumbents whose salary was fixed on the basis of their class rates while on piece. Other employees in the Bindery had no claim on these posts and there has, therefore, been no supersession.

(b) Does not arise.

EXTENSION OF THE AREA OF DAFTRY QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

27. Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that the memorials to extend the area of daftry quarters were forwarded to the Government of India? If so, were the prayers of the memorialists considered, and if so, what steps, if any, were taken by Government?

(b) Is the Honourable Member prepared to depute an officer to see the condition of the courtyard of the existing daftry quarters of the Delhi Press and make necessary arrangements to extend the area?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Representations were received from the Imperial Secretariat Record Sorters and Daftries Association requesting an extension of the courtyards attached to Daftry quarters. I, along with the Secretary, Labour Department, and the Chief Engineer, inspected the quarters and have given instructions for certain remedial action to be taken; but it is not possible to provide any additional accommodation outside the present buildings.

(b) As the daftry quarters attached to the New Delhi Press are similar to those inspected, I do not consider it necessary to depute an officer to inspect them.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

GRANT OF COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE TO PALESTINE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Chair has received several notices of motions for adjournment. One is from Mr. Abdul Qaiyum "to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the refusal of the British Government to grant immediately complete independence to Palestine and their refusal to accede to the Arab demand for complete stoppage of Jewish immigration into Palestine". The Chair understands that negotiations are still going on. Is not that so? It was so given out in the papers.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): That was the view of the British Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Negotiations are still proceeding with the Arab and Jewish delegates. The Chair disallows this motion. It is out of order.

POSITION OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN KENYA.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is from the same Honourable Member, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, who wants "to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the failure of the Government of India to secure the annulment of the existing practice with regard to alienation and transfer of lands in Kenya highlands to Indians as disclosed in their recent communiqué, and the disquieting fact that non-British subjects of the European race will receive preferential treatment as against Indians".

Is there any objection?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): No, Sir. I have no objection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

FIRST STAGE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed to the general discussion of the Budget. Under rule 46 (3) of the Indian Legislative Rules, I fix fifteen minutes as the time-limit for the discussion of the Budget for Honourable Members, twenty minutes for Leaders of Parties, and one hour or more, if necessary, for the Government Member to reply.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, in an atmosphere of oppression, when the life of the greatest Indian is in jeopardy and when we are asked to solve a conundrum

as to what is the "normal action" of the Crown Representative, it is impossible to attend, with that keenness, to the matters of the Budget of Sir James Grigg as it might otherwise have been. All the same, we have been taught to do our duty, and I will do so as well as I can

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member): I rise to a point of order. Is it in order to say anything about the action or inaction of the Crown Representative?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not pass any reflection on the Crown Representative; the Honourable Member is not justified in saying anything by way of criticism about the action of the Crown Representative.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am merely referring to a conundrum.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Your name will be published in the papers and so you have got what you want.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, there are various points on which I would have complimented my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg—for instance, with regard to the structural reforms in the finances of this country, in the matter of submitting accounts, in the matter of the elimination of separate statements of expenditure incurred in England, in the matter of the separation of the central excises, in the matter of the amalgamation of interest on debts and other obligations, in the matter of the creation of a major head known as the Corporation tax. Sir, my Honourable friend has broken up the Foreign and Political Department into several heads and some of these changes were doubtless due to the need of conforming their functions to the structural changes which came into effect in the 1935 Act. If I may make a further small suggestion to him or to his successor, it would be to exclude from the accounts of the Government of India the provincial heads in connection with the centrally administered areas and to bring into the Central Accounts only the final balance. It is generally a negative balance and the central administered areas, I fear, have much to learn from the models of the provinces. But the Central statements are burdened by the provincial heads unnecessarily.

With regard to this budget itself, if it is any satisfaction to Sir James Grigg, I will say that it is a good budget of its kind, perhaps better than any which has been placed before this House during the last ten years. But it is the budget of a son and a servant of the United Kingdom. Every white man's child is white and from that point of view, if it is any satisfaction to him, he will receive compliments both from England and from Anglo-India, including some titled Knights in India. What we want in India is a brown child, a budget prepared by a national Finance Member who will take into account the conditions of people and the long-range interest of the country which is in his stewardship. The Finance Member spoke of having given money to the provinces, but the provinces are India, and the usurper is on the Treasury Bench of this House. The system of the finances of the Government of India is, unfortunately, the system which would be built up by opportunists who are not concerned with the permanent welfare of the country. It is the treatment which troopers and picnickers will give to the place where they go for a short time and which they are not going to occupy permanently. That is why

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

the Opposite Benches have no concern as to what happens in this country in the future. They have no future themselves. It would be, therefore, legitimate to expect that the financial system built up by them is also guided by hand to mouth considerations of the moment.

The House will remember how Sir Thomas Ainscough, the representative of the United Kingdom in this country, let the cat out of the bag by declaring that a policy of industrialisation would lead to the collapse of the financial and economic fabric of the Government of India. The financial arrangements are such that every time there is a project for a new industry, the Government Benches are nervous on financial grounds. The financial conscience of the Government of India is dead set against the growth of industry in India. Every facility and every encouragement which is asked for is turned down by the nervous hand of the Finance Member because he is afraid of losing money. This has been demonstrated throughout the regime of Sir James Grigg. There is a basic defect in the financial structure which should have continued but for the fact that the law of diminishing returns set in and the Finance Member has been compelled to make certain modifications by the imposition of excises and by screwing up the income-tax. But, Sir, the customs tariffs have not been adjusted on any scientific basis, a promise which he made in the beginning of his career and which he has failed to keep. As an illustration of the Finance Member's callousness towards industry generally, I cannot do better than refer to the case of the salt industry. In 1931, there was a protective duty given to salt of 4 annas and 6 pies which was subsequently reduced, in 1933, to 2 annas and 6 pies and, in 1936, to 1 anna and 6 pies and, in spite of the universal recommendation and representation from this country, it was allowed to lapse in April, 1938, completely, in spite of the fact that the price of salt in Calcutta today is at about the lowest level that it has been for a good many years.

Sir, the financial system is calculated to depress the industry. There has not been research and organisation in order to make the system adapt itself to the industry, but it is the industry which is called upon to adapt itself to the system which these people have chosen. Sir, the machinery of the tariff inquiry has been treated by the Government of India generally and by the Finance Member in particular with very scant courtesy. Unsatisfactory as it is, it is a machinery set up by them and it is really astounding that they could suppress the reports. The report on the heavy chemicals was suppressed for many years in the twenties and now we have the sugar report which has been suppressed for twelve months. We have other reports on magnesium chloride, the silk, and the paper. All these reports have been made but we have not been told anything from the Government Benches as to what their findings are. We do not know whether in the budget provision has been made one way or the other in respect of these industries. Sir, it is impossible not to reiterate the complaint which I have heard everywhere in this country that the economic policy of the Government of India is guided by the whim of one individual. Is it seriously suggested, I ask, that the consideration of the sugar report should take twelve months? Are these enquiries mere farces to throw dust in the eyes of the people? Are Government justified in withholding them from the Legislature and yet asking us to judge over a budget in which provision is made for some of them? Now, take the case of sugar. Provision is made for 400 lakhs from the excise and 20 lakhs from the

customs revenue. This is in spite of the fact that it is notorious that this year there is a considerable shortage of the crops in India and that it is inevitable, in normal course, that there would be an import of something like 150 to 200 thousand tons from abroad.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): People will eat less.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): People will eat less if the present high price continues.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I do not want to deal with the question of prices at this stage. I have something to say later.

Sir, the burden of general taxation on India has increased. It is possible for Government to attempt to conceal this burden by the devices either of showing net revenues as also by the treatment of refunds and cost of collections or by putting the net expenditure of defence in order to conceal something like nine crores of rupees this year from the actual expenditure. There may be the device also of creating capital accounts and shifting on future heads the expenditure which would come for criticism. But the fact is that the total burden on this country of taxation has increased since 1914 by something like 80 crores of rupees. What is it that justifies such a burden and what is it that justifies the transfer from private pockets for extravagant and unproductive Government expenditure of this huge sum? Are we getting more or better Government, I ask? The total expenditure has increased enormously everywhere and there is a cry going on for more taxes. The time has come for calling a halt and to have a searching inquiry into the taxable capacity of the people. I would like to make a quotation from the *Times of India* of the 2nd March, 1939, which says:

“Though reasonable opinion may be prepared to recognise the absolute necessity of finding more money for the exigencies of the moment, *industry and commerce are being asked to bear a progressively increasing burden*. There is a limit to the capacity of either goose to provide our financial poulterers, whether Central or Provincial, with eggs adequate to the growing wants. The law of diminishing returns can all too easily come into play in this sphere of taxation, as in others.”

This is not Congress opinion, be it noted. This is from a leading Anglo-Indian Paper.

Sir, it is grossly unfair to this House that the Finance Member should keep up his sleeve such recommendations as may have come from the Chatfield Committee which affect materially the budget before us. He has been helped over and over again in the past in all his four budgets by adventitious and extraordinary receipts and he is a pastmaster in the art of under-estimating. But it is not fair to this House to place a statement in which he keeps behind the scene more serious points running into crores of rupees.

Then take the Indo-British trade agreement. Here also I should like to know whether the Honourable the Finance Member has made any allowance already in his budget because preference to Britain invariably means a free gift from the Treasury in India to the British merchants. I should like to know whether he has made any allowance. I find, for example, that he has budgeted for thirty lakhs less on cotton fabrics of British manufacture than what was the actual in 1937-38. Has he already made all these allowances? The necessity for

12 Noon.

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

balancing the budget does arise only in case Federation is coming near in view of the promise which the Government of India gave to the Indian States that they will not be called upon to join unless there is a balanced budget. Why should there be new taxes of such magnitude, unless Government are quite sure of their ground. I suggest that deficit should be carried over to the next year, because owing to the extremely conservative budgeting of which Sir James Grigg has shown himself an adept in the last four years, the 50 lakhs deficit could be made up at the end of the year. Carrying over of deficits is nothing unusual. The amount of deficits carried in the United States, a country which nobody can call either financially deficient or inept, is always very colossal and there is nothing unusual in that, I do not see why this could not have been done in India. The plea for reconciliation between the Centre and the provinces comes with bad grace from a man who has discontinued the salutary practice of the Finance Members' Conference and who has throughout refused to extend the hand of co-operation to the Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I should like to get one scrap of justification, one scrap of evidence that he can produce that I have consistently refused to co-operate with the provinces, when I have spent most of my time, during the past three years, doing nothing else.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The case which I had in mind was the sugar sales tax between the Governments of United Provinces and Bihar and the Finance Member. I can say. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member knows nothing whatever about that at all. The only information he has got out of me is entirely of a negative character. The United Provinces Government have never made any statement about it whatever. The Honourable Member is simply trotting out old wives' tales.

Mr. Manu Subedar: This is grossly unfair. I am not free to disclose the source of my information. I have got it from the most authoritative quarters direct and I had a discussion with the financial authorities of these provinces and I know what I am talking about.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Your assertion is entirely inaccurate.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has exhausted his time limit.

Mr. Manu Subedar: All right, Sir.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad Sir, we expected from the Honourable the Finance Member a review of the financial policy and achievements in a speech lasting, like that of his predecessor's, for two hours. On the contrary, his speech was a black-board speech giving bare figures which are interesting to a financier and statistician. My Honourable friend is a great believer in two points, firstly, he calls a spade a spade and secondly, he thinks that brevity is an essential element in finance. Five years ago when Sir George Schuster presented his budget, I reviewed the entire

regime and I propose to take this opportunity also to do so as far as the time limit will permit. I said in 1934 that Sir George Schuster in his regime imposed taxation to the extent of 30 crores in customs duty, but in spite of fresh taxation, the income from customs remained at 46 crores. The figure did not increase and this indicated the maximum capacity of the people to pay this particular duty. He introduced three novel principles of taxation which I am glad the Government of India have now given up and which no economists will subscribe. The one was to impose duties on certain *ad hoc* articles with a view to provide temporary shelters. I have never read anything on 'temporary shelter' in any book on political economy—this taxation like 'Poll-tax' is entirely unknown. The second was to give over-protection to industries and more than the Tariff Board recommended with the object that ultimately cut throat competition will lower the prices. This was what was repeatedly said on the floor of the House. The third was the increase by 25 per cent. in customs without any scientific basis and without discrimination. The Honourable the Finance Member, however, realised at the very outset that country will not bear additional taxation. During the last five years, he imposed customs duty amounting to 105 lakhs and remitted 13 lakhs of the entire customs duty. The Finance Member thus imposed during the last five years an additional duty of 92 lakhs only. This is very different from 30 crores during the preceding 5 years. Again, taking the duty on all articles, that is, post office, excise and so on, the total amount of duty which he imposed was 5.49 crores and he gave a remission of 3.80 and the total duty which he imposed in all the departments taken together excluding income tax is 1.69 crores. This is not a very bad record. This is not the record of an opportunist. Having realised that the capacity to pay, by means of excise duty, has now reached the maximum, the Finance Member followed another course. He fell back on excise duty. He has really revised the system. In the excise and customs taken together he is expecting 49 crores in coming year which are the figures for 1928-29, but they still fell short by two crores compared with the figures of 1929-30.

The credit of India stands at present rather high compared with previous years. I take $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. security, which is the barometer of the credit of the country. This security at one time went down to $51\frac{1}{2}$ Rs., but recently it touched Rs. 100-15-0. It really redounds to the credit of the country. As regards loans, we realise that during the regime of Sir George Schuster, the sterling loans increased by 40 crores and during the last five years, the sterling loans have diminished by 65 crores. The next feature is about the export of gold. During the time of Sir George Schuster, in two years, the export was 180 crores and during the last five years, it has been 150 crores, so that there has been substantial diminution, but still, I think, it is very desirable that we should conserve gold. Gold is the only currency we can fall back upon at times of necessity and, therefore, the conserving of gold is of fundamental importance. The Finance Member has created and maintained conditions of easy money. My Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, knows how money can be obtained cheap and easily.

The next thing we have to recognise is that Government have now adopted a regular policy on the result of the Niemeyer's report to help the Provinces. They have provided this year a sum of 304 lakhs for giving

[Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad.]

away to the provinces and I hope that when finances improve, the contribution will increase. They have also created a special revenue reserve fund in the Reserve Bank of India. This is really of great importance. I am, however, rather sorry that he has not yet introduced what we pressed in 1933 at the time of the discussion of the Reserve Bank Bill that they ought to have established a rural credit fund for the establishment of rural credit bank in connection with the Reserve Bank. The Finance Member has given for the rural development a sum of 158 lakhs, and this idea of developing rural conditions was really initiated by the Honourable the Finance Member during his regime. The Provincial Governments are now following up the lead given by the Centre.

The next thing which I wish to refer to is this. I have been pressing for a considerable long time that we have got no statistics to determine the movement of trade from one town to another. We have statistics about the movement of goods from India to outside countries but we do not know how the internal trade is moving; and I am glad that the Government of India have established an Intelligence Department to collect these statistics and we will in future be able to find out the movement of trade internally.

Then, as regards the policy of protection I also have a complaint with my friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, but my complaint stands on different grounds. I do not believe that protection should be given for an indefinite period. He objected to the abolition of protection, which in my opinion should be given for a limited time. The other thing which he pressed was perfectly correct that after the completion of Tariff Board reports the Government take an abnormally long time to think over the matter, and by the time they bring out the Tariff Board report circumstances change and people forget everything about it. Therefore, they ought to expedite it and publish their views as quickly as possible. I will discuss this protection policy later on and I think there is something substantial in what my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, pointed out in this connection.

Now, I will mention a few points as to what my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, did not do but which I think he ought to have done. In the first and I hope his successor will take them up. The first point is centralising customs. The Government of India should take charge of all the ports in India and give the dues to the States according to their treaties; but the organisation should be central in order to avoid smuggling and rebate. The other point is the simplification of tariff. Tariff details are very difficult to understand. No two appraisers will put the same article under the same heading; and, therefore, it is very desirable that this thing should be simplified. The third point is that there ought to be a scientific basis of taxation including protection. In the case of the protection theory it should be considered not only from the point of view of the capitalists and manufacturers but we should also take the view point of the consumers and the cottage industries. Therefore, all these things taken together should be taken into consideration and a new policy should have to be evolved under which we should consider not only the big manufacturers but also the cottage industries and the consumers.

Now, coming to the budgetary position, I will mention one or two points. The first is about the cotton duty. Here, no doubt, there will be a difference of opinion between the textile manufacturers on the one side and the agriculturists on the other. Agriculturists expect that there should be some kind of market for the cotton they produce. In all these trade agreements the one point on which we should lay great stress is that we should not give any concession about the import of any textile goods unless they undertake to purchase a definite amount of cotton from India. Now, we have given an enormous protection and a protection which is unjustified,—and in figures which cannot be expressed in ordinary wordly language, but they can only be expressed in astronomical terms. Considering the protection in astronomical figures which we are giving to this textile industry, it is very reasonable for us to ask that they should use exclusively Indian cotton. They should not import any cotton from abroad, and if they say that they cannot get long-staple cotton they should be ready to contribute some cess in order to encourage the growth of long-staple cotton in this country. The textile manufacturers may complain of the duty, but I think their complaint is not reasonable. I will mention here that there is always a difference between a merchant and a gentleman. Whenever a merchant eats pistachios he says he is eating gram while a gentleman who is eating gram proclaims to the outside world that he is eating pistachios. Everybody will remember the story of the gentleman in Lucknow who puts a little gram in his pocket and begins to eat it telling the outside world that he is eating pistachios in order to show that he is a rich man; but when you go to a merchant you will find that although he is earning millions he will always say that he is starving and that Government are very unkind to him and he is always in trouble. So, he will never acknowledge the facilities that have been provided for merchants and he will always complain of what additional facilities should have been given to him.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more to finish his speech.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Coming to the military side, I have not got much time but I will just mention two points. The first is that I protest against the employment of Gurkhas in the army. I think they ought to be replaced by Indians as quickly as possible. There is no justification for us to employ them here when they do not even issue passes to Indians. Now, when war is impending, it is very difficult for us to review the military budget but we will discuss it later on.

As regards the sugar duty, I received a pamphlet from the Merchants' Association in which they protested that Finance Member has underestimated the income from sugar and the income from income-tax. I think it is desirable that our estimates should be based on the income of the last year and not on the imagination of some persons who believe that the income would be much greater. The principle of sound finance is to put your estimate at the lowest figure and put the expenditure at the maximum figure. You cannot have it otherwise and that is what has been provided in the budget. As regards this I will ask Mr. Manu Subedar two simple questions. The first question is whether he is prepared to give up the manufacture of lower counts in favour of cottage

[Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad.]

industries. Is he prepared to ask all the millowners of India not to prepare any cloth of counts lower than a particular number and give the entire thing to the cottage industries so that there may be a division of labour?

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

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: My second question is whether he is prepared to have a cess imposed on textile mills in order to improve the growth of long-staple cotton.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, at the present time when we are discussing this budget I find that the atmosphere is a very peculiar one. The eyes of the country are all drawn to the delicate situation which has been created on account of the fast of Mahatma Gandhi, and the country is very anxious to see that some sort of solution is arrived at before it gets too late. The other peculiar feature of the atmosphere I find in the House itself. Whereas, on these occasions we usually find crowded Benches to criticise the budget proposals, on this particular occasion we find Honourable Members of the Congress Party going to perform their duties elsewhere; and I do not know whether it is fortunate or unfortunate for the Finance Member to find that his budget will not be subjected to much criticism. However, we have to do our duty and with regard to the budget I submit that it has not pleased me at all. It is a fact that last year the Finance Member over-estimated the budget. I have always complained that the Finance Department or those

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Over-estimated what? The revenue or expenditure?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I will come to that. But the Finance Department knows how to manipulate figures and to give us hopes of what they will do for the country.

Last year, he said that there will be a surplus of nine lakhs for the current year. I ask where is that surplus? I am, therefore, fortified in my opinion that the facts disclosed in the budget cannot be considered to be correct. We find that it is a deficit budget this year and that the deficit comes to 265 lakhs. The Honourable the Finance Member puts it to the fall in the customs duty—to the extent of 367 lakhs. Of course, we cannot fight the figures: we have to take the figures he has given. But I cannot agree that the fall is due wholly to less imports. I feel that it is because of the goods imported from Japan being valued at a lower price. On account of this low price of these articles the customs office is not having sufficient income. Any way the deficit is there. Every year the question arises whether we should congratulate the Finance Member or not. In the face of this deficit budget I do not think anybody will have the courage or will be so undaunted as to come forward and congratulate the Finance Member so that after his retirement from India he can go Home and say "I carried on the business in India very well and I have left a surplus and helped nation building departments and so on." I do not think he can have that credit.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I assure the Honourable Member that I should not quote him as evidence of character!

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I do not know. But one thing is sure that he has acted like, what we call in our proverb, *Shutir-be-mahar*, which means like a camel without a bridle. I ask him whether it is not a fact that he has taken every thing into his own hands. The usual practice was that there used to be a Standing Committee for Finance. Where is it now? Why has he discarded it? He does not want any kind of control or advice—as in the case of the unbridled camel. Everybody should take advice. Nobody should act alone, especially in finance. I would go even so far as to say that it is not only imprudent but also impudent because he has, in this case, defied the House. When the House protested and wanted the Finance Committee, why did he not constitute it in the manner acceptable to the House? The whole blame, therefore, is on him.

Again, he has not followed the advice which the House gave him in order to balance the budget. It was suggested that there should be a reduction in the salaries of Government servants, not as is usually done in the lower grades but at the top. If he had taken that advice early, he could have balanced the budget. I say it is the duty of the Treasury Benches to press upon the Secretary of State that there should be a cut in the pay of officials at the top.

Owing to the shortness of time I will run over certain points and come to the other mistake that the Finance Member has committed—a grievous mistake—by removing the protection duty on salt. The history of this duty is well-known to the House. That duty could have been utilised to balance the budget. He has not done it but he has doubled the tax on import duty on raw cotton in order to get a small surplus. I submit that is not the way to balance a budget. Who is going to make him responsible? He is leaving the whole thing to his successor who may come and even curse him when he is faced with a deficit budget again. I submit the responsibility for the removal of this salt duty is on the shoulders of the Finance Member. Now, when was this protection given? It was found in 1931 that the imports of foreign salt just before 1931 were 327,000 odd tons. A duty was, therefore, levied and the imports came down next year to 130,648 tons. What was the figure before this duty was removed? In 1937-38 it was only 36,688 tons. . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Will the Honourable Member give the Aden figures too, for imported salt?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I have not got them. But why should the foreign salt come in along with the Aden salt? The point is that the foreign salt will again flood the market.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: And there has been a more than corresponding reduction in the imports of Aden salt, so that the total imports have decreased.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: There are also Indians in Aden . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There are Italians also in Aden.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Yes; but we wanted that the imports of salt by foreigners beyond Aden should be stopped and I want to know why that should not be done, why should any favour be shown to them? I further submit that even as regards the price of salt, they have been selling it at Calcutta at a much cheaper rate than the rate fixed at the time when protection was granted, and so I say that here also the Honourable the Finance Member has committed a mistake.

Then, Sir, coming to the question of the cotton protection duty, if the idea that is given to us that it is intended to help the growth of long staple cotton is really true, then I welcome it from the point of view of Sind, but we have a doubt on that point also. What does the Honourable Member propose to do with the income that he will derive from it? Will he earmark it for the growth of long staple cotton or he will utilise it for balancing the budget? If my Honourable friend's idea in imposing this double duty is to foster the growth of long staple cotton in India, then he will certainly help the Barrage in Sind. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I thought so. Now, Sir, I have received telegrams from some merchants in Sind, their Associations and Chambers, and they say that import duty on foreign cotton should be earmarked for grants to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for improving and increasing the production of long stapled cotton. I hope the Honourable Member will at least see that the income derived from this duty is earmarked for that purpose, and if he does so, then my thanks to him will be perfectly justified.

Then, Sir, there is one more point I should like to advert to, and it is this. I have seen the callousness of the Government with regard to the tragedy that happened in the Karachi harbour

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Very well, Sir, I shall conclude in one minute. With regard to this tragedy, the report of the formal investigation by court has come, and I do not think that there should be any delay in taking steps and making provision for awarding suitable compensation to the victims of that tragedy—to the children and families of those who suffered in that tragedy.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, like my friend, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, I have no desire to compare the actions, the policies and the failures of the present Finance Member with those of his predecessors. I feel, Sir, that if you compare one Finance Member with another, there is not much to be said in regard to the policies followed by different Finance Members. There may be differences of personal idiosyncrasies, or individual traits. The present Finance Member, I agree with Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, is more downright, if you wish to call it, or frank in his speech. He puts his case as it seems to him more honestly perhaps, and when he tries to conceal his real aim, he generally fails in his attempt. But, Sir, the policy of one Finance Member, in fact of all Finance Members, is the policy of the

Government of India. Therefore, there is no use for me to assess the actions and failures of one Finance Member in comparison with those of another. The policy of the Government of India in financial affairs is the policy of trying to protect the interest of the wealthier classes at the cost of the masses of the people of this country. While doing that, they also do not forget to protect the interests of the British people. That is their general policy.

Now, Sir, let us examine the revenues of the Government of India. We raise about 73 or 74 crores of rupees by taxation. Out of this sum we raise about 56 crores from customs, excise, and salt—all indirect taxes which fall on the people of this country without any regard to their ability to pay. The proportion of direct taxation is so small in India. This makes it quite clear that the financial policy of the Government of India is to protect, as far as they can, the interests of the wealthier classes. The burden of Government ought to fall on the wealthier classes in proportion to their ability to pay, but that is not the case here, it falls much more heavily on the masses of the people of this country. If you take the expenditure of the Government of India again, they spend about 45 crores on defence and on external affairs, on payment to the Crown representative,—on ecclesiastical department together they spend about four crores. In all they spend 49 crores out of the taxation revenue of 73 crores on these departments which are not needed for the masses of people in this country. The people who can hardly get sufficient to eat need really no protection from the army, because not even the worst tyrant in the world will think of doing any harm to people who are half starved. The worst tyrant will give those people a little to eat so that they may get work out of them. So, the Army, the Political Department, the External Affairs Department and also the Ecclesiastical Department are not needed for them at all, and the Government of India spends a large part of its revenue on these departments.

Similarly, Sir, the policies which the Finance Members have followed in controlling the expenditure of the Government of India is on the same principle. I have seen that during the last 17 or 18 years the personal expenditure of the Governor General has increased from 11 to 16 lakhs. At the same time, while dealing with their employees, the Government of India have tried to reduce the expenditure by introducing new and smaller scales of pay for the subordinate and inferior employees, while the rates of pay of the Civil Service are not touched at all. Take again the control of the Government of India over other departments. Let us first take the postal department, and here they try to control the expenditure of money for rural post offices. They stint money on these rural post offices, but the Finance Member has no objection if the postal department makes a loss of more than ten lakhs of rupees on the Air Mail Service. Now, for whom is this Air Mail Service necessary? Certainly not for the masses of the people of this country. The rural post offices are necessary for them, but while the Finance Member will not give the postal department ten lakhs of rupees for starting rural post offices, he is prepared to make a loss of ten lakhs for maintaining an air service in India. Similarly, take radio, we are making a huge loss on the radio. At present your radio is not of much use to the masses of people in this country, it may become of some use some day but not today. But, still, the Government of India is willing to make a loss. Some time ago I had asked whether the Government of India proposed to commercialise the radio

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

department and I was told that it was not the intention of the Government. Naturally, and I understand it. The radio is useful for the wealthy classes and the middle classes, and how can the Government of India afford to commercialise that department? Sir, this is generally the kind of financial control which the various Finance Members have exercised over Government of India's finances. Then, take this year's particular budget. The special feature of this year's budget is an economy amounting to a crore of rupees. I would have liked to examine the proposed economies by the Finance Member. The Finance Member does not give us sufficient information to judge where he has practised economy so that I could have found out whether the economy practised was at the cost of the masses of the poor people in this country or at the cost of the wealthy people in this country. Unfortunately, he has not given us information. He has told us that generally he has avoided new expenditure which was not remunerative or which was not inescapable. I would ask him whether the importation of an archaeological expert was either directly remunerative or inescapable. One can ask several questions as to what the Government of India should have done for the poor people. Two years ago I had asked the Finance Member whether he could revise the very unfair pension rules of the inferior servants of the Government of India. A slight revision, which he himself admitted was reasonable, would not have cost the Government more than what he had spent on this archaeological expert. Sir, to bring out an archaeological expert and spend some money on him is in accordance with the policy of the Government of India. To revise the pension rules for the inferior servants of the Government is certainly not in accordance with the policy of the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: They were revised.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I had asked another revision two years ago.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Oh!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Then the other feature of this year's budget is that the net expenditure on defence has been increased by one crore of rupees. There is a saving of one crore of rupees and there is a gross increase of two crores. Out of the saving there is a very small part which is permanent, namely, a saving made by the withdrawal of four battalions; but out of the increase a larger portion is a permanent increase. I would, therefore, suggest to the Finance Member that it is no good his telling us that there are very few countries in the world which have not increased their defence expenditure. We understand that very well, but the Government of India have unnecessarily kept their defence expenditure very high by maintaining the British troops in this country which cost four times as much as Indian troops. The Finance Member can make the defence of this country more efficient by withdrawing the British troops and maintaining even a larger number of Indian troops. But, Sir, that is not in accordance with the policy of the British Government. As regards the source of new revenue which his budget contains, I do not wish to deal at length on this occasion; there will be another occasion to speak on that subject. But, Sir, today it is my duty to point out that it was very wrong

on the part of the Finance Member to levy a duty on cotton at a time when the Government of India was negotiating a trade treaty between India and Great Britain. My Honourable friend will admit that a heavy import duty on raw cotton which is imported in order that the country should have fine cloth woven in this country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This duty surely changes the comparative competitive position between Great Britain and India, and it was very wrong of him to do that at this time without imposing a countervailing duty on foreign cloth. I shall deal with that subject later on. But before I close, I would like to say one word about the control of the Legislature over the Government of India's finances. My Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, said, that the Finance Member did not take steps to get the Finance Committee appointed. I think that the blame does not lie wholly on the Finance Member. This House is to some extent responsible for that. But, Sir, the Finance Member had promised to get an Estimates Committee appointed. I heard that he had consulted the Leaders of the various Parties in this House. But I feel that the Finance Member has introduced a novel constitutional method of consulting the Legislature on this subject. If the Finance Member thought that an Estimates Committee was the right method of giving control to the Legislature over the Government of India's finances, he should have put forward his proposal before the House and not approached the Leaders of some Parties.

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

Mr. N. M. Joshi: One word more. The Finance Member is not responsible to the Leaders of the Legislature. Finance Member is responsible to the Legislature and this House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is he responsible?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He ought to be any way.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): My Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, in his wonderful speech, compared the Honourable the Finance Member to a camel without a bridle; but to his credit it can be said that, in spite of the temptation to stray into many fields, he has abstained from doing so and has only so far strayed into the cotton field. There were many temptations for him but the budget which the Honourable the Finance Member has presented to this House has got its redeeming features as well, though there are certain things in which he could have taken the popular opinion into consideration and boldly followed policies which are demanded by the bulk of the people in this country. The introduction of the slab system in place of the step system is decidedly a change for the better; inasmuch as it will result in more taxes on people who can afford, on people with larger incomes and corporations, and less taxes on people who are already very heavily taxed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is no slab in the case of corporation.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Any way it is expected that corporations will pay more taxes than they have hitherto done. If that be so, I for one will certainly welcome it. That means that the system of taxation, as far as income-tax is concerned, will be more equitable in future, than it has hitherto been.

Now, Sir, the Finance Member in the course of his budget speech remarked that he had withstood the temptation of spending more money on the defence services of this country. It was asserted that the international situation had deteriorated considerably, and that there was a mad race for armaments in other countries which meant far more expenditure on defence in those countries than had hitherto been incurred. But we must bear in mind the fact that in India, even in normal times, our defence expenditure has been abnormal. The Honourable the Finance Member, I think, has budgeted a sum of 45 crores odd for the coming year. Now, even this will swallow up something like 55 per cent. of our total revenues. It is really surprising that while the receipts from customs were dwindling fast, the military expenditure last year mounted up by about 100 lakhs. I said in the beginning of my speech that the Honourable the Finance Member said that he has withstood many temptations. He and his Government could have considerably economised as far as the Defence Department is concerned. Every year the Government of India have been in the habit of spending crores of rupees in futile expeditions against the tribal areas. Now, it is very difficult to convince the present Government of India that the operations as far as Waziristan are concerned are not in the best interests of the country. That by your policy of forceful penetration into their country you have forced these people to retaliate against the unfortunate people who have to live in the settled districts of the Frontier Province, and that by your insistence on building roads in Waziristan you have provoked them to make it highly unsafe for people in the Frontier Province even to travel in broad daylight. The roads have to be guarded by the military day and night. It is high time that the Government of India bowed before the demand of the public by stopping this colossal expenditure in Waziristan, which is an absolute waste of money. In the matter of the defence services it cannot be said by the Government of India that they could not have economised. You should try to have more faith in the people of this country, and by a change of heart you can bring about the complete Indianisation of the army. You can easily save crores of rupees if you were only to Indianise the army in India but you refuse to do it and while refusing to do it you are exploring further avenues for taxing the unfortunate people of this country. The Government of India and especially the Defence Department can make use of the large number of young men who are being educated in our universities, and you can raise a voluntary force which could be used in the defence of this country in times of emergency. But the attitude of the Government, as far as the educated part of the Indian nation is concerned, has been utterly unsympathetic. You have always mistrusted us, kept us out of the army, with the result that you have to spend much more on keeping a paid army. Now, if you were to cross into Afghanistan, you will find that with far less resources than we have in this country, they have a voluntary army of the people who are proud to serve their country. Is it impossible to have this kind of army in this country? It is only the mistrust, which is eating into the vitals of the present Government, which is responsible for this colossal waste of money

which takes place on the defence. I am convinced that with far less expenditure you could have got an even more efficient army than you have at present. So much for the defence services.

I think the Government has got something at the back of their mind. They refuse to say so, but I think that their object in waging war against the tribal areas is not so much for the defence of India, but to gain a further and stronger foothold in Central Asia, from which they could wage their imperialist wars in the future.

Now, I will come to the other question—where the Honourable the Finance Member has refused to bow his head before the popular will. He could have earned the gratitude of the people if he had only taken that very much desired step of reducing the salaries of very highly paid officials. After all, India is a poor country. The Government officials in Japan, Germany and France receive far less salaries than they do in this country. It is being constantly asserted that if you were to reduce the salaries, you would be holding out temptations for the highly paid Government officials. I for one do not want that unfortunate situation to arise, but there is no denying the fact that there is ample scope for a legitimate reduction of the salaries of very highly paid officials. The Finance Member was worried about the prospective 50 lakhs deficit and how to meet it. He could have met it if he had only resorted to a wholesome cut in the salaries of the highly paid officials. These cotton duties are Sir James Grigg's parting kick to those who have been working for the industrialisation of India. I certainly welcome these duties. For one thing they will be bringing much needed relief to our agriculturists—viz., those who are growing cotton. I have far greater sympathy with them than with the rich capitalists who are running our mills in different centres but, at the same time, I certainly prefer my own capitalists to capitalists of other countries. I think the Honourable Sir James Grigg cannot deny that these duties will certainly strengthen the hands of Lancashire and Japan as against the manufacturers of cotton in this country. If the idea was to protect Indian cotton growers, I think that at the same time protection was needed for the manufacturers of cotton in this country by means of a countervailing duty against those competing with the manufacturers in this country—be they residents of Lancashire or Japan. There is no doubt that the Finance Member has afforded welcome relief to the cotton growers but we know that the development of long staple cotton in India will take a long time. But the manufacturers of cotton will be immediately hit by this doubling of the duty on cotton. I do not think that this expected deficit of 50 lakhs could have really worried the Honourable the Finance Member. He has doubled the duties on the imports of cotton without some sort of relief to the manufacturers of cotton in India. The Government of India could certainly have economised. I for one welcome the fact that the Finance Member has refrained from imposing more taxes on other things. There is no doubt that that welcome element is present in his budget, but I think he could have done much better by refraining from doubling this import duty, without the complimentary and countervailing duty on the imports of cotton goods in this country. The question of retrenching the expenditure has not been carried far enough.

We are being told that the situation has improved in Waziristan. The Defence Secretary has been lately very loud in telling us that things are settling down there. But from what I hear, I think we are going to have

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

a lot more trouble in Waziristan this year than we have had for the last three years, and the Finance Member will have to find a couple of crores more for this forward policy which is being pursued in that part of the country. The other day the Honourable the Foreign Secretary laid down a novel proposition, I welcome it—that there is no such thing as independent tribes or independent areas in this country. If that is so, I should like to know from the Government what is the necessity for this abnormal treatment meted out to people who, according to the assertion of the Foreign Secretary, are British subjects. If they are British subjects, then, I think, these air squadrons are not at all required in Waziristan. If they are not British subjects, then this army of fifty or forty thousand which the Defence Secretary has sent out to that country—and which has failed to achieve its object of even holding the passes

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable M. R. M. Member has two minutes more.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: . . . is quite useless. I would, therefore, request that the Government of India should now, while they are in office, try to be more in touch with the demands, the aspirations, and the feelings of the people of this country in the matter of finance. It would be a good thing if they start with a much-needed reform, viz., a cut in salaries, which will be very welcome to the taxpayer.

Mr. Nabi Baksh Ilahi Baksh Bhutto (Sind: Muhammudan Rural): Sir, I offer my congratulations to the Honourable the Finance Member for presenting a balanced budget without undue taxation. On account of the fall in customs revenue, it was believed at one time that he would levy special taxes to the extent of three crores of rupees, but he brought down expenditure by strict economy which he exercised from the very beginning of the current financial year, and which he proposes to continue during the coming year. We apprehended that there might be a cut in salaries. The cut is always unpleasant and I am glad that he avoided it. My friend's régime will be remembered for two special features:

- (1) He did not invent any novel form of taxation.
- (2) He attempted to meet the budget by internal economy.

In the coming year, he has proposed to double the duty on imported cotton. The duty at present is $\frac{1}{2}$ anna per lb. which he has proposed to raise to 1 anna and by this method he expects to get an additional income of 55 lakhs. This duty is a blessing in disguise to the agriculturists in Punjab, Sind and Gujrat. We have given abnormally high protection to Indian cotton mills, and there is no justification for them to use cotton from outside and to starve our own agriculturists. The Indian mills should consume Indian cotton alone. I would have suggested that the import of cotton should be stopped altogether.

I would have very much liked the reduction in the price of post cards from nine pies to six pies, but the figures that we are given in the general report indicate that the Post Office finance do not permit of such reduction. The post office is a commercial department, and it should see that the rates are not higher than what they are in other countries.

I do not propose at present to discuss the efficiency of the Post and Telegraphs Department; I will have the opportunity to discuss it on the occasion of the Finance Bill but one point which I would like to note on this occasion and which affects the Budget is the practice of sending unnecessary telegrams and sending private money orders and private goods on postal service by postal officers. One case of an officer of the rank of P. M. G., has already come to the notice of the Director General and I would like to hear what action he has taken in this matter and may I just remind him on this occasion that there were several other complaints of inefficiency which are already on record.

In the tax collecting department the cost of Income-tax collection should be minimised and I suggest the Government should consider whether they can reduce the expenditure by retrenching unnecessary staff of Inspectors.

I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to the financial position of Sukkur Barrage. The Sind Government, or more appropriately, the people of Sind, pay the interest charges on the capital. The yield from Sukkur Barrage is not so great as it was expected. The prices of agricultural products have now gone down, and it is not possible to recover the money necessary for payment of dues. In addition to the problem of fall of price there are certain inherent difficulties in the system. Firstly, the flow of water is not enough for irrigation purposes. Secondly, the distribution is defective and thirdly, there is a large deposit of silt on the mouth of the canals which obstructs the easy flow of water. Fourthly, the wrong distribution of water is now changing the character of the soil. Good soil is now becoming barren, and the waste land is being brought under cultivation, and it has thus upset previous equilibrium. The Sukkur Barrage was constructed at a time when the prices were very high and, therefore, its capital expenditure has enormously gone up. It is very desirable that canals should be revalued at a lower figure and the interest charges should be reduced. It will not be too much substantial remission in the interest charges. On account of low price the agriculturists cannot pay the canal dues at high rate.

The question of customs is now in a chaotic condition. The Finance Member has very much tightened the department but it is still anything but satisfactory. It seems desirable that the customs should be brought under one administration and should be centralised. I am not satisfied with the manner of appointments in this Department. The appointments should be made by a committee of selection attached to the Department of Board of Central Revenue, and they should not be left to the sweet will of the Collector of Customs.

Mr. Lalchand Nayalrai: Why not the Public Service Commission?

Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto: I may also allude here to some irregularities in the Central Public Works Department affecting the Budget. A contractor in Dehra Dun, K. S. Nizam Uddin, was given a contract at Dehra Dun. He was very unfairly treated by Uttam Singh, the Executive Engineer, with the result that the matter went to the Court and he got a decree of Rs. 30,000. The Government appealed to the High Court, but the High Court gave a decree of Rs. 50,000 and passed strictures against Uttam Singh. I should like to know from what fund the Government are going to pay Rs. 50,000? Is the amount provided in the present Budget,

[Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto.]

or will it be deducted from the salary of Uttam Singh? I do not discuss the unjust manner in which Nizam Uddin was treated but I am interested to find the manner by which this Rs. 50,000 will be paid. I would like to ask the Honourable Member in charge to let us know on the floor of the House whether departmental action was taken against this officer, and what action would the Government take in similar circumstances if the officer had been a Muslim? This department, which Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad said at one occasion, is a preserve for Sardar Sant Singh and Mangal Singh and this department finds no room for Muslim contractors, even the contract of Shahi Mosque at Lahore, to which H. E. H. the Nizam has given a substantial donation, was given to a non-Muslim.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to point out that our sterling liabilities have been brought down from 41 millions in 1936-37 to 27 millions and our interest charges have been reduced by 196 lacs, which is satisfactory.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Santhal Parganas: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I will not say anything regarding that aspect of the Budget which concerns the expenditure of three-fourths of the revenue of the Government of India out of about one hundred crores of rupees and leaves about only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the revenue to be talked over by the Honourable Members of this House. I will simply content myself with our present lot and speak about that part which is allotted to us. From my previous experience I have seen that for want of time and with a "two minutes more time" warning from the Chair I have had to cut short my speech and I could not place all my points before the House but, being cautious now, I want to place my points and to invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to those points, so that my Honourable friend may take them into consideration. I have always held the view that the finances of the Government of India should be so handled that all the Provinces may have equal opportunities to develop themselves and to flourish and improve their financial and economic condition. But it is with much dismay that I have invariably noticed that the Government of India have paid very little heed to this in the management of their affairs. I would at once enumerate how in certain departments administered by the Government of India, they have neglected some of the provinces.

The first thing that I wish to point out is in connection with the Broadcasting Department. I had occasion to press this point before the Honourable Member in charge and the Government of Bihar have also pressed this point on the Government of India. The reply that the Government of India gave was that they had no funds. Even when I put a question in this House it was said that the broadcasting stations that are in India can serve the needs of all the provinces and, therefore, there is no need for having a station in all the provincial centres. To this question, a supplementary question was asked by one of the Honourable Members as to whether the existing stations that are in some provinces can employ men from those provinces where there is no station and perhaps the reply was silence. I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to this meaningful silence. Although they may admit that they do employ men from those provinces where there is no broadcasting station, but under the present circumstances it is not in the state of nature to do justice to those persons who come from those provinces where there are no broadcasting stations. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department should

know that the persons of those provinces which have not got broadcasting stations not only suffer from the educative point of view, but they also suffer economically. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that the matter should be looked into by the Government of India and, they should try to establish broadcasting stations in those provinces where they do not exist. Sir, it is not only in the economic and educative spheres but in other respects also that those provinces which have not got the broadcasting stations suffer. Even from this year's budget I find that, although lakhs and lakhs have been provided for the capital outlay for broadcasting in other provinces, there is no provision for those provinces which have not got the broadcasting stations on the pretext that there is no money in the coffers of the Government of India. I hope that they will look to the justice of the thing in these matters in the future, so that there may not be any grievance on the part of those provinces which have not got broadcasting stations.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can resume his speech after Lunch.

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

Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal: Sir, I was speaking about the policy and programme of the Government of India in the matter of setting up broadcasting stations in the provinces. So far as my Province of Bihar is concerned, they should redeem their promise in this respect which they held out by way of raising hopes in us only some time back.

The next point is the administration of the road fund. This fund was created for the development of roads throughout the length and breadth of the country. The basis of distribution was so settled that uniform development in all the provinces was impossible. The more developed provinces get more and the less developed provinces get less so that the less developed provinces are neglected more and more. When I discussed this question with Sir Frank Noyce, he pleaded for more power for the Central Government in respect of road fund so that the Government may be in a position to deal justly in this matter. It so happened that the road resolution empowering the Central Government with more power was passed. We only expect that they would see to the justice of the thing because although this resolution was passed, the basis of allocation has been allowed to remain the same. I would urge upon the Honourable Member in charge that this basis which does not operate successfully in the development of roads throughout all the provinces should be so changed that all the provinces may be justly dealt with in this matter.

The next point is with regard to the appointments in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I can do no better than quote the relevant

[Babu Kailash Behari Lal]

Remarks in this respect from the report of the unemployment committee, Bihar:

"In this department there are 29 superior gazetted posts, of which only three are held by men of this province. In the subordinate service there are about 4,000 posts, of which 50 per cent. are of postal peons drawing a salary of Rs. 20 and above. These men are mostly natives of the province or domiciled therein. Out of the remaining 2,000 posts about 81 per cent. are held by men of the province, including those domiciled in Bihar, but they all appear to be in the lower grades while the upper grades of the service are held mostly by outsiders."

The next point is with regard to the administration of the Audit Department in the province of Bihar. Here again I will quote from the report of the same unemployment committee:

"This includes the Accountant General's office and the Local Audit department. There are in this department 264 posts, including three gazetted posts of Assistant Accounts Officer, but excluding those of the Accountant General, Deputy Accountant General and Assistant Accountant General. It appears from a statement furnished by the Deputy Accountant General that out of the above number, only 70 are held by men of the province or domiciled therein. The province has been in existence now for about 25 years and the small number of Biharis in the department is disappointing."

I hope, Sir, they will take note of this report and do justice.

Last, but not the least, I want to refer to the recruitment in the army. About the injustice done in the matter of recruitment, many Honourable Members have spoken before in the past. I myself am of opinion that equal opportunity should be given to all provinces to develop their martial spirit, by recruitment in the army. If there be any objection on the score that there should not be an indiscriminate recruitment, without due respect to fitness, etc., I will urge upon the authority that they should not at least pursue such a policy that even where there exists a martial spirit, the people may be demartialised on account of long neglect and want of opportunity before them. I am speaking specially about Biharis. In the great Indian sepoy mutiny, where the soldiers were said to be rebels, they all belonged to Bihar and because they belonged to Bihar the Biharis of today are punished by being denied recruitment in the army. I may also inform the House that the soldiers from Bihar conquered—of course we are ashamed for that—the province which now boasts of being a martial province. Even the Punjabis admit the justice of the claim of the people of Bihar.

An Honourable Member: No, no.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal: Of course, Honourable Members will not admit this openly in the House, but in the lobby where I had a talk with my friends from the Punjab, they admitted the justice of the case for Bihar to be included in the army and they also admitted that Biharis conquered the Punjab for the British. Even though they are not prepared to accept this openly, I do not want to rake up any provincial feeling, I will say that in order to develop the country uniformly, they should understand the justice of the thing. They should not brand other provinces as consisting of cowards or non-martial people. It is no good to create provincial jealousies and provincial feeling. The Government want to put the provinces at logger-heads by creating this martial and non-martial business. I submit that those people who deserve to be enrolled in the army should be given the

chance. The fact remains that these people were in the army until a few years ago, they took part in the first war for Indian independence, this so-called Sepoy Mutiny, but now these very people are penalised and they are prevented from enlisting in the army. At least our brethren from other provinces should not stand in our way and they should accept the justice of our claim.

The next point I wish to refer to is the establishment of post offices in rural areas. There was one post office in Simeria which used to serve a distance of about 60 square miles. I am told that between Chatra and Hazaribagh this was the only post office and this has recently been proposed to be abolished. God knows on what grounds. Whenever the question of such facilities may arise in rural areas, the Government should not rely merely on the report of their subordinates and thus abolish those facilities, but they should also look to the representation of the people who have their grievances and they should set matters right. These grievances prevail in other places also. I want to impress this fact upon Government so that they may look into it.

Another point which I should like to impress, though there is no use dilating upon it, is about the excluded areas. I represent the Santhal Parganas also here which is partially an excluded area and I will press upon Government to concede the justice of their claims. Of course, it is a big issue and much has been said from many sides and on many occasions on this subject, and I will only repeat that so long as the grievances of the excluded area people are there they are neglected in many respects. In their policy adumbrated by Government so far as this budget is concerned they have not said anything about the unfortunate people inhabiting these parts. They should at least set apart a certain amount so that the administration in these areas may be on a level with the administration carried on in other parts of the country. It will not do for Government to say that in the excluded areas the people are backward. This theory has been exploded on past occasions and it will not do for Government to cling to the view that the administration there should be kept on a low level because they do not deserve a higher type of administration. They should at least be helped and the Government of India should embark on a policy of bringing the administration of these excluded areas on a level with the other parts of the country.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The question may now be put.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions; Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I find that my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, is an opportunist today because of the paucity of Members present here, and also because he had an opportunity of speaking on the budget before many of us have been able to do so. Sir, although in speaking on the budget we are circumscribed by the limit of time, I will try to do my best within that limit. The Finance Member in the opening paragraph of his speech made a startling remark that India is a disappointing country for prophets. Of course, it will be a disappointing country for prophets like Sir James Grigg but not for those who come to do good to the country. He has been looking more to the interests of his own country as is evident in this budget. The whole country is criticising him for imposing a duty on cotton and on raw materials. Would any Britisher in Britain impose such

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali.]

a duty to the detriment of his own country? He would never do it. But it has been done in India, and why? Simply because my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, wants to pose as a prophet to the detriment of India and not in the interests of this country. Sir, we want such prophets to come to India, not as birds of passage, but to do good to the country. Prophets are always known to do good to the country and not to do it harm. Ever since our Finance Member came to this country, he has been juggling with figures. And, not only that, but he has not even been poetic. He is so prosaic in his explanation of the budget that he will not leave an inch for this country to recoup its losses.

In this budget there are no taxes imposed, but if we read between the lines we find only taxation upon taxation and nothing more. These budget proposals are of no good to the country. It may be a balanced budget, in his own estimation, but to the outside world it is nothing but a deficit budget. My Honourable friend says that the credit of India stands high. If that is so would any Finance Member produce a deficit budget? I refute that argument and assert that the credit of this country does not stand high. It may be high for the purpose of borrowing or for helping other countries, specially Japan and Great Britain, as is evident from the imposition of a tax on cotton. I do not wish to grudge any praise to those who say that the credit of India stands high but it has to be remembered that it is the result of world-wide depression and the withdrawal of capital from trade and industry. The low money rates prevailing throughout the world generally and in London in particular have secured a low bank rate in India and cheaper borrowing for Government in this country. But the low bank rates in India do not reflect the multiplicity of millions of loan transactions in the interior. The Finance Member has failed in one expectation in so far as he did not take the opportunity to convert the 3½ per cent. sterling loan in England. Is that good finance? I will answer in the negative. Conversion operations took place in the United Kingdom extending to over two thousand million pounds of that Government and many of the Colonies were able to borrow cheaper than India. Why could not India borrow? Did the credit of India stand high or low then? I would ask my friends to judge; I contradict that statement with all the force at my command. Some of these Colonies had not their financial or exchange arrangements on as sound a footing as India had. Why could not these conversions be made? I refute the statement that the credit of India stands very high, because full advantage was thus not secured for Indian finances of the low money rates. The encouragement to savings, for which purpose the Savings Banks were established and the postal certificates were instituted, will be less with reduced rates given by the Finance Member, and it is curious that Provident funds and Service funds rates have not been reduced correspondingly. Does this bear out the claim that India's credit is high? The poor man, who entrusts his savings to Government is going to receive less, but the service people must continue to receive at a high rate along with a high salary. I ask the Honourable Member to consider this position and then to state if it can be said that the credit of India stands high. Much available capital is picked up by Government in treasury bills, the volume of which has increased, and Provincial Governments are equally availing themselves of this facility. The result is that the money released from Government obligations of one kind is added to Government obligations of the other kind and the flow of

capital into trade and industry is interfered with. I do not grudge the help which the relief in interest charges has brought to the Finance Member's budget. But careful organisation, with a little foresight, might have led to the utilisation of this period of cheap money rates and plentiful loanable capital for the expansion of banking in this country, had the Finance Member addressed himself to this task. If, after all this, any Honourable Member were to come here and argue that the credit of India stands high, I can only say that he must be either an enemy of this country or he must retire from the politics of this country and the economic life of this country. On the contrary, banking has received a set back during his régime and active measures for the encouragement of banking have not been taken. The utilisation of indigenous bankers by securing them direct relationship with the Reserve Bank, which was definitely promised to this House at the time of the establishment of the Reserve Bank, has also not been pursued with the same vigour with which an Indian Finance Member would have pursued it. I was a Member of that Committee and, therefore, I ask the Finance Member whether these terms have been fulfilled.

My next point is, how has the agriculture of India improved? One or two crores being sent away to the Provincial Governments is no good. Do the cultivators and agriculturists of India need only a crore or two? Every year the revenues coming into the treasury come to about 82 crores. Is one crore or two the share of the agriculturists in this country, whose hard-earned money is being utilised everywhere by the servants of the Indian Government? If the agriculturist comes forward today and says that the Government is doing nothing absolutely for him, I think he is absolutely correct.

I do not wish to dilate on the industrial conditions of this country. Other Members will perhaps have something to say about this. But I shall say something about the sugar industry. We all know that we are not allowed to send out our sugar as we desire; and it is the industry which with the greatest difficulty India was able to establish in this country. We know that the sugar industry has been established and that it is a paying concern, but still we find we are not able to export as much sugar as we would like to

An Honourable Member: There is not enough for the country itself!

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Excuse me. The Indian mills can produce enough if they are allowed a free hand

Mr. Chairman (Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: . . . but they are handicapped in every way. I have seen statements from the industry itself in different places that they are handicapped in every way and the rules about people taking their carts from one factory to another are so stringent and harsh that the cultivator finds it very difficult to go from one place to another

An Honourable Member: The rules are made by the Provincial Governments.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: However, that is the state of affairs, and as my time is up, I will resume my seat.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh): Sir, the most welcome news that has come to us just now is the breaking of the fast by Mahatma Gandhi, thanks to the intervention of the Crown Representative.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): It is not confirmed yet.

Sardar Sant Singh: A settlement has been reached at Rajkot and Mahatma Gandhi has broken his fast.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Who says that? I think it is too early.

Sardar Sant Singh: The news has come just now: it is Government news and is from authoritative quarters. It has been confirmed. My source is rather authoritative. However, Sir, even if it lacks confirmation now for my friend, I hope the confirmation will soon arrive and we will all be happy over it.

The Honourable the Finance Member has presented to us his last budget in a speech more or less businesslike, irritating no one and provoking no one. All the same, the budget is featureless: it does not break any new ground and it does not give us any insight into the working of the finances of this great country. We, who are not great financiers, find it very difficult to go through a mass of figures and calculations such as are presented to us. I think it is not very long ago when a similar complaint was voiced from these Benches that some method should be devised for presenting the budget in such a manner that it will be more intelligent and more intelligible to the ordinary man, excepting those who like himself are more at home in reading figures than reading stories, if I may be excused for saying so. Certainly the budget can be made more interesting and I will request that if the Treasury Benches can help us in presenting better budgets in a more interesting manner, the House as a whole will be more thankful to them.

The Honourable Member at the end of his speech complained of the stresses between race and race and community and community and has expressed a desire, based upon very good grounds, that if such stresses can be replaced by reconciliation the Provincial as well as the Central Government will be better able to raise the standard of life of the masses in this country. May I remind him that this side of the House has always been very emphatic in its desire to bring about reconciliation between the various communities living in India? But the blame must be thrown on the policy that has been persistently followed, for a very long time, by our friends who are occupying the Treasury Benches at present, and that policy is the well-known policy of divide and rule. Not only was that policy followed during the last regime, if I may say so, but even under the new constitution they have perpetuated that policy by giving statutory recognition to what is commonly known as the Communal Award. I know that it is no good crying at this stage and the cry of one man, probably all alone in this House of about 150 members, but I have kept up this cry of the inequity of the Communal Award from year to year in the hope that some day our friends of the Muslim League will realise the evil effects of this Communal Award and will come in line with the other nationals of the country. However, I do not want to raise this communal issue for fear of offending the susceptibilities of my Muslim friends, but I do want to tell

them that this policy is responsible for the new cry that has arisen in the country and that new cry is the cry of the Muslims being a different nation in India from the other race, I mean the major community, namely, Hindus.

Mr. Chairman (Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): The Honourable Member should now speak on the Budget, and these discussions may be reserved for the Finance Bill.

Sardar Sant Singh: I think, Sir, in speaking on the Budget one is allowed to express the grievances of all communities.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: But the only thing you need not discuss is the Budget.

Sardar Sant Singh: You will have the Budget very soon.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Grievances before supplies.

Sardar Sant Singh: My point is,—I do not want to take much time by going into this question at great length,—this feeling of being new nationals in this country is directly due to the adoption of the policy underlying the Communal Award, but this policy has been further implemented by another award which is known as the service award. In that service award too, we find that most of the time of the House is being wasted by asking questions relating to communal representation

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: You do a good deal of it.

Sardar Sant Singh: I do, and I must, because I must protect the interests of my community. You cannot complain of it now; you gave birth to these feelings, and you cannot legitimately complain of it. If the same reactions follow you, you will have to accept them in the same spirit of sportsmanship in which you sought to divide and rule us.

Now, as I was saying, this circular of July, 1934, has been in existence for about 4½ years. During this period much has been done in the field of new recruitment. The result is that some headway must have been made in removing the deficiencies in respect of the various communities in the services directly under the Government of India. I asked the Honourable the Home Member once to prepare a consolidated list of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Government of India with a view to know what headway had been made to make up the deficiencies complained of before the communal service award was given effect to

An Honourable Member of the Muslim League Party: Now come to the Budget proper.

Sardar Sant Singh: Well, if you will wait a little, you will find there is something in your favour also, but the difficulty is that you are so much obsessed with the Communal Award that you do not want to listen to any reason at all

Mr. Chairman (Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): The Honourable Member should now come to the Budget.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am coming to the Budget now. I know it is distasteful to one section of the House to hear me speak against the Communal Award, but one of the Members of the Muslim League Party just before lunch time raised this question and said that my community was enjoying certain advantages in certain respects, and when I refer to the question of Communal Award here, I merely want to point out that they themselves set the ball rolling, and they should not be sorry if I stand up to reply to their arguments. Well, Sir, I was suggesting that a consolidated list should be prepared so as to remove a good deal of misunderstanding between the various communities as to the proportion of new recruitment.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): We welcome it.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am glad that an important Member of the Muslim League Party welcomes this. However, the circular, after having been in operation for the last four or five years, should now be recast in the light of the new experience that must have been gained

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Now come to the Budget itself.

Sardar Sant Singh: The Honourable the Finance Member wants me to come to the Budget itself

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We all want you to come to the Budget itself.

Sardar Sant Singh: All Muslims want me to come to the Budget itself, whether they belong to the Congress or to the Muslim Group. To me they are the same.

Now, Sir, I come to the Budget. I am glad that sugar has not been taxed this year. There was a great fear in the sugar industry that the Honourable the Finance Member would come forward with proposals for additional taxation for the sugar industry. The sugar industry, Sir, is already heavily taxed, and some sort of protection is given by imposing protective duties on foreign sugar, but at the same time, I want to tell those who are engaged in the sugar industry that the prices of sugar today are very high, and something must be done to reduce them in the interests of the consumer

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Hear, Hear,—a Daniel come to judgment.

Sardar Sant Singh: The price of sugar should be reduced by some methods which are probably known to those who are engaged in the industry.

The next item, to which I wish to refer, is the doubling of the duty on foreign cotton. Sir, I welcome this duty in the interests of cotton growers of my province and of my constituency particularly. The clamour has been raised by certain industrialists engaged in the textile industry that this duty which has been raised will adversely affect the textile industry of India. I am quite aware of the need of protecting the key industry of India, and textile industry is one of the key industries of India, but, at the same time, I cannot help saying that the cotton produced in India is quite capable of being absorbed to a much larger extent in the textile industry of this country if those who are engaged in the industry are only mindful of absorbing more of indigenous cotton. There are certain

complaints made that the requisite staple cotton is not produced in this country. I have looked into the latest report of the Central Cotton Committee, and I find that attempts are being made, both in Sind as well as in Lyallpur and the Chenab Colony, where the higher staple cotton is being grown, to replace the foreign cotton. If the textile industry employs some laboratory assistants and makes some research work and gives some assistance to the cotton growers of our province, there is no reason why the same kind of cotton which is imported from abroad should not be grown in the country itself and replace the foreign material. Sir, the price of cotton has gone down very much in these days, and it is absolutely essential for the cotton grower to have his cotton sold in the country itself.

Then, Sir, the next point I want to touch upon is the hopeless condition of the Defence Department. The Defence Department is really impregnable to the public opinion of this country. There are only 18 Indian Pilots, Sir, in the Indian Air Force of this country. What a shame? When the whole world is afraid of a crisis which may break out at any moment in Europe, we should not have a sufficient number of trained Indian pilots in India,—we have only about 18 trained Indian pilots. What is this number when compared to the large numbers that are to be found in England and other countries much smaller than India? The Defence Department refused to take this House into confidence when they were asked to tell us about the training of Afghan pilots in India. They declined to give us any information. Why? We do not want to stop Afghan pilots being trained. What we want is that the same training may be imparted to Indians so that they may become better pilots in times of crisis. Again, the Defence Department are guilty of lack of foresight, if I may say so, in not making arrangements or having any planned system by which the mechanical weapons for the needs of the army may be manufactured in this country itself.

Mr. Chairman (Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sardar Sant Singh: I won't proceed further with this subject, but I would like to point out, with your permission, one thing. The lack of appreciation of the Defence Department of Indian feeling has become notorious, and the appointment of the Sandhurst Committee against the wishes of this House and against the terms of the Resolution passed by this House has given food for thought whether the Defence Department are ever guided at all by public opinion in matters of defence.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): Mr. Chairman, I listened with great attention to the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. If I understood him aright, he asked, is there any Member in this House present who is prepared to congratulate the Finance Member on this budget? I am prepared to plead guilty to that charge. Unreservedly and unashamedly I come forward to congratulate the Finance Member, at any rate, on one particular item of the budget, which overshadows the whole budget,—really it is the major point. I think I am speaking on behalf of all those Members who are interested in the welfare of the agriculturists, and tenants, when I congratulate the Finance Member on the duty which he has imposed on cotton. In certain quarters it is considered as the Finance Member's parting kick. I certainly think it is his parting present. What treatment has the cotton growing population

[Mr. M. Ghiasuddin.]

of this country received at the hands of the ultra-nationalist mill-owners of Bombay? We have heard long tales that the ultra-nationalist mill-owners have always the welfare of the country at heart, but they have always tried to buy cotton from the cotton growing areas at their own price, and, in later years, the cotton growing areas have been reduced to a miserable plight. Cotton was being imported from outside on one pretext or another, while the cry of swadeshi was being raised and it was said that we must have everything country made. The very people who spoke loudest in this strain,—they were all the time importing cotton from outside to the ruination of the cotton growing areas of this country.

Coming to the other aspects of the budget, I come to the defence side. The Finance Member said that the expenditure of all the important countries has increased but that of India has not done so to the same extent. I think the Finance Member congratulated himself on the fact that, although we had need for armaments and so on, the Government policy had not been dictated by that but only by economical reasons. I am going to ask him one pertinent question, and that is, on what item has the expenditure of India increased? They have not increased the expenditure on armaments or buying aeroplanes. What they have increased the expenditure on is to provide amenities for British soldiers. That is what they have done. War may break out at any moment and this is the time for sacrifice. At this very moment when sacrifice should be demanded from everybody and the people should give up the amenities which they already possess, our Government are increasing expenditure, not for providing us with armaments, or anti-aircraft guns of which we are so much in need, or aeroplanes, or anything of that kind, but for increasing the amenities to the British soldiers. I think this is the height of—shall I say,—impertinence, if one may use that word. I could have quite understood and sympathised had this money been spent on something useful. I feel that the country from which these soldiers come, namely, Great Britain, can very well itself afford to pay for their extra luxuries such as toilet soaps and things of that sort, without asking us to do so. On the other hand, they have reduced the strength of the British Army to the extent of four battalions. What good is it to us? It is a very small comfort to the House. I am sure we will be given an opportunity of discussing the defence side of the business at a later stage, and we can then go into all the various aspects of the subject. Another point on which certain Members of this House have been harping again and again and in season and out of season is what they call the predominance of a certain part of the country, namely, the Punjab, in the recruitment of the army. It seems to be a sore point with many Honourable Members, but the only reply I can effectively give to them is the reply that was given by the Premier of the Punjab some time ago. He said that during the Great War the recruitment was open to all provinces. They were free to send in their men, there was no restriction, but they did not come forward. Now, the position has been won by my province with the blood, of its manhood and its heaviest sacrifices. My province supplied the recruits who fought on all the fronts, and only thus did they gain the present position. It will be very very unfair for people who shirked their duty at that time to come forward now and demand a share of the recruitment. We will resist to the utmost any encroachment which may be made in this respect. I have heard a rumour, though not from a reliable source I am afraid, that Sir Sikandar Hayat

intends to go on a hunger strike if any encroachment is made in that respect. If any encroachment is made on the present share of the Punjab we shall resist it to the utmost. I have nothing more to say. I resume my seat.

Mr. R. N. Basu (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I think it will not serve any useful purpose to find out whether the Honourable the Finance Member is to be congratulated or not. I think the budget which he has presented is a colourless one. It is an orthodox budget with an attempt to balance it anyhow. The provinces have been kept as hostages and we are asked for anything in order to give more to them. He has presented a budget which simply means to carry on. There is nothing extraordinary about it and nothing striking about it. I think it is more or less of academic interest to take part in a budget which is 75 per cent. non-votable and since we are taking an academic interest only as in a debating society, I will touch on a few things with which we are mostly concerned. We find that the bulk of the Indian revenues is devoted to military expenditure. It looks like that of a man who is drawing a pay of Rs. 80 and is spending Rs. 45 in the pay of a durwan or a gatekeeper. That is just the position with respect to Indian military expenditure also. Out of a total revenue of Rs. 82 crores we spend about 45 crores for military defence. As against that, it has been pointed out to us by the Honourable the Finance Member that other countries spend much larger amounts in defence. That may be true. Other countries have other aims than ours. They want to grab other people's lands. They want to occupy lands which is not their's and they want to conquer territories. We have none of these imperialistic aims. We want to defend only our own borders and frontiers. Then again, the large amount of expenditure which other countries incur remains in their own country. For example, the hundreds of millions of pounds which England is spending gives employment to so many of the people of the land. Is it the case here in India? Every machine gun that is used here is brought from England and other countries.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie (Defence Secretary): Every machine gun is made here.

Mr. R. N. Basu: I am told that rifles are imported from other countries.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: Every rifle is made here.

Mr. R. N. Basu: I am glad to note that, but I believe the parts are imported and assembled here.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie: No. They are made here.

Mr. R. N. Basu: I would like to know what the position is about the tanks and automobiles. I do not know if any of them is manufactured in this country. I think the major portion of the expenditure is spent in other countries. Therefore, it cannot be a satisfactory basis for comparison between India and other countries.

[Mr. R. N. Basu.]

My friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, has said that Punjab has a predominant claim for recruitment in the army. I would like to enter a protest against that. He has stated that during the Great War his province contributed the largest number of soldiers. Perhaps he had reason to repent that. After the war, he will remember that his province was not treated well and, as a reward, got the martial law days of the Punjab. The news which he has received, the source of which he does not want to disclose, that Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan intends to go on hunger-strike is a good piece of news in that he has come to believe in non-violence. More can be done by non-violence than violence. In any case we do not want to join any country in the mad race for armaments. With our long traditions of peace and humanity, we ought to set an example to the world at large.

Then, Sir, about the amenities which have been provided for the British soldiers. This has always been a sore point with us. Is there any necessity for keeping so many soldiers in India? Are they not an army of occupation? If we have to spend 45 crores, then why not have the entire army Indianised. At the rate at which Indianisation is going on, it will take more than half a century to Indianise a portion even of the Indian army. How long is India going to be drained and bled white for keeping an army which is not Indian and which can be used against India at any time. This Indian Army, I am told, is strong and impregnable. It is atleast impregnable in one way in that Indian opinion cannot make any impression upon it. In that respect, it is certainly impregnable. The Finance Department has also not paid any heed to the general popular demand. The postage rates have not been decreased. The plea for reducing the postcard has not found favour with the Finance Department. I believe, Sir, that a little loss of revenue in this direction would have led to a larger use of the postcards in the country at large. The village post offices have not been attended to properly. There should be more post offices and more propaganda for making the post offices popular should be taken in hand. The retrenchment effected in this department generally affects the post peons and the lower rung of the staff. I know that in Allahabad post offices and postal services have been reorganised. Instead of having three delivery offices, the work has been concentrated in one delivery office and it has caused any amount of inconvenience to the public at large. Representations have been made but no heed has been paid to them. In making retrenchment it should be borne in mind that it does not touch only the lower paid staff but touches the highly paid staff also.

Now, coming to the income-tax slab system, I think the slabs are a little too large. They should have been more graded than what is proposed in the Finance Bill, and I think the new rates will affect the public adversely. Rs. 3,500 will be charged at nine pies and the next is Rs. 5,000. This slab should have been split into two parts. My idea is this, that the difference between a man getting about Rs. 290 and a man getting Rs. 400 odd is great and this rate of tax should have been split up for the purposes of slab. With regard to the Income-tax Department, I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member a practice which is prevailing in some parts of the country. Sir, the Income-tax Department are now demanding, when sending these forms to the assessee, to know their total income and in the form they have one query.

“how much jewellery you have, and how much total cash you have got, and how much other properties you have got?” Sir, I do not think that is warranted by the Income-tax Act itself. To disclose the amount of jewellery a person has got, or the amount of cash one has got, I think, that is not the intention of the Income-tax Department and it cannot serve any useful purpose for the Income-tax Department in the matter of the income-tax revenue.

Now, there is one particular debatable point regarding the cotton duty. In some portion of the House it has been held as a great boon conferred on the cotton growers, but I beg to differ from them. I think it is an indirect way of subsidising Lancashire. This doubling of the duty on cotton will come in a way as a subsidy of four per cent. to the Lancashire cotton producers. What could not be done openly is being sought to be done in this fashion. Sir, a point which has to be taken into consideration when you impose an import duty on a particular thing is whether that has been competing with the thing grown in the country itself. Has a case been made out that long-staple cotton coming from outside India is adversely competing with cotton grown in India?

An Honourable Member: Certainly.

Mr. E. N. Basu: As a matter of fact, I believe India does not produce enough quantity of long-staple cotton, and for some time to come for the finer counts of thread we have to import cotton from outside.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Federation speaks.

Mr. Chairman (Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. E. N. Basu: In a way, no case has been made out to show that it has been competing adversely with cotton grown in India itself. I think those provinces which grow long-staple cotton are still in the initial stage and the production of long-staple cotton has not yet grown to such a stage that it can fulfil all the demands of India. In these circumstances, it will be a great handicap to mill-owners and to those who deal with the finer counts of thread, on account of this duty, and I think that Lancashire will certainly steal a march over Indian mill-owners in this respect. At least that is my opinion. I do not join those Honourable Members who have congratulated the Honourable the Finance Member on the imposition of this duty, which will, after all, only bring a small amount of fifty-five lakhs of rupees to the Indian exchequer. Then, Sir, I was saying that no heed has been paid to the general public opinion in the matter of the ratio and the question of the ratio has been left where it is. Indian opinion has repeatedly expressed itself on this point, but the Government is sitting adamant over it and I do not know whether it will be ever listened to, but this is a point on which we have been agitating and we will go on agitating and agitating. Now, Sir, another plea which has been put forward is that we want more money for the Provinces. Now, these Provinces are like a sort of hostages to us, and we have been asked to vote for anything and everything because it is said you want to give them more money. I think, Sir, we cannot go on voting for everything you want because it has been said that the Provinces will be given money by this means. With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I once characterized the Honourable the Finance Member as a dexterous dodger. Now I think I should characterize him as a skilful juggler. Sir, by the touch of his magic-wand he has converted a deficit Budget into a surplus Budget,—by a stroke of the pen increasing the import duty on raw cotton coming from outside. He, in his speech, says that it does hit the millowner of Bombay and, at the same time, he says that it is of advantage to the poor agriculturist in India and encourages him to raise a crop of long staple cotton. Now, which is the immediate effect? Is it the hitting of the millowner of Bombay, or encouraging the poor agriculturist of India to raise a crop of long staple? Sir, it is all moonshine, to think of any good to the agriculturist because the Cotton Committee has spent a crore of rupees investigating methods of improving the cotton yield, but it has not succeeded in doing so. When will this fructify so that you can truly call yourself a benefactor of the poor agriculturist of India? I rather think that it is with the intention of doing some good to Lancashire that you have done this. It is with the intention of helping them just when British-Indo trade negotiations are going on. You have delayed these negotiations and this is a sort of fillip for Lancashire to export more fine piecegoods to India,—and it does not help only the United Kingdom but also Japan in its wake. Sir, this is a most unjust and unfair treatment to the millowners of Bombay and Bengal. You have enhanced the tax on *khandsari* sugar.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: On the contrary, I have reduced it.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: You have done this seemingly with the intention of doing a good to the cane-grower but you have amended the Factory Act in such a way that what is given by one hand is taken away by the other. So it is not an advantage or an immediate advantage to the poor agriculturist of India. Then, you have not touched the salt duty for which several thousands of my countrymen had gone to jail. It deserves to be abolished outright. If you want to help the poor man in India, you must remove the salt duty. Then the second point I raise is with regard to postal charges. The three pice card must be immediately reduced to a half-anna postcard. That would also help the poor man, for whom you have been all these days shedding crocodile tears. The other day you said that you have kept the defence budget at the rock-bottom level, and further said that when you compare this country with other countries, it would be found that other countries were spending a lot more on defence, which India could not, and that though there is a military necessity, the financial stringency does not permit you to do so. You have all these years bled the country white, you have spent more than what is absolutely necessary for the defence Budget, and now you compare other countries with mine. In my country I have no hand in the working or shaping of the Defence Budget and no voice in determining the foreign policy which is inextricably woven with the defence problem. Now to give you the money you want to spend on the defence Budget is nothing but a ruthless waste. Thus, the money spent on Defence is unremunerative since it is not spent on ship-building and allied industries. It is not spent for any other purpose to our benefit. It is not being spent to train the youth of India as air pilots, as naval and army officers to such an extent as is desirable and necessary for the defence of my country. So, I say that you cannot compare my country with other countries which

do not spend a fraction of what we spend and hence the comparison would be a cruel joke. We spend more than 50 per cent. for the defence budget. No other country in the world does spend so much. Is it a piece of congratulation to you to say that India, which is the poorest country in the whole world, should spend more than 50 per cent. of her income on her defence budget?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Japan does it.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Sir James Grigg does not shape the budget of Japan. Japan is an independent country. The Japanese are proud of their country and of their independence. They are now trying to capture China and they are committing horrible atrocities even on the British possessions and the British Empire is simply pocketing all the insults that are hurled at it. India, on the other hand, does not want to fight with any other country, nor does she want to molest any other country. It needs no illustration in that behalf. Sir, Indian Army is being used only to defend the Imperial interests in fighting Imperialist battles. Last year, the budget suffered from over-estimation and this year it is suffering from under-estimation.

With regard to income-tax, you have ransacked almost all the resources to plug all the loopholes to get more money. You have taxed the foreign income not on remittance basis but on accrual basis. You have spoilt the unification of the Hindu joint family. You have removed the higher level with regard to super-tax in the case of Joint Hindu family and the lower level in the case of company. These two have deleterious effect both upon the Hindu joint family and the smaller companies which are struggling for existence. You have introduced the slab system, which you praise so much. I also welcome this system, but you have at the same time raised the rates also. What was the necessity for that?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: To get more money.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: The slab system is to help the smaller assessee but by raising the rates you have deprived the smaller assessee of this help. You have defeated the very purpose you had in view. You have also questioned the decision of the Federal Court. You ought to have done one thing. As a hero of the finance Budget, and if you have the good of my country at heart you ought to have invited all the Finance Ministers of the various provinces and then convened a conference to find out what are to be taxed by the provinces and what are to be taxed by the Central Government. This you have not done. If there was a national Finance Member, he would have done that and things would not have been so bad as they are. If you want to congratulate yourself for balancing the Budget by some means or other, by all means do so and earn the gratitude of England and Lancashire, for which you have got the greatest affection. You have become an expert in bringing several experts from England to India.

The Honourable the Finance Member wants conciliation and political appeasement. Is this the way to conciliate? You do not allow the Indian youths to have their own way. You do not allow them to have full development of their capacities with regard to the army, navy and air

[Mr. K. S. Gupta.]

force, and yet you want conciliation and political appeasement. It is impossible to have any conciliation as long as you pursue a policy which is detrimental to our national interests. You call the British Army in India as the Indian Army. It is a misnomer to call the British Army in India as an Indian Army. It is only for the Imperial interests that you have a standing army of occupation in this country. I warn the Finance Member that unless and until the defence Budget is reduced to such a level that India can improve its morale, there will be no peace in the country. The other day the Finance Member said that the political appeasement would certainly help to raise the standard of life in India. Unless the defence budget is considerably reduced and unless the so-called Indian Army is Indianised, no good can be done and no raising of the standard of life in India is possible:

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni (Ajmer-Merwara: General): Sir, even when there were surplus budgets in the past, my constituency of Ajmer-Merwara has had no generous treatment. I have, therefore, little inducement to join the rank of mourners at a budget which has been balanced with such great difficulty. It seems that neither prosperity in the Government of India, nor penury in a poor administration, can move the Honourable the Finance Member, even when the object of pity is the Government of India's self-administered territory of Ajmer-Merwara which, instead of presenting a model of Government of India's good administration, proves the proverb 'Dark shadow underneath a lamp'.

The most vital need of Ajmer-Merwara is an adequate supply of water. But during the long history of its administration, the Government of India have never come forward with any generous help to supplement the poor resources of its struggling Municipality. The answer given to my questions have shown that similar help has been given to major provinces in the past, but is seldom given now. The fact remains that no substantial help has been given to Ajmer-Merwara and the logic, that if major provinces have ceased to eat from the hands of the Government of India, a minor province, like mine, should be starved, will never appeal to any one. All who know, or care to know anything, about this dire need in Ajmer-Merwara agree that the effort of the local Municipality to attempt a solution with their meagre resources, has only resulted in the wastage of a little money of their own. A better business proposition, with assurance of suitable return, requires that the Government of India may embark on a thorough scheme for a permanent solution of the problem.

Intimately linked with the question of water supply are the problems of drainage and sanitation. When at my persuasion my Honourable friend, Sir Girja Shankar, and Colonel Russel visited Ajmer and when I had the privilege of showing to the Honourable the Member for Education, Health and Lands the great need of the town of Ajmer, I began to imagine that we were at the end of our troubles. I have yet to see how far the pity they felt for our need, is going to change the plight we are in.

The Government appointed an I.C.S., Officer to report on the possibility of launching an Improvement Trust to explore the ways and means for distributing the congestion in the town of Ajmer and to provide means for its future expansion. We take it that the report will be out early, but

we who have a fair experience of the outcome of these reports feel anxious to see that the practical steps in the right direction are not deferred to an indefinite future.

Sir, the people of Ajmer-Merwara have suffered, no less than the town they live in, from the inaction of the Government of India. There are more than a dozen High Schools in Ajmer-Merwara and about a quarter dozen Colleges. But there is no professional or technical institute where a youngman, at any stage of his academic career, may secure training for any profession. The neighbouring autonomous provinces refuse to admit them. The Government of India gave out definite hopes that provision was being made for their regular admission to the technical institutes in provinces outside Ajmer-Merwara. The Government of India owe it to Ajmer-Merwara that a definite declaration in the direction be made now.

Still worse is the condition of the services in Ajmer-Merwara. The top posts in most of the departments in Ajmer-Merwara are filled by recruitment from outside. This principle of running an administration on borrowed services should, in fairness of things, give rise to a reciprocal provision for the local talents in those provinces. But this has not been done so far. The provinces have built their boundary walls too high for Ajmer-Merwara and the Government of India, so far, have done nothing to help their minor administrations to get to the other side of the wall. The result is that however talented an inhabitant of Ajmer-Merwara may be, whatever his academic career, whatever his family claims and status, he cannot aspire to anything in his own administration and is definitely barred from admission outside it. All this he suffers for the besetting sin of belonging to an area directly administered by the Government of India. I refuse to believe that it is impossible for the Government of India to afford relief to talents of directly administered areas. They have under them and their subordinate offices a large number of posts where the minor administration candidates could be provided with preferential treatment. Preferential treatment is accepted as equitable principle in the cases of minorities, agriculturists, military families, scheduled castes and untouchables, but when it comes to the disabilities of minor administration, the Government of India do not move their little finger inspite of having means to do it.

It is not the absence of means but the absence of will which is responsible for the state of things in Ajmer-Merwara. It is noticeable at every turn. Any casual visitor will notice that the work in the Victoria Hospital at Ajmer is twice as much as the staff can cope with. The result is that the men sweat under the burden imposed on them. Ajmer is surrounded by rich Indian States and if the Government of India had embarked on the far sighted policy of enlisting their sympathy and inviting their resources they would have established a confederacy of mutual help to the betterment of all concerned. Ajmer with its central position would have prospered as a co-ordinating link in this confederacy of social amelioration and educational progress. The Government of India have an army of experts and could help their minor administration with their advice to develop their resources and to meet their needs as best as any provincial Government could possibly do. But it is for them to see how far they have discharged this obligation which anticipates no financial burden.

Sir, when I speak of what has not been done for Ajmer-Merwara, I might as well say what could be done for it in future. Ajmer is so close to the line of Imperial Airways that it can easily furnish a minor Airway

[Seth Bhagechand Soni.]

Station in the interest of traffic and trade. The neighbouring town of Beawar is so rich in cotton and wool that a little attention from the Government should encourage it to develop into commercial and industrial town of no mean importance. The agricultural town of Kékri, if served with a canal from the Banas in co-operation with the neighbouring States, will afford a model area for farming. The next layout of Nasirabad with its past history of a first class Cantonment invite the neighbouring military races to rise once more to receive their training in the interest of their country.

Sir, Ajmer's strategic position, its resources and its glorious past compel better treatment. Even in the industrial and technical struggle of the modern requirements it has excelled the record of many a better favoured centres. Its huge workshops under the management of the B., B. and C. I. Railway have set the example of building their own locomotives. So thorough is their work and so dependable their production that they have received orders from other Railways. It is a project which should gladden the heart of those who felt sore on seeing that this country was unable to produce its heavy machineries. Will the Government of India do all that is necessary to encourage the B., B. and C. I. Railway work at Ajmer and thereby create a centre for solving the problem of the country; will they through their encouragement lend impetus to indigenous production and, thereby, help a number of unemployed Indians to be trained in a profitable pursuit, or will they allow this opportunity to be lost through conventional inactivity, we have yet to see.

Sir, before I close my appeal for Ajmer-Merwara and its people, I shall be lacking in my duty, both to the people and to the Government if I omit to give expression to the feeling that the present static political position of Ajmer-Merwara must change. It reflects great credit to the people, as well as to the local head of the administration, if the legitimate desire for a share in the administration, though felt, is not given expression in those forms of agitation which set law and order at naught.

I may, however, point out that the clouds are thickening on the horizon and it is not premature to provide against a worsening weather.

While anxious to see people associated with the work of the administration, I am not wedded to any particular form of constitution, and refuse to be led away by political catch words whose implications may fail to bring universal satisfaction. I am of opinion that the Government of India should lose no time in gauging carefully the views of the various interests in Ajmer-Merwara by way of giving the people the preliminary right of self determination. After this has been done, it should give Ajmer-Merwara a reform incorporating the greatest common measure of all interests.

Sir, it requires a searching scrutiny and a careful deliberation to decide in what form the people should be associated with the administration. The Government, at one time in the past, had the recommendation of the Ashworth Committee before it. The country has since moved at a tremendous speed in its political development and the theoretical ideals have gathered round them experience gained in practical work. The Ashworth report has thus become a document on past history rather than present politics.

The fact, however, remains that a gesture in the right direction is overdue. The Government of India will do well to give Ajmer-Merwara a place and a constitution in the future outline of the political position of the country, a position which may satisfy the aspirations of the people, lessen the burden of the local administration and improve the economic condition of the place.

Sir, as the sole representative of a directly administered area, I have been frank and direct in asking the parent administration of Government of India to treat us better. It does not follow that we are slow in appreciating what has been done for us. Ungratefulness is not one of our vices and good will never be lost on us.

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

POSITION OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN KENYA.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I
4 P.M. move:

“That the Assembly do now adjourn.”

By this motion, I want to discuss a very important matter, namely, the situation which has arisen as a result of the recent Order in Council of 1939, and the communiqué issued by the Government of India on the subject. The position of our nationals in Kenya is a very painful subject and it is much against our will that we have to take up in this House a matter which touches our national honour and our self-respect. But the position which has arisen as a result of this new Order in Council calls for a spirited protest on the part of all Members of this House including Government, and I do hope that in a matter of this kind we will have the support of the Members who have the honour to belong to the European Group in this House.

The history of this unfortunate affair makes very painful reading. It started about 1900, but it was in 1908 that Lord Elgin made an award of lands to European settlers in the Highland areas—which is now estimated at something like 16,000 square miles. At that time it was believed that the restriction related to initial grants and not to subsequent transfers of land; but as time went on the restrictions increased and the European settlers in the Highland areas succeeded in getting the approval of His Majesty's Government for the formula that the restrictions related not only to the initial grant but to subsequent transfers as well; and a right of veto on transfer was vested in the Governor of the colony. There is no doubt that the Government of India took up a very strong attitude on this point as is clear from the memorandum presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1924. The relevant passage is this:

“The contention of the Government of India is that Lord Elgin's decision related only to initial grants of land in the Highlands and that the terms of that decision were misinterpreted when they were stretched to cover a veto on transfers.”

Having gained this object the European residents of this particular area tried to consolidate the position which they had gained. Subsequently we find all manner of questions arising. The communiqué sets out these facts in very interesting language.

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

As a result, a full and authoritative inquiry was undertaken. Then, we come to April of 1932 when the Secretary of State for the Colonies appointed the Kenya Land Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir William Morris Carter. The object was that the limits of this particular area should be defined, and it was also sought by the European community that their "privileged position" which they undoubtedly enjoyed should be incorporated in an Order in Council. As a result of representations of the Government of India, we are very well aware that that particular definition of "privileged position" did not find a place in any Order in Council nor was any area of these Highlands delimited. But the unfortunate position is that the British Government has steadfastly adhered to that unfortunate administrative practice which has made it impossible for Indians to own or occupy land in these Highland areas. The Government of India, there is no doubt, have made representations as is clear from the communiqué which they have issued, and they try,—and I think rightly, to claim credit for the representations which they have made to His Majesty's Government. They say:

"Largely as a result of these representations His Majesty's Government have decided that no definition of 'privileged position' will be incorporated in the Order in Council."

That does not mean much for the Indian settlers. Whether the definition is incorporated or not means absolutely nothing to the Indian settlers or to the people who live in this country. Further on we find:

"His Majesty's Government have however, made it clear"

—and these are the most important words—

"that there is no intention of changing the administrative practice which has been followed for any years with regard to alienation and transfer of land in the Highlands. While acknowledging the care with which their representations on this point have been considered by His Majesty's Government, the Government of India must observe that this decision will cause profound disappointment to all sections of Indian opinion both in Kenya and in this country in particular, because of the preference which it accords even to non-British subjects of European race."

And then we find one more sentence:

"It will be recognised that they have done whatever was constitutionally possible to press the Indian point of view."

Now, Sir, there is no doubt that the Government of India have made representations. There is also no doubt that they have done all that they could do legitimately and constitutionally. But the question is, have they succeeded in achieving the object with which they started their representations? What we find is this. An Order in Council has been passed which gives sanction to the administrative practice which has excluded Indians from buying or occupying lands in these Highlands. So the position is very unfortunate from the point of view of Indian settlers and the Indian nation as a whole. This raises a very grave issue. Are we to go on making representations through the Government of India to His Majesty's Government? How long are we expected to act "constitutionally"? The result is that we have met with blank refusal on the part of His Majesty's Government to change the untenable position which they have taken up, and it is really strange that His Majesty's Government have not even assigned any reasons for taking up this impossible and unreasonable stand on behalf of the European settlers in Kenya. No reasons have been assigned, but they have simply turned down the representations which have been made by a subordinate agency, namely,

the Government of India. The issue involved is indeed very important. Here you have a large number of Indians who have done a great deal in developing Kenya and in opening up the country. By their labours, by their intellect and by their capital they have contributed very largely to the development of this colony, and now His Majesty's Government have shut them off from the most fertile and the best area of that colony which extends over 16,000 square miles. That means that His Majesty's Government is bringing it home to the people of this country that it is absolutely useless to pin one's faith in constitutional methods, or representations on behalf of a subordinate Government to their masters in Whitehall. The method of representations and constitutional agitation has failed and His Majesty's Government will be responsible if people in this country are forced to go out and launch a great campaign which will bring about an utter extinction of the system of Government which at present obtains in this country. There is no other alternative left open to us. We have been sitting in this House day after day for months and years, putting questions, asking supplementaries and making representations indirectly through the Government of India, and the result is that the British Government,—even though the position and the stand which they have taken up is absolutely untenable and almost immoral, have refused to change their position or even to assign any cogent reasons for the same. Indians are being told in so many words that it is absolutely no use belonging to this great empire of which we are told so much every day by the press which the great imperialists control. Alien Europeans, non-British Europeans, people who belong to the European races such as Austrians and Germans, the people who are the sworn enemies of the British empire, people who fought the British empire in the last war—they are to be allowed to own and keep land in the highlands. But Indians who belong to the British empire are to be treated as outcasts and are to be relegated to a position of inferiority. What is the use of being members of a British empire? What is the use of being told that we should treat the British nationals in this country just as if they were Indian nationals, that we should treat European companies and European industries in this country in the same manner and on terms of absolute equality with Indian companies and Indian industries? You expect us, in fact you force us by the Government of India Act, and by advancing all sorts of arguments, that we should accord treatment of absolute equality; and not only that, but to maintain in tact the advantages which the Europeans have secured as against us in our own country. But when our nationals go to British colonies which are controlled by the countrymen of the gentlemen who come and set up industries here, and expect us to keep our doors open for the purposes of free trade, they do not hesitate to treat our nationals in the most unbecoming manner. In fact His Majesty's Government is trying to teach a lesson to the people of India that it is absolutely no use pinning their faith in the British sense of fair-play and justice, or in any constitutional method, and that the only way in which Indians can secure the redress of their admitted grievances is by resorting to direct action and bringing this system of government to naught. In this particular Order in Council, of which a copy is attached, I have not been able to follow one thing. The Government of India claims credit for something, viz., His Majesty's Government have made it clear that there is no intention of changing the administrative practice. I think this administrative practice means also that His Majesty's Government have so far refrained from defining and delimiting the boundaries of

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

this particular highland territory. At least that was the contention of the Government of India. But if we look at this Order in Council we find at the very beginning the words:

“Whereas it is expedient to define the boundaries of the area in the Colony of Kenya known as the Highlands and to make other provision in respect thereof.”

The object of this Order in Council is clearly to define the area. A great wrong is sought to be perpetrated on the Indian population by this new device, namely, a Highland Board, which will be set up under this Order in Council. This Board as is laid down on page 6 of the Government communiqué, is to consist of a Chief Secretary who shall be the President of the Board: of course he is sure to be a European: the Commissioner for Lands and Settlement who shall be the Vice-President—he will also be a European: and then there will be four persons elected by the European elected members of the Legislative Council of the colony; and then another person will be nominated from time to time by the Governor, and all these persons shall constitute the Board, Indian representation is conspicuous by its absence

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Cannot the Governor nominate an Indian?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What if he nominates one Indian? I do not think he will nominate an Indian, but even if he nominates an Indian, it will bring small satisfaction to have one Indian out of eight, because he is sure to be out-voted. The Order in Council says:

“It shall be the function of the Board to protect the interests of the inhabitants of the Highlands in the land situate in the Highlands and in particular to make representations”—(as if such representations were needed)—“to the Governor when in the opinion of the Board anything in relation to the administration, management, development or control of the land in the Highlands is not in the best interests of the inhabitants of the Highlands.” (*That means Europeans*).

The Board will also have the right to give or withhold its consent in all matters in which its consent is required by any Ordinance for the time being in force in the Colony, and to advise the Governor in all matters relating to the disposition of land within the Highlands; and the Governor shall consult the Board in all such matters as are referred to in this paragraph . . .

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: This will be an all-white board which will certainly devise ways and means for keeping the Indians out of these particular Highlands. The Government of India say that they have done all that they can. I should like the Government of India to tell us what effective means we can adopt for censuring His Majesty's Government for this most untenable position that they have taken up, the matter of rights of Indians to hold lands in these highlands. Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved: “That the Assembly do now adjourn.”

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I shall remind the House of the concluding remarks of the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech—an appeal for relief of stresses between race and race. If we consider the matter of this new Order in Council about the highlands in Kenya, I am reminded that the root cause of this reservation of the highlands for the white race, which this Order in Council now seeks to confirm for ever, is the stress between race and race. We should look into the root cause of all our troubles—Indians as well as other coloured races—in the vast continent of Africa—not only in Kenya, but in other parts of the British Empire as well. The root causes are both racial as well as economic.

We were taught in our college days by the economists of the British school that free trade and competition are best for the progress of the human race. But, just now, when it comes to the matter of adjustment of the relations between black and white in Kenya and other parts of Africa, we find a protectionist policy advocated. It is being advocated in the newspapers in those lands on behalf of the whites, that the standard of living of the Indian races is low, and, therefore, they should not be allowed to live there, and for this reason they must be segregated not only as regards allocation of lands for dwelling purposes, but also in trade. I strongly protest against the insinuation that the standard of the Indian community is low. What does a real standard mean? Merely high cost does not mean high standard. A high standard means such mode of life as will ensure a healthy physical man and a healthy moral man. We have been discussing these things for a good many years here, and the Government of India have been making petitions after petitions to His Majesty's Government. As regards the other parts of the British Empire, particularly South Africa, the plea of His Majesty's Government has been that they are more or less autonomous Governments and that His Majesty's Government has hardly any hand in the matter, but in the matter of the Crown Colonies which are directly under the Foreign Secretary of State, I cannot understand why His Majesty's Government cannot have its will enforced upon the Government of Kenya.

Sir, we always had a shrewd suspicion that whatever His Majesty's Government might have said or done, in their heart of hearts they had more sympathy with people of their own race in Kenya and with the views put forward by the Government of Kenya. The cat is out of the bag now, and His Majesty's Government has come forward to confirm our distrust. So long the Government of India might have had the consolation that, although the Government of the Crown Colonies had been anti-Indian, yet His Majesty's Government could not be anti-Indian. The Government of India might have done their best to explain the exact feeling of the people of this country to the Kenya Government, but somehow the Government of India have failed to achieve the purpose, because the people and the Government of Kenya are too powerful. But now, it is perfectly clear that by the issue of the Order in Council, His Majesty's Government brands the Indians as an inferior race. I ask the Government of India what have they done so far? They will say, they have submitted numerous petitions. Similarly, I believe the Government of the Crown Colony will also be sending petitions, because the ultimate voice is not with them as it is no longer under the Government of India. May I ask, Sir, why the Crown Colony has not succeeded in this dispute, not to speak of India itself?

[Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury.]

Sir, I think I would be quite justified in censuring the Government of India. My friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, has censured His Majesty's Government, but His Majesty's Government is too far from the shores of this country, and so I would censure the Government of India being the weaker party in this litigation between the Governments of Kenya and India. This morning, Sir, I had asked a question of the Secretary in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, whether the Government of India had ever considered or would consider the question of reserving a colony for Indians. Well, Sir, if at all we have to settle this problem, the appeal of Sir James Grigg will not succeed, because, since the last Great War, racial feelings, the feeling of racial superiority, are in the ascendant. I feel the best thing for the Government of India to do is to get a colony reserved for Indians where they might live in peace. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will agree willingly and gladly to be censured, so that our censure might have some effect upon His Majesty's Government.

Sir Syed Baza Ali: Sir, I am sure there can be no possibility of any difference of opinion arising with regard to the real merits of the motion before the House. If there is any question on which public opinion in India has always stood solid, whether that public opinion was considered with regard to the views of political parties inside India or outside, it is surely the question of the position of Indians overseas. I am sure, that in this House there is no difference of opinion between the Treasury Benches and the non-official Benches so far as the real merits of this question are concerned.

Sir, the position of Indians overseas is a most difficult one, and having regard to the misery and sorrow prevailing among the Indian population that I have seen for three years in South Africa, as also in some other parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations, it is really difficult to speak on a subject of this nature with restraint. Possibly the Government spokesman will inquire as to what it is that the Government of India was expected to do and which it has failed to do. Sir, I will answer that anticipated question by putting a counter question: what do the Government of India expect the people of India to do, and how do the Government of India expect the people of India to take these humiliating defeats one after the other spreading over a very large number of years? Sir, it is most unfortunate, it is humiliating and miserable, that, while the political constitution of India has undergone changes, while it has granted to the people of India certain rights and associated them more and more with the government of the country, outside India there has been one continuous course of policy subjecting Indians to disabilities and adding to those disabilities, beginning in any case with the year 1908. Whereas the first Reform Act associated with the names of Lords Minto and Morley was passed in the year 1909, the course of disabilities outside India began in the year 1908. Now, is it not pertinent, Sir, to inquire what have the Government of India done to stop this course and how far have they succeeded in stopping it? It is not a stray case of Kenya alone, though it is an important one, but wherever we go, we find that we are not welcome; wherever Indians have settled, a deliberate course of policy is being adopted to drive them out of the country where they have found a home for very many years. Take Fiji, take British Guiana, take Malaya or even take now such neighbouring countries as Ceylon or Burma, and what do

we find? We find that instead of there being a ray of light on the dark horizon, clouds are gathering thicker and thicker producing more darkness than was to be seen before.

Sir, every one of us in this world is judged not only by his intentions but by such achievements as may stand to his credit. It is this test which most of us very naturally would like to apply to the actions and policies pursued by the Government of India. While it would be cowardice not to fight out our battles overseas, not to have a stout heart and not to do all we can to relieve the sufferings of our people, I am one of those who can clearly see that it would be very difficult indeed, if not next to impossible, to obtain that status for our people abroad to which they are entitled as long as we do not enjoy full self-government, or to quote some of my Honourable friends in this House, as long as we are not a free country. Sir, before I left South Africa I had a talk with a highly distinguished South African diplomat whose name is not unknown in Europe, on the position and status of India within the British Commonwealth of Nations. My suggestion was that, instead of India being represented in South Africa by the Agent General, the Government of India should send a High Commissioner to South Africa; similarly, the Union of South Africa should send a High Commissioner to India to represent the Union. The diplomat to whom I was talking pointed out that, having regard to the position of India in the world, it would be very difficult to persuade the Dominions, within the British Commonwealth of Nations, to care to send out a representative to India. He said that, as long as India did not enjoy full responsible government and as long as those countries could discuss and settle India's foreign affairs with England, there was no point in sending a High Commissioner to India. He went on to say that, if India succeeded in achieving political emancipation, then there was no doubt that the question raised by me was one which would be considered carefully on its merits.

Sir, our real weakness lies here. A representation is made by the Government of India in a very careful and considered manner. We know how the Government of India is constituted. The representations of the Government of India, if I may say so without meaning any offence, are not given that care, are not given that attention which would be paid to them if those representations were made by a responsible Minister of a self-governing India. That, Sir, is the real crux of the problem. There sits my Honourable friend, Sir Jagdish Prasad, with whom it was a pleasure for me to be associated for three years,—all the time that I served in South Africa. While I must acknowledge here publicly that I am very grateful for the support that he gave me and to the Government of India for the support that they gave me, I must say that I could see that the representations that were made by the Government of India to other Governments were not taken very seriously by those Governments. If a Minister responsible to this House had made those representations to the Colonial Secretary, I am sure that the history of this question would have been quite different.

Sir, I, at least, was not surprised at this very carefully and very skilfully worded communique issued by the Government of India. I seem to notice the hand of a very skilful draftsman in this communique. All the same, the net result is that we have been defeated, and we have been defeated very badly. There is no mincing the matter, we must openly acknowledge that we have been defeated. Now, what is the remedy?

[Sir Syed Raza Ali.]

It appears from the annexure that has been attached to the communique issued by the Government of India, that it is within the power of the Governor to nominate a person to the Highlands Board. I quite realise, having regard to the nature of the problem, that the Kenya administration might find it difficult to nominate an Indian. Even if an Indian were nominated, it is an open question how far his presence would be helpful to us. But I am curious to know whether this annexure contemplates the appointment of an Indian to the Highlands Board.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I am bringing my remarks to a close in a couple of minutes. The position in Kenya, fortunately, is not so bad as it is in South Africa. I am sure this House knows that there are Indian elected members present on the Mombasa municipality and other municipalities in Kenya. There are Indian members in the Legislative Council of Kenya. In fact, there is at least one Indian member in the Executive Council of Kenya—I do not know whether it is proposed to increase the number to two. Any way, my point is this. I would like the House to realise, when in spite of this enormous advantage of representation our country-men have in Kenya it has not been found possible by the representatives of our people in Kenya and the Government of India to secure that the Highlands should not be reserved for Europeans, how much more difficult would be the position of Indians in those countries where they have no representation whatsoever. Sir, I support this motion in the hope that the Government of India will not take the Order in Council in a defeatist spirit. Situated as we are, it is the duty of the Government of India to go ahead; equally it is the duty of all of us to give that support to the Government of India to which it is entitled as long as that Government is prepared to give effect to the united wishes of the people of India.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, the Honourable the Mover of this adjournment motion has spoken with his characteristic vigour, and, I am glad to say, with less than his customary immoderation. That all Honourable Members of this House feel, and feel, strongly, both disappointment and resentment at the decision of His Majesty's Government is natural, I may even go to the extent of saying, justified. For, considering the history of the Indian community in East Africa who can dispute either the legitimacy or the reasonableness of the Indian claim to equality. That history is a record of long and honourable association, of varied and useful services rendered to Eastern Africa through patient toil, through honest dealing, through persevering and fruitful enterprise. It was Indian labour which constructed the Kenya Uganda Railway, that vital artery of the economic life of the Colony and the protectorate. It was the Indian trader who opened up the remote and wild recesses of inner Africa to trade in the manufactured goods, first of the West and, more recently, of the East. In these lonely and often dangerous regions, he is the sole pioneer of civilised trade and his modest shop the solitary outpost of civilisation. In Uganda, where the kind of disability that we have been discussing this afternoon does not fetter the enterprise of the Indian capitalist, he has shown what he can

accomplish not merely to develop but to create; the origin of the sugar industry in Uganda is due entirely to the initiative of a distinguished Indian. That with this rich and varied record of achievement in Eastern Africa, we should not have succeeded in getting this issue of the alienation of land to Indians in the Highlands of Kenya settled in our favour must be, and is, a source of profound disappointment to all of us. But, Sir, the question which I ask is—how are the Government of India expected to have done more than what they have already done.

Some Honourable Members: Resign.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: They have in this matter, ever since this controversy started in 1906, identified themselves wholeheartedly with the Indian claim for equality. In 1920, when they despatched their famous representation to His Majesty's Government on all the aspects of the Indian question in Kenya, they asked for equality. In 1923, when His Majesty's Government decided the Kenya Highlands issue against the Indian community, the Government of India reserved to themselves specifically the right to reopen this matter at the first available opportunity. In 1924, the issue was reopened by the Colonies Committee. And again in 1927, before the Hilton-Young Commission, the Government of India reaffirmed the desire of the Indian people in Kenya and reaffirmed the determination of the Government of India not to rest until equality in this matter was secured.

The present phase of this controversy may be said to have originated in 1932, when His Majesty's Government decided to appoint the Carter Commission for the purpose, *inter alia*, of defining the area known as the Highlands and also recommending whether any measure of security could be given to the European settlers with regard to the land that had been alienated to them or that might be alienated to them thereafter. In 1934, as the House is aware, the Commission recommended both a geographical definition of the area and the issue of an Order in Council which would secure for the European settler the same measure of security of tenure as the commission had recommended with regard to land held by the natives. Although the commission itself made no recommendation as to what the definition of the term—privileged position—should be, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in answer to a question in the House of Commons in 1935, stated that the term was intended to connote (a) the right of the European to acquire and to hold land in the Highlands of Kenya whether by grant or transfer, and (b) also to connote that none but the European might either acquire land or hold land.

In March, 1935, this matter came up on an adjournment motion before this House. On that occasion the attitude of the Government of India was stated in broad summary as follows—They were opposed to the issue of an Order in Council. In particular they were opposed to the proposal to include in the Order in Council the definition of the term 'privileged position', as this would have the effect of converting an administrative practice into a statutory restriction. They were opposed to the extension, involved in the acceptance of the Commission's recommendations, of the area of the Highlands, and, finally, they were opposed to the application to the few Indians who hold farms or land in this area of any restriction or servitude of a racial character. Now, Sir, that attitude was supported by all sections of this House. I think I may remind Honourable Members

[Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.]

that Mr. Satyamurti, who was the mover of the adjournment motion on that occasion, decided not to press his adjournment motion because he recognised that there was complete identity of view between him and those for whom he spoke and the Government of India. That, Sir, is the attitude which the Government of India have consistently maintained throughout the negotiations that had ensued since then. I ask in the circumstances what justification can there be for censuring the Government of India? It is the Government of India who have been the consistent and persistent spokesman of the views of the people of this country and of the Indian community in Kenya with regard to their rights in respect of the Highlands. My Honourable friend, Sir Raza Ali, speaking with considerable experience of overseas questions, said that the position is this. The Government of India are not an autonomous Government. And until the Government of India become an independent Government, or a completely self-governing dominion, nothing that they say can carry the same weight with the ministers or the ministries of responsible governments abroad as attaches to the representations made by ministers of responsible governments. Well, Sir, the present status of the Government of India is not in issue at the moment, and I am sure that those Honourable Members who constitute the Government of India today will be both happy and, in their heart of hearts, they would be devoutly wishing that their successors may achieve greater success in the vindication of Indian rights abroad than has fallen to them to secure. But it is not merely a question of political or constitutional status. I think it is fair to recognise that it is a question of sanctions. What is it with which you can back up your representations? Even within the constitutional limitations which press upon the Government of India today, it will be admitted, that where certain sanctions are available to us, the Government of India have not hesitated to make use of those sanctions in order to safeguard legitimate Indian interests.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Can you quote one or two instances?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes. With regard, for instance, to Village Community franchise, a question which has been under consideration for some time in Ceylon, the Government of India were in a position to suspend the assisted emigration of recruited labour and they did it. Similarly, with regard to wages in Malaya, a situation of that kind arose and the Government of India and the Secretary of State used the weapon which is in their hands. I suppose, Sir, that it is easy enough to generalize and say that the mere attainment of responsible government is going to work a miracle. I am not for a minute disputing that the achievement of responsible government may make some difference to the weight which attaches to the representations of the Government of India. But, Sir, the point to remember is that it is not merely a question of political status: it is really a question as to what extent your written or spoken representation can be backed up by definite action.

Now, I do not think it is necessary for me to dilate further on the constitutional and political implications of this problem. We have to recognize the position as it is *vis-a-vis* the Colonial Empire and Kenya and the question, Sir, that we have to consider is—how best can we help the

Indian community in Kenya to achieve the object that they have in view? I submit that, situated as we are, the only weapon that is open to us still is the weapon of representation.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): What about economic reprisals?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My Honourable friend is an extremely careful student of the international trade of this country. I think if he will examine the position he will find that there is not much scope there really for bringing pressure to bear upon Kenya.

Now, Sir, I do not think that we need press these controversial issues any further. What we have got to remember is that in the Order in Council as promulgated by His Majesty's Government there is no mention of the term "privileged position"; that the present administrative practice has not been converted into a statutory restriction; and that, therefore, the Government of India are still in a position to continue to press His Majesty's Government for a reversal of the existing practice. My Honourable friends will say, "we attach no importance to that". Might I draw the attention of Honourable Members to what Mr. Satyamurti, when moving his adjournment motion in 1935, had to say on this subject. He said:

"We want freedom to negotiate and assert the equal and just rights of Indians in Kenya."

I submit that the fact that the Order in Council does no more than continue the existing practice undoubtedly leaves open to us that possibility of representation and negotiation. My Honourable friends will ask what of the future? To some extent I have tried to answer that question. But it is as well to remember that what history settles, history also unsettles; that there is nothing immutable in its immemorial scroll. Neither the moods of opinion nor policies are eternal. I submit that the Indian claim to equality in respect of the alienation of lands in the Highlands of Kenya is just and that it shall ultimately prevail. It is in that firm and steadfast faith that we are determined to continue to strive until equality is achieved; and I submit, Sir, that in that endeavour we deserve not the censure of Honourable Members but their support.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Mr. President, in deciding to move this motion today we have taken a tremendous risk—risk in the sense that, as everyone knows, the House today is as thin as it ever can be from our point of view; of course, it can never be thin from the Government's point of view. Sir, I am perfectly aware of the fact that if the Government choose to canvass support—and they generally do on other occasions—they can pull their weight against us with effect, but I am absolutely certain that the cause which we have brought to the notice of this House is one in respect of which I, at least, hope that there is an identity of views as far as this side as well as the other side of the House are concerned. At least that seems to be the profession of the Honourable Member who has spoken just before me, and let me also hope that he and the Honourable Member, who really administers this Department and who may speak a little later perhaps, will provide definite evidence of the identity of interest of the two sides of the House by supporting rather than opposing this motion. If they feel that they stand on exactly the same ground as we do,

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

then this is an opportunity for them to demonstrate fit to the world that they and we together censure, not the Government sitting on those Benches, but censure somebody else who is not amenable to our demand.

An Honourable Member: How can you?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: So let us all combine and censure another Government which has not listened to us, and which does not listen to our representations. If that is the Government's point of view, I assure them that nobody will be happier than ourselves and they may take it from me that our motion will then mean a censure not of this but of another Government. Mr. President, in so far as that other Government is concerned, all I can say about it is this,—and I hope the Government of India will also echo this sentiment if they are making any representation to that Government later on. The treatment which Indians are receiving abroad, particularly in the colonies and in the dominions of the so-called British Empire, will prove Achilles' heel, howsoever great may be this Empire; if this treatment continues, it will certainly prove its Achilles' heel. This is their weakest spot. Why? Today they are trying to canvass the support of all the democracies in the world against Fascist and totalitarian Governments. Today they are telling the whole world and particularly the United States of America and all other powerful countries—"see how people of other races are being treated by these Germans and others". Now, are the Britishers in these colonies treating Indians any differently? I ask you—what is the meaning of the reservation of these highlands? The reservation of these highlands for the Europeans alone means nothing else but creating a ghetto and a concentration camp for Indians. There is no difference. The Germans send the Jews to concentration camps and to ghettos, and these gentlemen in Kenya are keeping Indians down in places which, according to the reports which I have been reading, are insanitary,—and they will continue to be insanitary if these people are kept in ghettos. And when I say that; I am repeating what Mr. Andrews has been saying for the last sixteen years. This is the point which the Government of India might have taken up with the Government of the United Kingdom. They might have drawn attention to the fact that if His Majesty's Government are not going to correct their blunders, then this fact will quietly trickle through perhaps to the United States of America and other countries and they will also begin to look upon them as only another Germany—perhaps a more democratized Germany, but they will know that in their treatment towards Indians His Majesty's Government are no better than Germans in their treatment of Jews. This is the position which the Indian Government might have brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government.

A question has been propounded by the Honourable Member who spoke before me, in fact it was anticipated by Sir Syed Raza Ali. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, while referring to the Mover of the motion, said that he spoke with his usual vigour. I can also say that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai has also spoken with his usual mellifluous plausibility which always pleases everybody and quite naturally he always has a nice case to put up. But he asked the question: what more do you expect the Government of India to do in these circumstances? Sir, there are various suggestions which one can make, one of which might easily

be that you might make a recommendation to His Majesty's Government that they might dissolve the British Empire if Indians are not going to be treated properly. I am making a very decent offer. Ask them to dissolve the British Empire altogether if the various parts of the British Empire are not amenable to the suggestion that people who belong to the same Empire should get treatment of equality throughout the Empire. What is the use of your having this Empire at all? Why do you want to make the world believe that people living within this particular area, the British Commonwealth of Nations, receive equal treatment everywhere? Why do you say that there is no injustice and no disability under which these people suffer? Here is a big population of 400 million people and they are being treated throughout the world which is associated with the British Empire, in a manner which is only consistent with one position and that is the position of inferiority. If such a position can be tolerated, the British Empire may then be dissolved. That is one suggestion. This is a suggestion which you might make without any effect. But then the question arises—had the Government of India been a responsible Government, they would have resigned on this issue. They would not have been sitting there. They would have told the British Government: "If you are not going to rectify your blunder, you will not find us prepared to tolerate your policy". That is what you can do even now. You can create a crisis tomorrow if you are really in earnest. Let the Executive Council submit their resignation on this issue tomorrow and I can assure you that within the next week this injustice will be rectified. Are you prepared to do it? If you are not prepared to do it, then do not ask us: "What do you expect us to do?" This is what we expect you to do. Will you do it?

Then, Sir, I may make another really serious suggestion. Will the Government of India draw the attention of His Majesty's Government to the fact that there are very serious times ahead. You never know when a world war may break out. We all know that very critical times are almost within sight. Whether it will be possible for statesmanship in Europe to stave off this situation or not, I cannot say. Is it or is it not possible for the Government of India to tell His Majesty's Government that if this situation is not rectified, they should not expect the slightest possible help from India, because in that case India would like to know for whom they want her to fight. Do they want her to fight for these people of Kenya who are treating us in this manner? Do they want us to fight for people in Canada or Australia or South Africa or any of these places where Indians have absolutely no status, no position and no privileges of any kind, not even the ordinary privileges which you have been allowing to every white man to whatever country he might belong. These highlands are open, as was pointed out by the Mover, even to Germans, to Italians and to every white man on earth but not to the Indians. Of course, one can understand why such a policy has been adopted. If they had not been thrown open to all the Europeans alike, probably the British Empire would have found itself dissolved long ago. There would have been difficulties. Then, I ask the Government of India: whether they have asked His Majesty's Government in what lies their helplessness? Are the Government of India convinced that they are helpless as far as these Colonies are concerned? If any Englishman had been treated in the same manner in which Indians are being treated in

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

the Colonies, would His Majesty's Government have sat silent and said: "Oh, but this is an autonomous Colony and we can do nothing."?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): It is not an autonomous Colony.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am only putting it that way.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: If it is not autonomous, so much the worse for the Government.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Could they have turned round and said: "We cannot coerce them because they have got their own Government. They are an autonomous and a self-governing Colony and, therefore, we cannot dictate to them. They have got their own policy." But I can assure you that no Englishman could have been treated in this Colony or in any other part of the Empire in the manner in which Indians are being treated all over the British Empire. Having said that, perhaps I may just as well sum up. I am not quite certain that even the Government of India have done all that they could have done and should have done. Even then, I am not prepared to blame them quite so much because, at any rate, we have been assured that their sentiments and their views on this question are identical with our views. If that is so, well and good, and it will not be very long before we shall know exactly whether they agree with us on this point. If they agree with us, they will not challenge a division. At the same time, I want to make it perfectly clear that our motion today is a motion of unmitigated censure against His Majesty's Government and we want this censure to be driven home through their agents, the Indian Government.

The Honourable Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Sir, my Honourable friend, the acting Leader of the Opposition, has deplored today his weakness in voting strength because of the absence of those serried ranks which sit in the Benches opposite. He has also made rather interesting suggestions as to the constitutional interpretation of a vote of censure. He has made further suggestions as to what the irresponsible Government of India should do and the kind of representations and threats that they should employ in dealing with His Majesty's Government.

Sir, I interpret this motion today as an opportunity which the House has taken to express its deep disappointment and resentment that this question of the highlands in Kenya which has been a kind of running sore for more than thirty years should still remain unhealed, that this racial discrimination should still persist. I take it that the House feels what many hoped that after the war there would be in the world a new and better feeling in regard to the treatment of races. It is with much regret that many of us notice that racialism is worse than ever, that racial persecutions and racial discriminations seem to blot the administration of many countries at the present moment. I quite realise, what Indian would not realise, the depth of feeling that these highlands in Kenya should be reserved not only for British subjects of a particular race, but that they

should be reserved for races of a particular colour whether British or not. I quite understand how this racial discrimination is regarded in this country. I also realise what my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, said that such feelings certainly do not strengthen the bonds of Empires, that when people have this sense of legitimate grievance this feeling that there is racial discrimination, they cannot in times of crisis act with the same moral force and with the same enthusiasm as those who feel that they are living under conditions in which their just rights are safeguarded. I quite understand that. I can assure my Honourable friends opposite that there has been no change in the policy of the Government of India, in their representations to the Home Government in regard to the feelings of Indians in this country over the Kenya Highlands. Their policy has been one of consistent and faithful representation of the views of the people of India. I quite recognise as my Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali, does that when the test of achievement is applied there is not very much for us to show. My Honourable friend, the Secretary in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, has given you the history of our efforts. He has also shown that to the extent that this racial discrimination has not taken statutory form, we can take some credit to ourselves. But I am quite prepared to admit that though it is some gain yet a great deal remains in regard to which there must be a consistent and persistent effort in the future. My Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali, posed the question as to what should be our future line of action and in a way he answered it. I quite agree with him that representations of a responsible government are bound to carry much greater weight with Governments than of a Government situated as is the Government of India at present. Therefore, for a solution of the problems of our countrymen abroad, it seems essential that we should bend our energies to bring about a change to responsible government as rapidly as we can. I agree that that is one of the main problems before Honourable Members. I am sure, perhaps my successor may be more fortunate, that if the constitution of the Government of India remains as it is at present, I do not think that representations will carry much more weight than they have been during the last many years. I fear the solution, therefore, lies in our own hands to bring about as rapidly as we can a change in the centre. There has been a change in the provinces and I can assure Honourable Members opposite that that change has been a source of strength to us in dealing with problems of Indians abroad. I frankly acknowledge that I have had a good deal of assistance from Provincial Governments in regard to questions of emigration of our people to certain colonies with which these Provincial Governments are more directly concerned. I do not wish to take up more of the time of the House, but I can assure Honourable Members that though we have not made much advance we shall continue to press India's claim to the best of our abilities, that we shall be faithful representatives of the sentiments of the people here. More than that I think the House will not expect us to do. It is in that spirit that I regard this afternoon's discussion and I, therefore, do not propose to take undue advantage of the absence of our certain Honourable Members opposite.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, I do not propose to take more than a few minutes by way of reply. There are one or two points which I think demand an answer from me. We have been told, do not censure us, we have done all we possibly could. Even others in our place could not have

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

done better. It is rather unfortunate that the actions of Whitehall should be defended here by Indian Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council. I really very much wish that some Briton—as they prefer to call themselves,—on the Treasury Benches were asked to defend these dark deeds of his countrymen at Whitehall.

A question was put by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai as well as by Sir Jagdish Prasad, "We have done all that we could possibly do; what more could we do?" I can suggest one thing and I hope they will seriously consider my suggestion. The British case is that Indians are not fit to occupy lands in the Highlands, I, therefore, suggest that the only fitting reply to this move on the part of Great Britain is that no Indian should consider it proper to sit on the Viceroy's Executive Council with the countrymen of those who constitute His Majesty's Government. I think we should refuse to sit with people who really do not consider us fit enough to hold lands in the Highlands; and I can assure my Honourable friends that once they resign on this issue. I think no other person will be so mean as to offer himself or herself for the places which they will vacate. Then the point was astutely raised by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai about sanctions. He said that we have absolutely no sanctions to back up our representations, and that we are absolutely helpless in this matter, and he suggested that even if we had the power to apply sanctions against Kenya we would not be able to gain much as against that colony. In reply I would say, why bother about Kenya? Why not go to the real root of the trouble, namely, Great Britain? You have got a weapon of economic reprisals; why do you not terminate all this talk of Indo-British trade agreement? Why do you not,—and here I address the Indian Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council,—suggest that ways and means should be devised for stopping the admission of all British manufactures into India? If your suggestion is not accepted by the Executive Council you should in a body resign from such a worthless body as the Viceroy's Executive Council. I can assure you that if you can once make this gesture, we can hit and hit hard against Great Britain. After all it is Great Britain which is responsible for this black Order in Council which is a standing insult to all those who belong to the Indian nation. I assure you that if you make that suggestion and it is turned down, the whole of this country will be willing to back your action by an economic boycott of British goods; and I should then like to see whether Great Britain and His Majesty's Government can stick to this most foolish and atrocious decision which they have made in the matter of the Highlands. After all we are not so helpless as we sometimes think. The international situation, and the very justice of our cause, have so arranged matters, and things have taken such a favourable turn, that the time is not far distant when we will be able not only to carry conviction with the British Government but even to dictate to a weak British Government which is trembling from the onslaughts of totalitarian powers. Is it not humiliating that the Jews from Germany and Austria who are outcast in those countries should be accorded preferential treatment as against us by our fellow citizens of the British Empire in these Highlands? After all the treatment which is accorded to our nationals in Kenya, I cannot see how any thinking and reasonable European in India can expect any other treatment but the one which is being accorded to our nationals in that country. We are not so helpless

in the matter, and my object in moving this motion of adjournment is to censure, firstly, His Majesty's Government for this atrocious and untenable attitude which they have taken up as against my countrymen, and, secondly, to whip up the Indian Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council to take up a stronger attitude on the point as against their British colleagues in the Executive Council and also against His Majesty's Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the Assembly do now adjourn."
The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart (Member for Railways and Communications): Sir, it appears to be not improbable that the general discussion of the Budget will terminate some considerable time before the normal hour of adjournment tomorrow. I would suggest that in the event of this happening, the House should take up tomorrow, after the conclusion of the general discussion of the Budget, the business standing in the list for Thursday. I understand, however, that the Foreigners Bill which is the first of the Bills in that list is still under discussion with Party Leaders, and this being so, we would, if the arrangement which I have suggested commends itself, take up the other Bills tomorrow and leave the Foreigners Bill to be taken up first on Thursday.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 8th March, 1930.