

26th February, 1934

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume II, 1934

(17th February to 10th March, 1934)

SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1934



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1934.

Legislative Assembly.

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MR. MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, C.I.E., M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 26th February, 1934.

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

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. Kodikal Sanjiva Row, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DELAY IN THE FURNISHING OF RESULTS OF EARNINGS BY THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

258. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that the net results of earnings have been furnished by the Railway Clearing Accounts Office late by about a week during the last four or five months, due to which accounts of the other railways were delayed, and that the object of early closing of accounts has been nullified?

(b) Will Government please state the reasons for the delay?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). I understand that there has been some delay in communicating the net results of earnings varying from two days to a week and that it was due to the abnormal number of absentees in September, October and November, 1933, on account of Malaria.

PEONS KEPT BY CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE FOR THEIR PRIVATE WORK.

259. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** Is it a fact that certain officers of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office are keeping one or two peons and chowkidars for their private use in their bungalows?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The reply is in the negative.

ARREARS OF WORK IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

260. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen:** (a) Is it a fact that work in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is falling into arrears?

(b) If so, will Government please state the reasons for it, and the action taken to set the matter right?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). I am informed that there are some slight arrears due chiefly to the large number of absentees on account of malaria in the last quarter of 1933. The Director is taking steps to reduce this and no special action on the part of Government is called for.

OFFICERS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE HAVING NO EXPERIENCE OF TRAFFIC ACCOUNTS.

261. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen**: Is it a fact that most of the officers employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office have had no past experience of Traffic Accounts?

Mr. P. E. Rau: No.

INDIANISATION OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE.

262. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken to Indianize the Indian Air Force?

(b) What is the total expenditure incurred on the Indian Air Force?

(c) Is it a fact that a substantial part of the amount budgeted for the maintenance of the Indian Air Force at Karachi is employed for purposes of the Royal Air Force at Karachi?

(d) What are the total amounts which are disbursed respectively in the shape of salaries to Europeans and Indians in the Indian Air Force?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The Indian Air Force by its constitution is an entirely Indian service.

(b) The progress of expenditure on the Indian Air Force has been as follows:

	Rs.
1930-31	43,000
1931-32	1,16,000
1932-33	2,54,000

The estimated expenditure for the current year is Rs. 6,00,000 and for next year Rs. 9,34,000.

(c) No: rather the reverse: part of the money provided for Royal Air Force purposes has been used to equip the Indian Air Force.

(d) There are no Europeans in the Indian Air Force: there are only a few Royal Air Force officers and men lent for instructional duties: and these will gradually be withdrawn.

DISCONTENT AMONG THE APPRENTICE-MECHANICS IN THE INDIAN AIR FORCE.

263. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur**: (a) Are Government aware that there is a growing dissatisfaction in the country as a result of the harsh treatment accorded to the Indian staff, such as apprentice-mechanics and others in the Indian Air Force?

(b) Is it a fact that as many as ten to twelve apprentice-mechanics were discharged a year or so after recruitment?

(c) Has the number been since replaced and if not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that the apprentice-mechanics were recruited through the Railway Board, and that this practice is now given up? If so, what is the agency through which future recruitments will be made?

(e) Are Government aware that the present state of discontent among the apprentice-mechanics serving at Karachi is such that they prefer to obtain a discharge from service?

(f) Are Government aware that the authorities concerned have failed to hold the annual examination for the last batch of apprentice-mechanics and as such they are kept back from the promotions which they would have otherwise earned?

(g) Are Government aware that the attitude of the authorities at the Karachi Air Base towards the Indian staff in the Indian Air Force has created the impression that sooner or later the Indian element would be pronounced incompetent for Air Force services?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Government are not aware of the dissatisfaction referred to.

(b) Yes: they were discharged because they refused when called upon to carry out the conditions which they accepted on enrolment.

(c) Yes.

(d) The earlier apprentices were recruited by the Royal Air Force authorities with the assistance of the Railway Board, but all recruiting arrangements are now in the hands of the Air Force authorities themselves.

(e) No.

(f) There has been some delay due to service reasons, but the date of promotion of those who pass will not be affected thereby.

(g) Certainly not. Every endeavour is being made to train Indian personnel to a stage of efficiency equal to that of the Royal Air Force.

ARREST OF MIR ABDUL AZIZ KHAN KURD AND KHAN ABDUL SAMAD KHAN ACHAKZAI.

264. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Is it true that Mir Abdul Aziz Khan Kurd and Khan Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai have been arrested for their recent propaganda, demanding reforms in the Baluchistan Province after their attendance in the All-India Baluch Conference at Hyderabad Sind?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether both the above mentioned arrested men will be tried in an ordinary criminal court and be granted the same facilities for defending themselves and engaging a counsel as is done usually in courts in other parts of British India?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Information is being obtained from the Local Administration and will be given to the House as soon as it is received.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE ALL-INDIA BALUCH CONFERENCE.

265. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a copy of the resolutions passed by the All-India Baluch Conference has been received by them, and what attitude they propose to take regarding the reforms in that province?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is intended to treat that province on the same lines as those of the North-West Frontier Province under the new reforms?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the proposals of the Government of India to the Secretary of State or the Joint Parliamentary Committee for that province, and will they be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the correspondence which passed between the Government of India and the British Government?

The Honourable Sir B. L. Mitter: (a) Government have seen certain resolutions on the subject of reforms for Baluchistan which were passed by the All-India Baluch Conference held in December, 1933. It is presumably to these resolutions that the Honourable Member refers.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Proposals 56—59 and Part XIII of Appendix IV of the White Paper to which I have nothing to add.

LOSS TO RAILWAYS DUE TO THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA.

266. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have got a rough estimate of the extent of loss to railways due to the recent earthquake in India;
- (b) if so, the amount of money involved in such loss;
- (c) in what ways such loss is intended to be met?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Memorandum laid before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, which contains the available information on the subject. It will be found at page 29 of Volume X—No. 6—of the Proceedings of the Meeting of that Committee, which was held on the 2nd February, 1934.

DAMAGE TO THE HARDINGE BRIDGE AT SARA ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

267. *Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of damage that has been caused to the Hardinge Bridge at Sara on the Eastern Bengal Railway by ravages of floods;
- (b) how such loss is intended to be met;
- (c) the amount that is likely to be spent in making good the damage;
- (d) how many officers of the Engineering Department are on deputation at Paksey at the present moment;
- (e) how many Engineering officers there used to be normally at Paksey before;
- (f) from what different places these additional officers have been recruited; and
- (g) how the places of these officers sent on deputation have been filled up?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Memoranda laid before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, which will be found at pages 25 to 28 of Volume X—No. 6—of the Proceedings of the Meeting held on the 2nd February 1934, and at page 3 of Volume X—No. 7—of the Proceedings of the Meeting held on the 13th February 1934.

(d) Six officers are at present employed solely in connection with work on the Hardinge Bridge.

(e) Only one Assistant Engineer used to be employed solely on the maintenance of the bridge, but he was placed under the Executive Engineer in charge of the Paksey District who was also partly employed on the bridge work.

(f) and (g). The five additional posts have been filled by permanent engineering officers of the Eastern Bengal Railway, and their places on the Open Line will be filled, as far as may be found necessary, by the promotion of suitable subordinates to the Lower Gazetted Service.

REVISION OF PENSION RULES.

268. *Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at any final decision as regards revision of their pension rules? If so, what?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, when approximately do they expect to arrive at a decision?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 18th September, 1933, to unstarred question No. 108 by Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah. The question of the necessity for framing new pension rules for those in the category of new entrants is still under consideration.

(b) A decision is likely to be arrived at very shortly.

BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

269. *Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the capital outlay of the Bankura Damodar River Railway?

(b) Who are the managing agents of the Railway?

(c) Is it a guaranteed line? If so, for what period has the guarantee been given?

(d) Had Government to pay anything for guarantee for the line? If so, what is the amount that has been paid up till now?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) The total capital outlay on the line at the end of 1932-33 was Rs. 40 lakhs.

(b) Messrs. McLeod and Co., Calcutta.

(c) The line was constructed on a guarantee of 3½ per cent. on the paid up share capital.

(d) Under the terms of the guarantee substantial amounts have had to be paid by Government since 1917-18. The total to the end of 1932-33 amounts to about 21½ lakhs.

BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

270. *Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) When was the Bankura Damodar River Railway opened for traffic, and when was the construction taken in hand?

(b) Did the line ever pay the guaranteed dividend since its opening? If so, for how many years?

(c) Have Government ever enquired into the causes of the line being not paying? If so, what are the causes?

(d) Is it a fact that the line abruptly ends at a place at its eastern end and that there is no place of importance so far as commerce and traffic is concerned?

(e) Are Government aware that unless the line joins with some other railway line, there is no possibility of increased traffic?

(f) Do Government propose to connect the line with the East Indian Railway at some place near Burdwan to make the line paying?

(g) Do Government propose to extend the line upto Arambagh, an important sub-divisional town?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) The construction of the railway was sanctioned in May, 1914, and the whole line was opened for traffic in June, 1917.

(b) I am sorry to say that the line has never yet earned enough to make the guarantee clause inoperative.

(c) Enquiries have been made from time to time. The unremunerativeness of the line appears to be mainly due to inadequate traffic, recently intensified by increasing bus competition.

(d) The eastern terminus was, I understand, selected after careful survey and full consideration of the merits of the alternative alignments, on the understanding that it would open out a tract of country which is well populated and produces large quantities of grain.

(e) The information at present in the possession of Government does not enable them to come to a definite opinion on this question.

(f) and (g). The extensions referred to have not been considered; but my Honourable friend mentioned this to me recently and I am having the position examined. I should add that the Government of Bengal opposed a proposal made in the past for an extension from Sehere to Burdwan, on the ground that no obstruction to the flow of flood water over the country on the right bank of the Damodar River can be permitted.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: May I know with reference to the answer to part (b), whether the line ends in a village of any importance, either commercially or for the purpose of pilgrimage, or in other ways?

Mr. P. B. Rau: My Honourable friend is in a much better position to answer that question than I am.

BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

271. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Are Government aware that people prefer bullock carts and motor lorries for transport to the Bankura Damodar River Railway? If so, are Government aware of the reasons?

(b) Are Government aware that the employees of the Railway do not care for the comforts of the travelling public and are often discourteous and arrogant in their behaviour?

(c) Have there been any cases in law courts between the railway employees and the travelling public? If so, how many?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) and (b). Government have not had any representations on the subject.

(c) Very probably. I am not aware of any railway which is not often a party to law suits.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Considering the length of the line, the number of law suits is abnormal.

Mr. P. E. Rau: Possibly. If so, the local bar has reason to congratulate itself.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

272. *Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Are there any printed rules and regulations of the Bankura Damodar River Railway?

(b) Are they offered for sale to the public?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) Yes

(b) No.

LOSS IN TRAFFIC ON THE BANKURA DAMODAR RIVER RAILWAY.

273. *Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Are Government aware that much of the loss in traffic on the Bankura Damodar River Railway is due to inefficient management and want of due consideration for the safety of goods and comfort of the travelling public?

(b) Do Government propose to institute an enquiry to find out how the line can be made paying?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) Government have no reason to think so.

(b) The question of reducing working expenses is examined by Government from time to time. I might add that the latest year for which results are available, shows an improvement in the position as compared with the past, the gross earnings having for the first time since 1926-27, exceeded the working expenses, and the guaranteed interest recoverable from Government being reduced from an average of Rs. 1,97,000 in the previous four years to Rs. 1,88,000.

INJURY TO A LADY PASSENGER BETWEEN SALEM JUNCTION AND SALEM TOWN.

274. *Mr. K. P. Thampan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that on the 14th October, 1933, while the Passenger Train No. 387 was going from Salem Junction to Salem Town, the leaf of the level crossing gate flung open as it was not properly fastened and smashed the right arm of a lady passenger when she extended it to throw out something?

(b) Is it a fact that this compartment was next to the chief guard's van?

(c) Is it a fact that although the alarm chain was pulled by several people, the train was not stopped until it reached the next station?

(d) Are Government aware that although the passenger became unconscious, neither the guard nor the Station Master of Salem Town rendered any help to the passenger in spite of requests?

(e) Are Government aware that even after reaching the Salem Town Station neither the Station Master nor the guard cared to obtain medical assistance to the passenger?

(f) Are Government aware that no first-aid was rendered for one full hour?

(g) Is there a rule that every train carrying passengers should have a first-aid box and that all running staff should be first-aiders? If so, did this train carry first-aid appliances?

(h) Are Government aware that if the train had been stopped at the level-crossing the patient might have been taken to the Government Headquarters Hospital, which is only a furlong away?

(i) Was there a joint enquiry over this accident? If so, what was the result of the enquiry?

(j) Is it not a fact that the level-crossing gates are made to open towards the line only at stations which are interlocked, and that this gate is not interlocked?

(k) Has the Railway paid any compensation to the injured? If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: Government have no information but have called for a report from the Agent, South Indian Railway, and I shall lay a reply on the table on its receipt.

DISCHARGE OF EMPLOYEES ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

275. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the case of one Balasundaram, an employee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, who was discharged, published at page 219 of the *Indian Railway Magazine* in its issue for August, 1938?

(b) Are Government aware that of late there have been several cases of discharge on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway wherein the man concerned is simply told that "services have been terminated in accordance with the terms of your agreement, clause 7"?

(c) Are Government aware that there is considerable revolt of feeling against the arbitrary use of this clause of the Service Agreement which is regarded as a "bond of slavery"?

(d) Are Government aware that it was to check the arbitrary use of this clause that rules were framed requiring a charge-sheet to be given and enquiry held before discharging a man?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) Government have seen the article referred to on page 219 of the *Indian Railway Magazine*.

(b) and (c). Government have no information.

(d) If the Honourable Member refers to the Railway Board rule on the subject, it was framed to lay down a definite procedure in regard to discharges on State-managed Railways.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: May I know whether the procedure laid down there was followed in this instance?

Mr. P. E. Rau: My Honourable friend has not, I am afraid, realised that the power of interference which Government possess in Company-managed Railways is strictly limited by the contracts.

CONVERSION OF THE NOAKHALI HEAD POST OFFICE INTO A SUB-POST OFFICE.

276. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that the Cooch-Bihar and Noakhali Head Post Offices in the Bengal and Assam Circle were converted last year into Sub-Post Offices?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Cooch-Bihar Post Office has again been raised to the status of a Head Office from January, 1934?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the Noakhali Sub-Post Office has not been changed into a Head Office?

(d) Is it not a fact that post offices in the headquarter station of a district are generally Head Post Offices? If so, why has this post office been converted into a sub-office?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (d). Certain information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table in due course.

FINANCIAL ADVISER, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FINANCE.

277. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the duties of the Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, and of the Deputy Director General of Finance?

(b) Who is the Deputy Director General, Finance, now and what is his pay? Has he got any experience about finance?

(c) What is the reason for the appointment of Deputy Director General, Finance, when there is a Financial Adviser to advise the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs in financial matters?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) As regards the duties of the Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, a reference is invited to the reply given in this House by the Honourable Sir George Schuster on the 11th September, 1931, to part (a) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 174. The Deputy Director-General, Finance, is the controlling officer of the Budget and Finance section of the Director-General's Office. He is also required to give financial advice on all matters of ordinary importance and every day administration of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and help in the detailed examination from the financial standpoint of the more important questions and so relieve the Financial Adviser.

(b) Mr. Zahid Hussain is the present Deputy Director-General, Finance, and his pay is Rs. 1,800 per mensem. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(c) Experience has shown that the amount of work devolving on the Financial Adviser is more than can be properly attended to by one officer.

ACCELERATION IN THE SPEED OF THE 20 DOWN EXPRESS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

278. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that 19 Up (Benares Cantonment Howrah) Express Train of the East Indian Railway takes 14 hours to reach Benares Cantonment from Howrah while in the return journey 20 Down Express takes 16 hours to reach Howrah from Benares?

(b) Is it a fact that in the down journey the train stops at many stations, where it does not in the up journey?

(c) Is it also a fact that in the down journey it is overcrowded and it reaches Howrah station at 7.46 hours, which is not a convenient hour?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps so that the speed of the train is accelerated to enable it to reach Howrah station at least one and a half hour before this?

(e) If not, why not?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No complaints about overcrowding have been received by Government. They cannot see why an arrival of 7.46 hours at Howrah should be considered inconvenient to the public.

(d) and (e). I regret it is not possible for Government to take an active part in the detailed preparation of time-tables. I will, however, bring the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Agent, East Indian Railway.

SPEED OF CERTAIN TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

279. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that local trains between Ranaghat and Calcutta on the Eastern Bengal Railway take one hour and 42 minutes to reach Ranaghat from Calcutta, or *vice-versa*?

(b) Is it a fact that 88 and 90 Down Burdwan-Howrah local trains, two trains on the East Indian Railway, which are considered as very fast trains, take two hours or more to reach Howrah from Debipur, which is 47 miles from Howrah like Ranaghat on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(c) Will Government please state why speed of these two trains is not accelerated as is done on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(d) Is it a fact that even a slow local train takes two hours ten minutes to reach Ranaghat from Calcutta while a slow local train takes two hours forty-five minutes and even more to reach Debipur from Howrah?

(e) Is it a fact that there are about ten trains between Ranaghat and Calcutta which stop at all stations while there are only seven trains between Burdwan and Calcutta *via* Bandel Junction which stop at all stations?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state why train service has been curtailed in this way? Is it a fact that in the evening although there are two down trains from Burdwan, only one very slow train touches at all stations, while another touches at some of the important stations only? If so, why?

Mr. P. B. Rau: (a) The time taken by the local trains from Calcutta to Ranaghat and *vice-versa* varies from one hour and 35 minutes to 2 hours and 30 minutes and from one hour and 48 minutes to two hours and 16 minutes, respectively.

(b) Nos. 88 and 90 Down Passenger trains take two hours and three minutes and two hours, respectively, from Debipur to Howrah, the distance between which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles more than the distance between Ranaghat and Calcutta.

(c) I am conveying the suggestion to the Railway administration.

(d) As already stated, the time taken by the local trains from Calcutta to Ranaghat varies from one hour and 35 minutes to two hours and 30 minutes whereas the time taken by the local trains from Howrah to Debipur varies from 1 hour 57 minutes to 3 hours and 7 minutes.

(e) There are 11 trains between Ranaghat and Calcutta and eight trains between Burdwan and Howrah which stop at all stations.

(f) I am sure my Honourable friend will agree that it is not possible for Government to take any part in the detailed preparation of time-tables. I will, however, bring the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Agent, East Indian Railway.

PAYMENT MADE TO CERTAIN NAVIGATION COMPANIES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF MAILS BETWEEN CERTAIN PORTS.

280. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government please state what amount was paid to (i) Messrs. Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company in the year 1932-33 for conveying mails between India and England, and (ii) Messrs. British Indian Steam Navigation Company for conveying mails between Calcutta and Rangoon, Madras and Rangoon and Chittagong and Rangoon?

(b) What is the agreement with the above companies for carrying mails?

(c) How long will this agreement continue?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) (i) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the reply given on the 20th March, 1933, to part (a) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's question No. 777 in the Legislative Assembly. The provisional payment made to the British Post Office on account of the conveyance of letter mails by the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company during 1932-33 was £28,000. This amount will be adjusted if necessary when the actual sum due has been calculated. Information regarding the sea transit charges on parcels conveyed by the Company's steamers from India during the year 1932-33 is being obtained, and will be placed on the table.

(ii) The total amount paid to the British India Steam Navigation Company for all the services maintained by the Company in 1932-33 was Rs. 15,18,000. The contract under which this payment was made does not specify the portion of the total sum allocated to the lines referred to by the Honourable Member and Government are not in possession of this information.

(b) The contract for the Eastern Mail Service is between His Majesty's Postmaster General and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. The main features of the arrangement with the British Post Office are set out in the statement placed on the table of the Assembly on the 28th January, 1929, in reply to part (b) of unstarred question No. 151 by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan. A copy of the Agreement with the British India Steam Navigation Company will be found in the Library of the House.

(c) The contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company is not determinable before the 31st January, 1934. The Agreement entered into with the British India Steam Navigation Company in 1924 was due to expire on the 31st January, 1934, but arrangements have been

made with the British India Steam Navigation Company and the Bengal Burma Steam Navigation Company for a continuance of the services in accordance with the provisions of that agreement without any increase of the aggregate payments for a short further period of two years.

ENGINEERING BRANCH OF THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

281. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of (i) Divisional Engineers, (ii) Assistant Divisional Engineers, (iii) Construction Engineers and (iv) other Engineering Officers of the Telegraph Engineering Department?

(b) How many of these officers were recruited in England and how many in India?

(c) What are the duties of Divisional, Assistant Divisional and Construction Engineers?

(d) Is it a fact that the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee have recommended unification of different Engineering branches of the Telegraph Department?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have accepted their recommendation?

(f) If not, why not?

(g) Has there been any retrenchment in the Engineering Branch of the Telegraph Department? If so, how many officers have been retrenched? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The Honourable Member will find the information asked for in the Finance Department notifications of the 4th January, 1934, published in the Gazette of India, Part I, dated the 6th January, 1934. There is no special grade for Construction Engineers: six officers of the grades of Assistant Divisional Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Telegraphs, and Deputy Assistant Engineers, Telegraphs, are however, generally employed on construction work.

(b) 22 officers were recruited in England and 122 officers in India. 13 posts are vacant.

(c) Divisional Engineers direct all executive operations within their own divisions and are responsible for their efficient administration. Assistant Divisional Engineers generally hold charge of Engineering sub-divisions, in which they are responsible for the proper maintenance of lines and the execution of works. They are sometimes employed on construction work or other special works according to requirements.

There are no officers designated as Construction Engineers, but as I have explained officers of the ranks of Assistant Divisional Engineers, Assistant Engineers, or Deputy Assistant Engineers, are sometimes employed on construction work.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the Committee's report, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(e) and (f). The report is now under the examination of the Director-General and Government have not yet accepted any of the recommendations in it.

(g) Yes, 20 posts of officers have so far been retrenched.

RECRUITMENT OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

282. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that a circular was issued from the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India, that in case of future promotions to the vacant posts of junior readers a qualifying examination will be held among copyholders and revisers and only senior hands declared qualified will be promoted first in preference to qualified juniors and to fill a few vacant posts of junior readers a qualifying test was held very recently? If so, what was the result of the said test and how many of the copyholders were declared qualified and how many of the vacant posts of junior readers were filled by the qualified copyholders and how many were not?

(b) Is it not a fact that out of five vacant posts of junior readers only three have been filled from among the qualified men and the remaining two are being filled by outside recruits? If so, why?

(c) Will Government kindly state what is the justification for holding a qualifying test, and how are the qualified men who have been deprived of their claim to promotion, to be compensated?

(d) Is it not a fact that in all the Government Departments and their subordinate offices, outside recruitments are made only in the lowest grade? If so, why instead of recruiting men in the lowest grade of the Reading Branch, *i.e.*, in the post of a copyholder of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, outside recruits are taken in a higher grade, *i.e.*, in posts of junior readers?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No. For the second part of this question I refer the Honourable Member to my reply given on the 19th February, 1934, to parts (b) and (f) of Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla's starred question No. 163.

(b) No. The second part does not arise.

(c) The examination was held for the purpose of selecting the most efficient men for the post of readers. The latter part does not arise.

(d) No. The second part does not arise.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

283. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the aggregate pass marks of Departmental qualifying examinations of various departments and subordinate offices under them as well as S. A. S., P. S. C., S. S. B., A. G. P. & T., etc., and other important examinations?

(b) Is it a fact that many old hands in the various departments and subordinate offices including the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery have been exempted from the Public Service Commission examination and even from any qualifying tests in case of promotion from one grade to another? If so, why have not the senior copyholders of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, been exempted from such qualifying test?

(c) Is it not also a fact that at the time of making officiating arrangements in the month of February, 1933, the Manager expressed his opinion that the old hands need not be required to appear at a qualifying test? If so, why were the old hands forced by the Manager against his own decision to sit at the examination with junior and temporary copyholders?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I regret that I cannot furnish the information required by the Honourable Member as its collection would entail an amount of time and trouble disproportionate to the result.

(b) Exemptions are only granted in cases where individuals have special claims and are considered fit to discharge the duties of the posts to which it is proposed to appoint them. The question of exemption in the case of copyholders did not arise.

(c) Not so far as I am aware. The second part does not arise.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

284. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it not a fact that in Departmental qualifying test of various departments and subordinate offices under the Government of India only permanent hands of certain years' standing are allowed to compete and not the junior and temporary hands?

(b) Is it also not a fact that they are allowed to sit at the said test for at least three or four times in case of failure? If so, why were all copyholders (including very old hands, and temporary as well as men who have no substantive post), forced to sit at the qualifying test for promotion to the junior reader's and reviser's grade, recently held by the Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi? Is it a fact that repeated requests were made by the old hands, individually and collectively to their representative in the Works Committee, for exemption from such test, in view of the Manager's decision in February, 1933, and that the old hands protested against the inclusion of junior and temporary hands?

(c) Is it also a fact that only two chances are allowed to qualify copyholders and revisers for promotion during their whole career? If so, why has such injustice been done to them?

(d) Is it a fact that at the time of the test examination for copyholders and revisers the Manager declared neither full nor pass marks on the examination papers, but raised pass marks to a high level in consultation with the Assistant Manager, and declared 66 per cent. for proof reading and 93 per cent. for dictation as pass marks, and that such high percentages of pass marks have never been dreamt of in any departmental or university examinations?

(e) Is it not a fact that the representative of the Works Committee requested the Manager not to fix unprecedented percentages, and to lower the pass marks to 33 per cent. by following the procedure, observed in other departments, and also to ascertain the facts from departments concerned? Did the Manager reply in the negative and say that he was prepared neither to follow any departmental procedure nor to ascertain the facts from any authority? If so, why?

(f) Is it not also a fact that the Manager is the sole authority to do anything he pleases and that the only appellate authority against him is the Controller of Printing and Stationery, and that facilities for appealing to the Secretary or the Honourable Member of the Department of

Industries and Labour have been taken away from industrial hands and the Controller of Printing and Stationery is vested with the sole power for final decision?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). I am not familiar with the practice followed by other Departments regarding the procedure for departmental qualifying tests which must depend on the requirements of the Department concerned. The procedure adopted by the Manager of the Delhi Press for the examination was adopted by him with a view to the special requirements of the Press. The latter part of part (b) does not arise in view of my reply to part (c) of question No. 283.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 19th February, 1934, to part (h) of starred question No. 163 by Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bugla.

(e) The reply to the first and second parts is in the affirmative. As regards the last part, attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to parts (a) and (b) of his question.

(f) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 22nd December, 1933, to Mr. S. G. Jog's unstarred question No. 974 in the Legislative Assembly.

**EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS,
NEW DELHI.**

285. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government kindly state what was the result of the qualifying test of copyholders held by the Manager of the Government Press, New Delhi, in 1929, and what were the pass marks declared by him at that time when he promoted Messrs. Lachman Dass (since deceased) S. P. Shukla and J. K. Bose?

(b) Is it not a fact that at that time he expressed that "only proof reading" is essential for a junior reader's duty and the result was decided on proof reading only in preference to dictation?

(c) Is it not a fact that those promoted men were declared "qualified" on 37 per cent. marks in proof reading? If so, what was the justification for raising the pass marks to such a high level as 66 per cent. for proof reading and 93 per cent. for dictation in the qualifying test recently held?

(d) Is it not a fact that Messrs. Munwar Ali, S. K. Biswas, and George Lewis, copy holders, were promoted to posts of revisers only on account of their seniority? Was any qualifying test held for them at the time of their promotion? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a), (b) and (c). I have no record of the particulars of the test referred to by the Honourable Member nor of the remarks that the Manager may have made in 1929. The latter part of (c) does not arise. I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to parts (a) and (b) of the preceding question.

(d) No qualifying test was considered necessary for promotion to the post of reviser. In this connection, I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 23rd March, 1933, to Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah's starred question No. 895 in the Legislative Assembly.

**RECRUITMENT OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS,
NEW DELHI.**

286. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Is it not a fact that in a circular issued by the Controller of Printing and Stationery it was definitely declared that promotion will be made to the posts of junior readers first from among the qualified hands according to seniority and that a second chance will be given to unqualified hands to compete with outside recruits— if necessity arose to recruit outsiders, and if the unqualified hands qualified themselves at the second test they will be given preference over outsiders? If so, was the order contained in the circular carried out by the Manager at the time of recent outside recruitment of junior readers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 19th February, 1984, to parts (a) and (c) of Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla's starred question No. 163.

**MEMORIALS FROM THE COPYHOLDERS AND REVISERS OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.**

287. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government kindly state whether memorials from aggrieved copyholders and revisers of the Government Press, New Delhi, have been received by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, appealing against the injustice done to them by the Manager, and what action was taken on them?

(b) Do Government propose to instruct the Controller of Printing and Stationery to lower the pass marks at the tests by following one of the recognised examinations, when the memorials are dealt with by him? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes. The memorials are under the consideration of the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(b) No; because Government consider that the question is one for the Controller.

**PROMOTION OF COPYHOLDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
NEW DELHI.**

288. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Is it not a fact that the qualifying test recently held by the Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, for the revisers and copyholders was meant for promotion to only junior readers posts and not to revisers posts? If so, why were senior copyholders who are disqualified in the test, debarred from promotion to revisers' post as Messrs. Munawar Ali, S. K. Biswas and George Lewis then copyholders were promoted to such posts on account of the length of their service without sitting for any test?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes. The senior copyholders have not been given promotion as the results of the test show that they are quite incapable of undertaking the duties of a reviser. The three men named were promoted before the decision to hold qualifying tests.

MEN ON TEN HOURS BASIS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

289. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will Government please state how many men there are in all the Government of India Presses on ten hours basis, and how many days these men of each Press worked for full ten hours from the 15th April to the 15th October of this year? Is it not a fact that whether the men on ten hours basis of the Government of India Presses work for ten hours or not, they get their salaries intact throughout the year and even when they go on short or long leave? Will Government please state what is the idea of placing the Heads of Branches of the industrial establishment of Government Presses on ten hours basis when the workers work for eight hours only? Will Government further state what is the loss to Government by their not having worked for ten hours in New Delhi Press from April to October this year and how long will Government suffer this loss in these days of financial stringency?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No employees in the press are employed on a ten hours basis in the sense that that is their normal working day, but certain salaried employees may be required, when necessary, to work up to ten hours on any day without receiving any overtime allowance. These are the heads of industrial sections, e.g. head readers, senior readers, foremen, section holders, etc. I have no record of the number of days on which these men were retained for ten hours, and it would be in any case impossible for me to give particulars for a period the end of which has not yet been reached. The system was instituted partly in order to ensure that the men would have no interest in the amount of overtime work and partly because it was regarded as more suitable than they should be remunerated in the same manner as ordinary and salaried servants of Government who do not receive extra payment on account of extra pressure of work. The concluding part of the question does not arise as the pay of the men in question was not fixed on the assumption that they would be required to work for ten hours daily throughout the year.

MEN OF SIXTY HOURS BASIS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

290. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Are Government aware that 54 hours a week have been proposed for factories in the Factory Act recently to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly? If so, is it the intention of Government to keep any man on sixty hours basis a week in the Government of India Presses? If they intend to keep such men on 60 hours basis a week, what will be their justification? If not, how will they deal with these men, whether they will be brought to 54 hours basis a week on reduced pay or they will be compulsorily retired?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I am unable to say what modifications will be made if the Act is passed beyond giving an assurance that its provisions will be duly observed.

RECRUITMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

291. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour be pleased to state

whether it is a fact that recruitments are being made in the Central Publication Branch without following the established rules and regulations framed by Government?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have no reason whatever to believe that this is the case.

RECRUITMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

292. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that ever since the present Officiating Manager, Mr. C. V. d'Eca, took over charge, men have been recruited without subjecting the applicants to any qualifying test examination, as was done before while the office was at Calcutta?

(b) How many men in the clerical and assistants' grades have been recruited by the present officiating Manager, Mr. C. V. d'Eca?

(c) Were the posts, so filled up by the present officiating Manager, ever advertised in any newspaper?

(d) If so, when and in what newspapers? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the present officiating Manager has of late recommended certain men to the Controller of Printing and Stationery for promotion to the assistants' grade, stating therein that eligible senior men have declined to accept the offer of promotion?

(f) Will Government please state whether it is not a fact that some senior men in the clerical grade had actually expressed their willingness to accept the offer? If so, why were their claims overlooked at the time of final selection?

(g) Is it a fact that according to the rules of promotion in vogue in the Central Publication Branch, all cases of promotions are to be dealt with in consultation with the Deputy Controller of Stationery?

(h) Is it a fact that the combined gradation list maintained by the Deputy Controller of Stationery is not being followed in the matter of promotions in the Central Publication Branch nowadays? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) During his tenure, four men have been recruited in the regular grades of assistants and clerks, but the appointments were made by the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(c) and (d). No advertisement was necessary as there were sufficient applicants and men working on the day-extra establishment from which to select.

(e) Yes.

(f) Certain men expressed their willingness to accept a vacant appointment of assistant but they were not regarded as suitable for the post.

(g) and (h). The Deputy Controller of Stationery maintains the combined gradation list referred to by the Honourable Member and proposals for promotions or appointments to permanent or semi-permanent vacancies in certain branches of the Government of India Stationery and Printing Department are submitted through him to enable the Controller of Printing and Stationery to exercise an efficient check on all proposals for such promotions. Government have no reason to believe that the combined gradation list has failed to fulfil its purpose.

MOVE OF THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH FROM CALOUTTA TO DELHI.

298. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** Is it a fact that the object of the move of the Central Publication Branch, professed by the Controller of Printing and Stationery in his proposal has not actually materialized?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 21st November, 1933, to part (a) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 1095.

PROPOSAL FOR THE INCREASE OF STAFF IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

294. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour kindly state whether it is a fact that the officiating Manager, Mr. C. V. d'Eca, of the Central Publication Branch has sent up a proposal for increasing the clerical staff of the Central Publication Branch in the proposition statement to the Controller of Printing and Stationery?

(b) Is it a fact that the officiating Manager, Mr. C. V. d'Eca, has proposed to make provision for the entertainment of 87 clerks of various grades?

(c) If so, what is the ground set forth by the Officiating Manager, Mr. C. V. d'Eca, for the increase of staff?

(d) Is it a fact that the present officiating Manager, Mr. C. V. d'Eca, ever since his assumption of office, has been harping on the inefficiency of the existing staff of the office?

(e) Do Government propose to enquire how far the inadequacy of the staff manifested in the officiating Manager's proposal for increase of staff, contributed to the inefficiency of the staff?

(f) Are Government aware that every one of the staff is overburdened with work?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a), (b) and (c). No proposals on the subject have yet been received by Government.

(d) I have nothing to add to the reply given by me on the 21st November, 1933, to part (b) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 1102.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (a), (b) and (c) above.

(f) No.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SYSTEMS IN ACCOUNTS.

295. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Did the Controller of Printing and Stationery obtain the approval of any office before introducing the new systems in accounts? If not, why not?

(b) Do Government propose to examine the position through an expert to see how far the object has fructified?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I presume the Honourable Member refers to the system of accounts in the Central Publication Branch. If so, the facts are that the late Examiner of Government Press Accounts suggested the need for a simpler system of accounts in the

Branch and necessary steps have since been taken by the Controller for the introduction of such a system in consultation with the audit authorities.

(b) The system came into force recently and it is yet too early to say that the desired result has been achieved.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH FOR ENTERTAINING MEN ON DAILY WAGE BASIS.

296. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim**: Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour be pleased to state what is the total expenditure incurred by the Central Publication Branch from April, 1933, to date on account of entertainment of men on daily wage basis?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Rs. 15,187 from April, 1933, to the 20th February, 1934.

DESPATCH OF BOOKS TO OVERSEAS STATIONS BY THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

297. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim**: (a) Is it a fact that consignments of books to be despatched to stations overseas by the Central Publication Branch are sent to the Shipping and Clearing Section of the office of the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta, for onward transmission?

(b) If so, will Government please state the amount of money spent during the last eight months on account of freight and other incidental charges for sending the consignments from the Delhi Office of the Central Publication Branch to the office of the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

VALUE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS DESTROYED OR DISPOSED OF AS WASTE-PAPER.

298. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim**: What is the value of Government of India publications destroyed or disposed of as waste-paper on the basis of the cost of production as shown in the Annual Report of the Central Publication Branch for 1932-33?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It is not possible to state either the value or the real cost of the copies destroyed or disposed of as waste-paper. The only figures available are the prices of the publications which amount in the aggregate to Rs. 4,58,957. If the copies had not been printed, the saving to Government would have been only a fraction of this figure: for the figure is calculated by distributing the cost equally over all the copies of the publication, whereas the big element of cost is the setting up of the type, and the actual printing of extra copies is ordinarily a much less expensive matter.

RECRUITMENT OF SIKHS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

299. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Are Government aware that questions have been asked from time to time in this House on the subject of recognising the just claims of the Sikh community to an adequate representation in the various grades of the Government of India Secretariat appointments?

(b) Is it a fact that the assistant's grade in the Army, Legislative, Commerce and Industries and Labour (excluding Public Works Department) Departments still remains unrepresented by the Sikh community? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to continue their recruitment in conformity with the proportion required for this community?

(c) Will Government please state the number of temporary, officiating and permanent appointments in the assistant's grade filled up during the last five years by the Departments mentioned in part (b) above?

(d) If the answer to part (c) shows an inadequate recruitment from among the Sikhs, are Government prepared to give an assurance that while filling up future vacancies, the departments in question will take such action that Sikhs get their due share before long?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) Yes.

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

NON-RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

300. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur: (a) Is it a fact that eight unpaid apprentices were recruited in the office of the New Delhi Municipality?

(b) Is it a fact that not even a single Muslim has been recruited out of those eight apprentices? If so, why?

(c) Why is the policy of entertaining unpaid apprentices encouraged at all? Is there work enough for clerks, and if so, why are they not appointed as paid clerks?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The policy of employing unpaid apprentices is being discouraged. No such appointments are now being made.

NON-RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

301. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur: (a) Is it a fact that by the re-organization scheme in the electric department of the New Delhi Municipality only the non-Muslim subordinates and officials have been benefited to the detriment of the Muslim clerks?

(b) Will Government please place on the table a statement showing all the promotions that have been made during the last three months? Who is responsible for the injustice?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) If the Honourable Member will specify the scheme of reorganisation to which he refers, I shall be glad to make enquiries.

(b) There have been no promotions during the last three months.

NON-RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

302. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur: Do Government propose enquiring into the matters set forth in the preceding questions and taking necessary steps to put an end to the present practice in the matter of appointing clerks?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Government do not consider that any action on their part is called for.

ANNUAL INCREMENT OF DAFTARIES IN THE BOOK-BINDING BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

303. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur: (a) Is it a fact that the daftaries attached to the book-binding branch of the Government Press get no annual increment and is it a fact that the daftaries of all other branches of the Government Press do have annual increment?

(b) Is it a fact that the daftaries of the book-binding branch get promotion only on the retirement or death of some daftaries in higher scale?

(c) Is it a fact that the above daftaries do not get any promotion at all for years together?

(d) Are Government prepared to remove the discrimination and place them on the same level as the daftaries of other branches of the Government Press?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I presume the Honourable Member refers to binders and warehousemen employed in the Bindery and Warehouse Branch of the Government of India Press, New Delhi. If so, the facts are that these men are on fixed grades of pay ranging from Rs. 18 to Rs. 50 (Rs. 18 to Rs. 45 for new entrants), while the daftaries employed in the office of the Press are on a scale of Rs. 15— $\frac{1}{2}$ —20.

(b) and (c). When there are fixed grades of pay promotion from a lower to a higher grade is made as vacancies occur.

(d) No. Their case is not similar to that of the daftaries; and they would, on the whole, be less favourably treated than they are at present if the changes suggested were made.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TOWARDS MUSLIMS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

96. **Bhagat Chandi Mal Gola:** Is it a fact that complaints regarding preferential treatment towards the Muhammadans have appeared against the District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, in the local *Tej* of the 25th November, 1933, and the 16th January, 1934? If so, will Government please state what action they propose to take in the matter? Is it a fact that he has been posted in Delhi for more than six years?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The reply to the first and the last parts of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the post being included in the Punjab cadre, the Punjab Government are contemplating the reversion of the present incumbent to the Punjab.

ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TOWARDS MUSLIMS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

97. Bhagat Chandi Mal Gola: Are Government aware of the complaints appearing in the *Daily Tej* of the 25th November, 1933, against the Education Department, Delhi, showing preferential treatment towards the Muhammadans and entire injustice to the Hindus (the majority community of the Delhi Province)? If so, what action do Government propose to take to remedy these irregularities?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. Government have asked for a report as regards the allegations made in the article referred to by the Honourable Member.

ABSENCE OF HINDUS IN THE GAZETTED STAFF OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

98. Bhagat Chandi Mal Gola: (a) Is it a fact that there is no Hindu among the gazetted staff of the Delhi Education Department? If so, will Government please state why the majority community of the Delhi Province, having more than 62 per cent. population, has been entirely deprived of its rights?

(b) Are Government aware that the present District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, is being replaced by another Muslim District Inspector of Schools and also of the fact that all the gazetted staff of the Delhi Education Department consists of Christians and Muhammadans only? If so, are Government prepared to fill this post by a Hindu Inspector of Schools, taking into consideration their provincial rights?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to Bhai Parma Nand's starred question No. 1063 on the 7th December, 1932, on this subject.

(b) The final selection of a successor to the present District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, has not yet been made. As regards the appointment of the next incumbent of this post the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House to part (f) of Mr. Maswood Ahmad's unstarred question No. 240 on the 5th December, 1933.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WAR PENSIONS COMMITTEE.

99. Mr. S. G. Jog: Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which pneumonia has been regarded by them as 'never attributable to military service' and the disability has been regarded as not coming under the domain of the phrase 'attributable to military service' used by the War Pensions Committee and accepted by Government under Recommendation No. V?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham: The question is being examined and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

CENTRALISATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STORES.

100. Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Aziz: Is it a fact that the Public Works Department stores were centralized on the 1st October, 1931? If so, what quantities of Badarpur sand and Jumna sand were in stock then and how much of each was found to be surplus, and what action was taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. 21,425 cubic feet of Badarpur sand and 20,658 cubic feet of Jumna sand were in stock on the 1st October, 1931. No surplus was found on the date of transfer. The last part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table:

- (i) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 86, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 29th January, 1934; and
- (ii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 49, asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 30th January, 1934.

NOTICES ISSUED IN MIDNAPORE AT THE INSTANCE OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

*36 (a) (i). This notice was issued by the sub-divisional officer of Contai. It was not issued at the instance of the military authorities.

(ii) Government are not aware of any such notice.

(b) Certain allegations of the character mentioned came to the notice of the Government of Bengal, who after due enquiry are satisfied that no oppression or maltreatment occurred. Troops have only been used to provide cordons round houses in which the police and civil authorities were conducting searches in accordance with law.

EMPLOYMENT OF SOLDIERS FOR FORCING ONE MR. ASHUTOSH ROY CHAUDHURI OF CONTAI, MIDNAPUR, TO SALUTE THE UNION JACK.

*49. (a) Troops were employed to provide a cordon round the house while it was being searched by the civil authorities.

(b) to (i). A petition containing these allegations was received from Babu Ashutosh Roy Chaudhuri. The Government of Bengal caused enquiries to be made and are satisfied that no acts of oppression were committed. The facts are as follows. The houses of Babu Ashutosh Chaudhuri and Babu Rama Nath Maiti were searched on the authority of search warrants issued by a competent authority and the search was carried out by the Officer in charge of the Patashpur Thana. Troops were used only to provide cordons round houses in which search was made but they did not enter the houses in the course of the search. No unnecessary damage to property was done, nor was Ashutosh Babu requested to salute a flag at Balyagovindapur where in fact there was no Union Jack. Literature clearly indicating the undesirable associations of these two men was found in their houses and it was considered necessary to make detailed enquiries regarding them and their connections. They were accordingly requested to go to Manglamaro Camp and on arrival they were offered food which had been prepared for the Special Magistrate. This they refused to take. A flag saluting ceremony had been arranged for 4.30 P.M. at Manglamaro and both Ashutosh Babu and Rama Nath Babu expressed their willingness to salute the Union Jack. No force was used to compel them to salute the flag and they acted quite voluntarily in this respect. After the ceremony at about 6 P.M. Ashutosh Babu and Rama Nath Babu were told that their presence was no longer required.

As their houses were at some distance from Manglamaro they asked permission to spend the night in the Manglamaro school. This they were allowed to do, and they were also given food. The story that they were locked up in Manglamaro school or elsewhere is totally false. They left Manglamaro on the morning of December 11th at their own convenience, and neither then nor at any time were they taken to Patashpur Thana.

(j) Babu Ashutosh Roy Chaudhuri says in his representation that he has never shown disrespect to the Union Jack.

(k) It was necessary to cordon the house when the search was going on. The use of troops for such a purpose is not unusual when they are being used in aid of the civil power.

(l) There is nothing to suggest such a view.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 62 and 63, asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 30th January, 1934.

VALUE OF INDIAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS TO AND FROM JAPAN DURING 1933.

*62. (a) Two statements are attached giving the information required.

(b) Exporters and importers give rupee values only in their shipping bills and bills of entry. Importers declare in their bills of entry the real values of their consignments obtained by converting yen prices into Rupees at the Banks' selling rate of exchange current on the date of importation as quoted in the Exchange Gazettes. The selling rate for yen varied during the year 1933 from Rs. 78-8-0 to Rs. 83-4-0 and the average rate was Rs. 81-8-0 to the 100 yen.

(c) According to the information supplied by the Yokohama Specie Bank Limited, Calcutta, the exchange rate on Japan on the 15th January, 1914, i.e., pre-war value of 100 yen in rupees was at 152 as against at 79½ on the 15th January, 1934.

VALUE OF GOODS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN DURING OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1933.

*63. The negotiations with the Japanese Delegation began towards the end of September, 1933. The total value of goods imported from Japan into British India during the months of October, November and December, 1933 amounted to Rs. 3,43,12,544.

Statement showing the total value of exports of Indian merchandise to Japan during the calendar year 1933, mentioning the principal items.

Articles.	Value in Rs.
Grain, Pulse and Flour—	
Beans	7,93,600
Shellac	9,73,233
Leather—	
Sheep Skins, tanned	18,50,230
Iron, Pig	41,91,886
Iron, old for re-manufacture	25,63,120
Lead, Pig	21,10,081
Oilcake—	
Rape and Sesamum Cake	7,44,118
Cotton, raw	11,78,47,959
Jute, raw	23,21,741
Jute, gunny bags	18,29,816
Tobacco, unmanufactured	4,70,733
All other articles	43,42,551
Total exports to Japan (Indian merchandise)	14,00,39,458

Statement showing the total value of imports from Japan into British India during the calendar year 1933 mentioning the principal items.

Articles.	Value in Rs.
Boots and Shoes	34,00,803
Glass and Glassware	57,78,302
Cotton twist and yarn	94,04,327
Cotton Hosiery	69,22,631
Cotton Piecegoods—Grey	1,92,67,801
Cotton Piecegoods—White	98,12,775
Cotton Piecegoods—Coloured	1,78,29,431
Goods of silk mixed with other materials	32,15,535
Silk Piecegoods	1,42,97,727
Piecegoods of cotton and artificial silk	1,57,98,060
All other articles	5,90,45,259
Total imports from Japan	18,44,72,451

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred question No. 1169, asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 10th April, 1933.

GRANT OF INCREMENTS AND EXEMPTION FROM PASSING ANY EXAMINATION TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE SORTING OFFICE, MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICE.

*1169. (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, orders for the grant of increments to such officials have been issued.

(b) The facts were substantially as stated by the Hon'ble Member, but it has since been decided not to require the officials in question to pass the second examination.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative, except that the period of training was 3 and not 4 months.

(d) Yes.

(e) Does not now arise in view of the reply given to parts (a) and (b).

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred question No. 1488, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 22nd December, 1933.

TREATMENT METED TO INDIAN STUDENTS IN GERMANY.

*1488. (b), (c) and (d). Information has been received from His Majesty's Embassy at Berlin that no definite restrictions nor any measure of segregation have been applied to Indian students in Germany. An official statement was recently issued by the German Minister of the Interior stating that the German Government intended to maintain the purity of the German race, but that foreigners would be able to continue their commercial pursuits in Germany and German Educational Establishments would remain open to foreign students. No complaints have been received by the British Consular authorities in Berlin regarding any discriminatory treatment of Indian students.

(e) Yes. Every German woman automatically loses her German nationality by marriage with a subject of any foreign nation.

(f) In the circumstances Government do not propose to take any action.

Mr. P. R. Sen (Financial Commissioner, Railways): Sir, I lay on the table:

- (i) the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1025 and 1027, asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali on the 20th September, 1933;
- (ii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 1400, asked by Mr. S. G. Jog on the 12th December, 1933;
- (iii) the information promised in reply to part (e) of starred question No. 1034, asked by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen on the 20th September, 1933; and
- (iv) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 1434, asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 16th December, 1933.

ADH KUMBH MELA AT HARDWAR.

*1025. (a) (i) The total expenditure incurred was—

	Rs.	a. p.
Kumbh Mela, 1927	3,32,793	6 6
Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933.	1,53,657	11 3

(ii) The total inward traffic including Rikhikesh was—

Kumbh Mela, 1927	356,473 passengers.
Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933.	139,802 passengers.

Separate figures of traffic to Rikhikesh are not available.

The inward traffic for the corresponding period of 1932 to Hardwar and Rikhikesh was 23,000 passengers.

The total inward traffic for the Solar Eclipse *Mela* in 1933 was 43,947 passengers. There was no Solar Eclipse *Mela* at Hardwar in 1932.

(iii) The particulars asked for are summarised below:—

	Number Extra staff employed.	Period of employ- ment.	Cost. Rs.
Kumbh Mela, 1927	1,862	15-2-27 to 10-4-27.	98,719.
Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933	1,172	10-3-33 to 30-4-33.	48,328
Solar Eclipse <i>Mela</i> , 1933	37	18th to 30th August 1933.	713

(b) The Agent reports that in view of the information obtained in respect of the traffic which might be expected at Hardwar for the *Adh Kumbh Mela* in 1933, it was essential that adequate arrangements should be made to cope with it.

ADH KUMBH MELA AT HARDWAR.

*1027. (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

(i) The entire administration of the *Mela* arrangements was in the hands of the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad.

(ii) Staff of all grades were employed at Hardwar and the total number was 1,172.

(iii) and (iv) The Agent reports that the reply to both these questions is in the negative.

(b) A statement of expenditure and earnings in connection with the *Adh Kumbh Mela* held in 1933 is attached.

Complete figures for the Kumbh Mela held in 1927 are not available. The following are the results as far as are obtainable—

	Expenditure,	Earnings.
	1927.	
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
(i) Pay and allowances of staff	98,719	
(ii) Cost of Engineering Works including Electric installation, Electric current, and temporary construction of platform, cabin, etc.	2,17,468	10,05,279 7 9 from outwards booking.
		The earnings on inward traffic are not available.
(iii) Consumable stores	16,607	

The particulars called for under items (iv) and (v) of the question are not available. What movements were made were performed in the exigencies of the service.

(c) The statement made in the first part is not correct.

(i) The inward traffic amounted to 1,39,802 passengers the outward figures amounted to 92,155 passengers. The latter figures do not include passengers who held return tickets and were 29,560 in number.

(ii) Bookings for and from Rikhikesh have not been accounted for separately.

(iii) and (iv). 69 inward and 88 outward specials were run and a list showing the number of passengers who were carried by inward specials is attached. It is regretted similar information for outward specials is not available. One engine worked each train.

(d) It is not a fact that 17 engines remained in steam for more than 48 hours. It is also not correct that no specials were run due to lack of traffic. It is not correct to state that 26 specials were timed to run during every 24 hours. All possible paths on which trains could run were detailed but specials were run only when sufficient traffic offered. Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by placing on the table a copy of this voluminous working time table which was issued for departmental guidance.

(e) Only certain special trains were advertised to run daily between Saharanpur and Hardwar, viz., duplicate Nos. 76 Down and 75 Up from 2nd April 1933 and 36 Down and 35 Up from 8th April 1933.

Special trains were run when required and as traffic offered. During the inward rush, out of 59 specials which were run on the main line, 53 were run on paths detailed in time tables. During the outward rush, out of 77 specials run on the main line, 76 were run on the paths detailed in the time tables.

(f) It is not a fact that the Sawan and Solar Eclipse Melas of 1933 were more successful than the *Adh Kumbh Mela*. The following figures speak for themselves:—

Mela.	Date.	Total number of passengers.	
		Inward.	Outward.
Adh Kumbh Mela	20-3-33 to 20-4-33.	139,802	121,778
Sawan Mela	7-7-33 to 17-8-33 .	62,726	60,168
Solar Eclipse	18-8-33 to 27-8-33.	43,947	43,664

The following are the particulars of expenditure and earnings in connection with the Sawan and Solar Eclipse Melas held at Hardwar and the strength of staff employed:—

	Strength of staff.	Expenditure.	Earnings.
		Rs.	Rs.
Sawan Mela	Nil.	335	1,39,672-0-0
Solar Eclipse Mela	37	713	1,40,845-9-9 on outward traffic.

APPENDIX.
FINANCIAL RESULTS.
The approximate cost incurred and earnings derived from Adh-Kumthh Mela, Hardwar, 1933.

Expenditure.		Earnings—E. I. Railway proportion.				
Details.	Cost.	For 1933.			For 1932 for the same period.	Income attributable to Adh-Kumthh Mela.
	Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ p.	Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ p.	Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ p.	Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ p.	Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ p.	
<i>Power.</i>						
1. Coal	10,039 0 0	2,766 14 0	477 0 0	2,289 14 0	2,289 14 0	
2. Material and Oil	893 0 0	12,205 0 0	2,852 4 0	9,353 2 0	9,353 2 0	
3. Labour supplied by Contractor.	1,986 0 0	18,236 12 0	6,895 9 0	11,341 3 0	11,341 3 0	
4. Staff and allowances	9,274 0 0	12,187 1 0	7,757 13 0	4,429 4 0	4,429 4 0	
Total	22,182 0 0	1,12,588 13 9	47,000 0 0	65,588 13 9	65,588 13 9	
<i>Carriage and Wagon.</i>						
5. Duplicate fittings	584 0 0	1,97,116 15 3	50,000 0 0	1,47,116 15 3	1,47,116 15 3	
6. Consumable stores	621 0 0	498 11 0	..	498 11 0	498 11 0	
7. Labour and other staff and allowances.	7,465 0 0	105 0 0	..	105 0 0	105 0 0	
Total	8,670 0 0	3,55,705 9 0	1,14,982 10 0	2,40,722 1 0	2,40,722 1 0	
<i>Train Lighting, etc.</i>						
8. Repairs to cells and freight, etc.	4,496 0 0	2,047 2 3	1,629 0 0	1,629 0 0	1,629 0 0	
9. Material	3,181 0 0	2,510 4 0	3,651 0 0	3,651 0 0	3,651 0 0	
10. Labour and other staff	2,323 0 0	148 6 0	204 0 0	204 0 0	204 0 0	
Total	18,670 0 0	6,073 0 0	3,558 0 0	3,558 0 0	3,558 0 0	
Total	18,670 0 0	11,478 12 0	9,042 0 0	1,736 12 3	1,736 12 3	

*Earnings from Booking and collected Tickets has been taken from 20th March, 1933 to 20th April, 1933, while for Goods and Parcels from 1st March, 1933 to 20th April, 1933.

Date.	Special train number.	Number of passengers.
25th March, 1933	Up Mela Spl.	354
26th March, 1933	Up Mela Spl.	827
27th March, 1933	Up Mela Spl.	445
2nd April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	163
3rd April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	613
4th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	436
5th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	1,114
6th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	1,623
Do.	Up Y Mela Spl.	883
7th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	1,667
8th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	1,738
Do.	36 Up	703
Do.	Y 1 Up Mela Spl.	1,610
Do.	Z 1 Up Mela Spl.	366
9th April, 1933	V 1 Up Mela Spl.	1,825
Do.	Dup. 76 Up	1,203
Do.	DH 1 Up Mela Spl.	772
Do.	36 Up	1,182
Do.	Z 1 Up Mela Spl.	198
10th April, 1933	7 D. H. Up Mela Spl.	959
Do.	Dup. 76 Up	1,663
Do.	36 Up	1,266
Do.	X 1 Up Mela Spl.	1,355
Do.	Y 1 Up Mela Spl.	953
Do.	Z 1 Up Mela Spl.	2,037
11th April, 1933	U 1 Up Mela Spl.	1,687
Do.	W 1 Up Mela Spl.	1,181
Do.	Dup. 76 Up	466
Do.	6 D H Up	467
Do.	36 Up	816
Do.	Z 1 Up Mela Spl.	272
12th April, 1933	U 1 Up Mela Spl.	1,385
Do.	Dup. 76 Up	1,515
Do.	36 Up Mela Spl.	1,201
Do.	7 DH Up Special	599
Do.	Z 1 Up Mela Spl.	866
Do.	Dn. Mela Special	452
Do.	Up Mela Special	570
13th April, 1933	Up Mela Special	287
Do.	U 1 Up Mela Spl.	1,284
Do.	V 1 Up Mela Spl.	642
Do.	W 1 Up Mela Spl.	307
Do.	Dup. 76 Up	1,762
Do.	36 Up	612
Do.	7 D. H. Special	1,726
Do.	Up B. E. Special	975
Do.	Dn. Mela Spl.	28
14th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	2
Do.	36 Up	77
Do.	Dn. Mela Special	41
Do.	Dn. Mela Spl.	50
Do.	3rd Dn. Mela Spl.	125
15th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	3
Do.	36 Up	19
Do.	Dn. Mela Special	622
Do.	2nd Dn. Mela Spl.	103
Do.	3rd Dn. Mela Spl.	787
16th April, 1933	Dn. Mela Special	495
Do.	Dup. 76 Up	21
Do.	36 Up	3
17th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	47
Do.	36 Up	16
Do.	Dn. Mela Special	192

Date.	Special train number.	Number of passengers.
18th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	11
Do.	36 Up	6
19th April, 1933	Dup 76 Up	4
Do.	36 Up	7
20th April, 1933	Dup. 76 Up	2
Do.	36 Up	24

N.B. (i) Dup. 76 Dn./75 Up and 36 Dn./25 Up were advertised trains.
(ii) All trains were hauled by one engine only.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS DURING THE ADH KUMBH MELA AT HARDWAR.

*1400. (a) The answer is in the negative. No "averted collision" occurred at Hardwar during April, 1933. On the 25th April, 1933, during shunting operation a shunting engine was derailed.

(b) and (c). The case was enquired into by a Traffic Inspector as is usual in cases of this sort.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(e) Does not arise, as the yard staff are responsible for shunting operations.

DISCHARGE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS IN THE DINAPUR DIVISION.

*1034.

Year.	Number of employees discharged on account of offences.	Joint enquiries held.	Appeals under Rules framed by the Railway Board.	Number of cases in which the original orders were upheld.
1932	17	8	10	9
1933 up to October	22	3	12	10

INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM OF FLYING SQUADS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

*1434. (a) Yes.

(b) The system has been tried on the North Western Railway since 1926. It has achieved its object which is to provide a mobile staff to exercise an efficient check at stations with a view to preventing ticketless passengers from commencing a journey.

(c) The system, which is a part of the organisation recommended in para. 48 of the Moody Ward Report (a copy of which is in the Library), was introduced to prevent people from travelling without tickets.

(d) No.

THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

EXTENSION OF THE TIME FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): I move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Council of State, be extended to the 26th February, 1934."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Council of State, be extended to the 26th February, 1934."

The motion was adopted

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Council of State.

THE SALT ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTY (EXTENDING) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to extend the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill further to extend the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931."

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I introduce the Bill.

THE TRADE DISPUTES (EXTENDING) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to extend the operation of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.

In order to remove possible misapprehensions, I should like to add one observation. As the House is aware, we have canvassed opinions on the amendment of the Trade Disputes Act and have received a number of

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

suggestions. The fact that this Bill is limited to the continuance of the Act in its present form should not be taken to mean that we have rejected proposals for change. The position, as the House knows, is that legislative business this Session is very heavy and this has made it almost impossible for us to ask the House to consider further amendments to this measure during the present Session. The Act is due to expire on the 7th May and we could not, therefore, defer our proposals to a later date, but, if the present Bill is passed, the other proposals will be carefully examined with a view to considering what further amendments are required in the main Act. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill to extend the operations of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I introduce the Bill.

THE COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I introduce the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, be taken into consideration."

The reasons for this measure are explained in detail in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and I need only add that, before I took the step of introducing this measure, I consulted the Leaders of all Parties and I have taken the action I have done with their full concurrence. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 1 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): I move:

"That the amendments made by the Council of State in the Bill to constitute a Reserve Bank of India be taken into consideration."

The House has already had these amendments read to it by the Secretary when he announced the action taken by the Council of State and I think that, from their attitude on that occasion, one may judge that they realised that these amendments were purely of a formal nature. In most cases they are merely the correction of verbal errors in the original Bill and in one case they make the intention of the original clause more clear. I think, therefore, that no explanation is required from me, and I hope that this Assembly today will put its final seal on a measure which will be in the interests of India. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the amendments made by the Council of State in the Bill to constitute a Reserve Bank of India be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1, for the figures '1933' the figures '1934' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That in the proviso to sub-clause (c) of clause 2, for the word 'society', where it last occurs, the word 'bank' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 14, for the words 'five shares shall have one vote and on poll being demanded each shareholder so registered as having more than five shares' the following words be substituted, namely:

'five or more shares shall have one vote and on a poll being demanded each shareholder so registered'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 15, for the word 'registers', where it first occurs, the word 'register' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 46, for the figures '44' the figures '47' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That in the Third Schedule, for the figures '1933', wherever they occur, the figures '1934' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That in the Fifth Schedule, for the figures '1933' the figures '1934' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

THE WHEAT IMPORT DUTY (EXTENDING) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré (Member for Commerce and Railways): I move:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, be taken into consideration."

The questions at issue in connection with this Bill have been discussed at considerable length on previous occasions when similar extension measures were before this House. I venture to think that no useful purpose will be served by retraversing ground which has been so completely covered in the past on the occasions on which similar measures were discussed in this House. There are, however, two points on which I think the House will need to be satisfied before it passes this Bill. It will need, in the first place, I think, to be satisfied that the probable effect, on the price of wheat and on the agriculturist in India, of the

removal of this import duty will be such as to justify this measure. Such information as we have goes to show that the stocks of surplus wheat in the world are of considerable magnitude. I would like to quote to the House from an appreciation which has been made by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, of the available stocks in the world and the possible effect of our removing this import duty. This is what he says:

"The world exportable stocks of wheat on the first August, 1933, amounted to something like 695 million bushels representing the heaviest accumulation of surpluses so far recorded. The European crop is very large this year, amounting to 1,670 million bushels and substantially exceeding the record yield of 1,490 million bushels of the previous season. The principal market for the countries producing a surplus of wheat is Europe, which absorbs on the average between 70 per cent. and 80 per cent of the world wheat exports. In view of the abundance of the European crop, the good quality of this year's wheat, the excellent rye crop, the abundance of fodder cereals and potatoes and the difficulties and ever-increasing hindrances to international trade, the probable requirements of imported wheat for Europe are estimated at 375 million bushels, which is the smallest figure of import ever recorded in Europe even perhaps during the War. Of these 375 million bushels, 55 million might be supplied by the Danubian countries including Poland, about 30 million by Russia, 15 million by North Africa, while the remaining 275 million might be supplied by the four great exporting countries, Canada, the United States, Argentine and Australia whose exportable supplies total 970 million bushels. These four exporting countries are therefore expected to have exportable supplies of something like 695 million bushels against the extra-European demand of only 150 million bushels. In the circumstances, there seems to be very little prospect of world prices of wheat hardening to any appreciable extent in the near future, and if the import duty is removed or reduced, there is every certainty that the exporting countries will unload part of their surplus stocks on the Indian market, and Indian prices will fall very heavily."

Sir, the removal of the impediment to the ingress of foreign wheat will, I feel certain, be a signal for a considerable foreign importation, with a still further lowering of Indian prices. With so many Members in this House personally cognizant of the conditions of Indian agriculture today, it is unnecessary for me to dilate upon the disastrous effect upon the Indian grower. The second point upon which this House, I think, would need to be satisfied is that the import duty in the past has not resulted in appreciably or unreasonably raising the price to the Indian consumer. I think the figures I shall be able to quote will satisfy the House completely on this point. Take the years before the import duty was imposed. In 1928, at the end of December, the price of wheat per maund f.o.r. Lyallpur was Rs. 5-14-0. In 1929, it was Rs. 4-5-0. Compare those prices with the prices that prevailed after the Wheat Import Duty Act was passed. In December, 1931, the price was Rs. 2-10-6 per maund. In 1932, it was Rs. 3-8-0. In 1933, it was Rs. 2-2-3, and, on the 25th January, 1934, the price was Rs. 2-2-9. I may add that such evidence as is available at present goes to show that this year's harvest will be a very good one so that the interests of the consumer should be fully safeguarded. I think, Sir, that is all I need say. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, be taken into consideration."

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have got to submit a few observations in connection with this Bill. Whether I am opposing or not, I shall say as the

[Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar.]

debate progresses. At present I have got a great complaint against the Honourable Member who has made this motion. I know his patience, I know his tact, I know all his other qualities about which my Honourable friend, the Diwan Bahadur, said a great deal, and I take it that he said that, not only on his behalf, but also on behalf of this House, in the matter of his going on with the Japanese negotiations, but I shall try if I cannot exhaust even that patience. He gave us a lot of figures today. May I respectfully complain that those figures ought to have been supplied before he started the motion? Now, how does the Statement of Objects and Reasons read?

"The Government of India have maintained a careful watch on the wheat position in India and"—(mark the words)—"they are satisfied that no such change has yet taken place as would justify the removal of the duty at the end of next March."

Sir, as it stands, without the elaboration made in the speech, which elaboration, I submit, is incomplete and insufficient, the Honourable Member stated—"the Government of India have maintained a careful watch". Result? The position is not so satisfactory as to enable them to remove the Wheat Import duty—not that the Government of India would alone make the change, but that the Assembly might be pleased to agree to the duty not being removed. Sir, I know of a little bit of incident which used to happen in the olden days when the Nawabs used to have plenty of people called "*Mosahibs*". One Nawab had a great partiality for brinjals. He ate the brinjals from day to day, and every day brinjals were cooked and the Nawab was eating fully of them and told his *Mosahibs*, "what a nice thing the brinjal is", and everybody said: "There is no such good a vegetable really as the brinjal!" Days went on, brinjals were being cooked every day; then, our friend, the Nawab, took ill and went to a *Hakim*. The *Hakim* said: "What have you been eating?" The Nawab said: "Brinjals". The *Hakim* said: "Stop that for some time", and the *Hakim* began to give him the other side of the picture. Then the Nawab came home and told his people not to cook brinjals again. The *Mosahibs* thought it was a curious thing. They did not know what was the matter. They asked the Nawab: "Why is it, that no brinjals today, Sir?" The Nawab said: "Oh, the brinjal is such a useless thing, it produced all kinds of worms and caused sickness and all that". Then the *Mosahibs* started saying: "The brinjal is such a poison, you should never eat it. Hereafter, please, for God's sake, do not allow brinjals to come to your kitchen", etc. The *Mosahibs* said: "We are very glad, Sir, you do not bring the brinjal to your kitchen". But the Nawab said: "All these days you have been praising about the brinjal. Now you go against it". The *Mosahibs* answered: "Sir, please excuse us, we are not the brinjal's servants, but we are your servants." (Laughter.) Likewise, my Honourable friend has probably started saying: "Today I am quite satisfied with the position of the wheat. Therefore you simply come and continue the duty. Tomorrow I am not satisfied with something else. Therefore, simply come and reduce the duty." There is another Bill, exactly the second brother of this Bill, with which we shall have to deal presently. Sir, that is a very very unfair thing. I say why, first upon the ground of self-respect. This House knows that time after time the newspapers, when they have got nothing else important to put in, begin to abuse the Assembly. They say, it is no good, and the Assembly that they had before it was a better one and what a grand thing it would be if we could by any means get back

those old stalwarts. This Assembly must go out. But, Sir, there is only one redeeming feature and that is, whether our opinions are agreeable or not, we go on discussing things. Now, my Honourable friend, without giving us any materials to go upon, says: The Government are satisfied, and, therefore, you ought also to be satisfied. That is very unfair. I know that our friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, has come to our rescue in his usual able manner. But, then, another gentleman says that this Constitution has been exhausted and this Assembly must go. Sir, I am not particularly anxious to get into the Assembly, and to me it matters little whether it goes out or continues on. I have no idea, God willing, to come back to the Assembly for the simple reason that I have not got the strength to continue hereafter. But the peculiar mentality of these gentlemen is that the Constitution is dead and they want to elect another Assembly under the same Constitution. The point of my argument is that I would respectfully ask my Honourable friend not to put us in that position.

The next point that I wish to develop relates to a rather personal matter. I have a great desire to oppose this, because the rice people have been completely neglected. If only my Honourable friend had worked up the figures just as they have been worked for the purpose of wheat, the same trouble would have been apparent and the same measure of protection that has been given for wheat and which he now wants to continue might have been, would have been, should have been and ought to have been continued for rice. But rice is forgotten, because, as I said the other day, Madras is no good except when the Honourable the Home Member comes and says: "Oh, they can always take care of themselves, and, therefore, do not trouble about them." (*A Voice*: "It is a benighted Province.") That is the whole trouble. But this benighted Province contributes the most and, therefore, it continues to be benighted.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): How much does it contribute?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: It would be just as well if my Honourable friend does not challenge me. Does he remember the old provincial contributions? Does he remember who paid the most money in order to keep these gentlemen going here and enable them to hear his pipe over labour?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They are gone.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: That is just the gratitude that we have forgotten. Gratitude is not a sense of recognition of what you have already got, but a lively sense of favours to come. My friend has forgotten that for years and years Madras milked herself dry and supplied it to other Provinces, and my friend, Mr. Joshi, went on increasing his fat. He now only discusses labour problems and is quite prepared to start a revolution amongst the agricultural villages provided I gave him a thousand rupees. I want the Honourable gentleman to see what the Honourable the Finance Member of Madras said about the agricultural position when he introduced the Budget. It is all very well to protect wheat, but what about my rice? As long as you do not protect my rice, I must protest. That is my position.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): Sir, for the first time, since this additional duty was brought in, I do not oppose the Bill. I am very glad that the Commerce Member drew attention to the world condition of excess stocks. I think the figures which the Honourable Member gave us were

[Mr. G. Morgan.]

695 million bushels stock and only 100 million odd would be the consumption. I presume that every Honourable Member in this House understands what the Wheat Agreement is that was entered into by four producing countries and a great many importing countries. Now, Sir, in that connection we have a very large area coming under cultivation in the near future. In fact, part of it is in cultivation now; I refer to the Sukkur Barrage. If that agricultural area is going to produce a large quantity of wheat, we may then be in a position of having a surplus over consumption and would have to be an exporting country which we are not at the present moment, and, I am sure, the Honourable the Commerce Member will bear that in mind. And when any question of the cultivation of area round this Sukkur Barrage comes up, I trust that attention will be given to crops which will be more satisfactory than a wheat crop with an exportable surplus in view of the world conditions today. In the importing countries under the Wheat Agreement, I notice that one clause says they will do their utmost to stimulate the consumption of flour and wheat products. I trust that also will have the attention of the Government of India. It is very important that the consumption in this country should be increased in view of the fact that we are certain to increase our wheat production in the near future and it would be a very difficult thing to get an economic price for some years to come in view of the world position of wheat production today. I also trust that the Commerce Member would bear in mind the position of the flour mills in this country. At the present moment, things are more satisfactory than they were six or seven months ago, but still they have been making very heavy losses, not only at the ports, but also, I think I am right in saying, even in the interior. Part of that has been due to the fact that the price of wheat at times has been very much higher than it is today and other cereals have entered into competition in the consumption market and the wheat flour has been relegated more or less to the background. I say that the position is better today, because the price of wheat is a very much better economic price for the flour mills than it was not very long ago.

I agree with my Honourable friend, Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, when he said that he would have liked to have had these world figures before the discussion on the Wheat Bill came up. I think it would have been more satisfactory had we been supplied with these figures beforehand. Sir, that is all I have to say on the Bill to extend the operation of the Wheat Additional Duty Act, and I have no opposition to the Bill being placed on the Statute.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan): Sir, I wholeheartedly support this measure which has been moved by my Honourable friend just now. A large number of agriculturists are rotting every minute in order to fill the pockets of the millowners of Bombay and, therefore, there is no harm if the agriculturists are also protected. But I want to know what is the percentage of wheat in the total agricultural produce, and why Government's attitude is a stepmotherly one so far as rice is concerned.

I have got much to say in this connection about rice. My Honourable friend always comes before this House and gives protection to wheat, but the question of rice is never considered by the Government. The representation of the Punjab in the Cabinet seems to be much stronger than that of Bengal. The Government protect wheat by means of this

import duty, but what about rice? They are ruining this class of the agriculturist by imposing an export duty on rice. This is the only foodstuff on which an export duty has been imposed. One of the other articles on which an export duty has been levied is jute, and this also affects Bengal. Then comes the question of hides and skins and this also affects that part of the country to a great extent. If Government need money for their revenue, they should have some other means of filling up their purse and they should not tax a particular area in a particular manner by means of this export duty. The Government are taxing Bihar, Bengal and Madras for the benefit of the whole of India. Rice is not produced in sufficient quantity in Bengal. Instead of making room for Bihar rice, Government, by artificial means of special freight from the Punjab to Calcutta, are dumping the Bengal market with the Punjab wheat.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member cannot utilise this opportunity for making out a case for the protection of rice.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: I submit that the protection which has been given for wheat is the preferential treatment for the Punjab which is not justified. They have given special rates for carrying wheat from the Punjab to Bengal, and this special rate for wheat has affected that part of the country to a great extent. If Government want to protect wheat, there is no harm. We all agree that they should protect wheat, but this special facility should not be given to wheat. If Government want to give this special facility to wheat sent from the Punjab to Bengal at a cheap and special railway rate,—then the commodities which are grown in Bengal and Bihar, *e.g.*, rice, should also be given the same facility so that those articles may also be taken at a cheap and special railway rate from Bengal and Bihar to Cawnpore and Delhi.

With these observations, I support the motion of my Honourable friend.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, I do not wish to put forward a case for the protection of rice, but, inevitably, in the discussion of this Bill, the case for other agricultural commodities comes up before one's mind. I have no objection to the protection granted to wheat, but I wish the Government to realise that however anxious they may be to protect wheat, wheat plays a comparatively smaller part in the economic structure of the society of India as a whole, and its value is very much less than that of rice. The Provincial revenues in most cases, and, in fact, part of the Imperial revenues depend upon a proper and adequate price market for the rice produced in this country. (Hear, hear.) I know that wheat is an international commodity, that the prices elsewhere must necessarily govern the wheat price in this country. I was one of those who, in 1931, when Sir George Rainy first brought forward this proposition for the protection of wheat, gave my whole-hearted support to it. The result of it has been that wheat is today a protected agricultural commodity necessarily deserving protection and able to hold its head above water, merely because of that protection. You will find from the figures given by the Director of Commercial Intelligence that while Manitoba wheat and Liverpool wheat has been going down in price during the past 18 months, the Indian wheat has been going up in price and what would have happened if this protective tariff was not established by Government soon enough is that the agricultural commodity would have been wiped out of the market

[Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

and it would not have been worth the while of anybody to cultivate wheat in India. The Director of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, whose report my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, quoted for some purposes, observes with reference to wheat protection as follows:

"Indian wheat behind a high tariff wall, on the one side, and with a production about equal to her own requirements, on the other, was cut off from the international markets during the year under review. The isolation was so complete that the movement of wheat prices in India remained more or less unaffected during the greater part of the year by movements in world prices. This is best illustrated by the fact that while at Liverpool prices of Manitoba wheat declined from a high to a low level, those of Indian white wheat at Karachi moved in a diametrically opposite direction with continually increasing prices. This position appears to have been the outcome of a fairly moderate supply which prevented prices from sagging."

In this connection I should like to reiterate the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, that you have to plan your economy with reference to wheat cultivation and wheat production in this country. The time has come when, in the production of any agricultural commodity, you have to see how far internal consumption requires the commodity and to what extent external markets can take the surplus stock. I have come recently to the conclusion that irrigation schemes, over which the whole country was at one time very enthusiastic, are not the unadulterated good that they once were made out to be. I have come to the conclusion that as irrigation is extended without any reference to the nature of the produce and the requirements of the country and of the external market, irrigation may become a calamity to this country. Take, for instance, the Sukkur Barrage scheme about which so much enthusiastic reference was made both at the opening of that scheme and afterwards; what would be the result if, with a consumption of only eight million or nine million tons in this country, you produce 13 or 14 millions, and you are unable to find an external market for that wheat. My Honourable friend, I do not know which of the preceding speakers, one of them, referred to the fact that the wheat agreement has been arrived at with four of the wheat producing countries for cornering the world markets outside India. India, to the best of my recollection, had no part or share in that agreement. We have no share in the external market, we do not put in our appearance there, we do not claim the external market, we hold too modest a position in this country to be able to corner any external market. If this is so, the wheat produced in this country must be self-sufficing and no more than self-sufficing, and the time has come for this Government, the Head Government of the whole of India, to take steps to see with reference to wheat production or with reference to the production of rice, that so long as we are not able to have an external market, we should regulate our produce, we should plan out an economic production for wheat and rice.

Let me now turn for a moment, without in any way contravening your ruling, to the protection of rice which inevitably comes up in a discussion for protection of wheat, for rice is a commodity which has a great external market. Burma rice was having a good external market, but it is falling off. I want India to be isolated similarly with reference to rice. We are already having imports of rice from Siam and Indo-China, and rice is also coming into India from Burma. So long as Burma remains a part of the unitary system of Government, Burma must be taken together as part of India, and, therefore, I am not making at present any proposal that an embargo should be put on Burma from exporting rice to India. I was

shocked the other day to read that in Southern India particularly, 20,000 tons of rice was being dumped month after month, and, if I have heard the reports correctly, Siam had even the hardihood to import rice into Burma a few weeks back and that is not a position to be tolerated by any Government. I ask the Honourable the Commerce Member whether his Department has taken into consideration the question of regulating the import of rice from foreign countries into this country. It may be said that the quantities are so small and that the total production is about 28 million tons and that 20,000 tons a month does not have any appreciable effect. I want the Honourable the Commerce Member to consider the psychological effect on the producer, the grain storer and the seller of this country with an import of 20,000 tons month after month. I know the actual fact that the moment a Siamese steamer or the Japanese steamer with Siamese rice comes into the Madras harbour, even though with only 20,000 tons, there is an immediate sharp fall in the price of rice in the market. Every section of the Indian community raised their protest, particularly from Southern India, and I beg the Honourable the Commerce Member to take up this question with the same enthusiasm which he has shown towards the question of wheat. I do not go so far as my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, when he suggested that wheat has greater influence in the Government of India Cabinet than rice, and I should be loath to give my assent to such a proposition. I know the influence of wheat is sufficiently strong, but I venture to think that the dual influence of rice on that Cabinet will be at least equal to the unitary influence of wheat.

Now, Sir, as I said, with reference to this wheat production, it may be argued that the time may come when the internal consumption may not be sufficient for that purpose. My Honourable friend has not shown, in the course of his speech today, whether the wheat produced is sufficient or not. I on the other hand have suggested that, with the increase of the cultivable area for wheat, that production will be more than sufficient. It is the same case, I venture to respectfully submit, with reference to rice. In any case, whatever doubts there may be with reference to the adequacy of rice production in India proper, if you tack on Burma with it, no man can suggest that the rice production in India and Burma taken together is not more than sufficient for all the requirements of this country. I venture, therefore, very respectfully to suggest that in the barest interests of justice and fair play to the rice producing community, which is the largest community, which pays the largest amount of tax and whose wealth is the largest taking the stock as a whole, this Government should pay a little attention to that question. And I am here in no other capacity than that of the Laputan flapper just to give a little flap and say: "Master, awake, the country needs your wakeful attention to this question."

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural):

Sir, I am sorry that I have to oppose this measure in spite of my own views in the matter that it ought to get protection. Considering the callous indifference of Government, in spite of our repeated requests, to consider the case of rice, it seems Government have got a very soft corner in their heart for wheat only and no other agricultural produce. We gave our whole-hearted assent to this measure when it first came into this House, because we believed, like all other distressed people, though we are one of them, that we are bound to see that our distressed brethren in

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

the Punjab and other Provinces do not suffer. And we thought it to be not only our patriotic duty, but our bounden duty to support the measure. In the meantime, the grievances of the rice producing Provinces were brought to the notice of Government and they had of course some conferences and consultations which produced nothing. And, in fact, from the dilatory manner in which they have been proceeding in the case of rice, I was impressed with the idea that Government were not at all serious to give us any relief in the matter. Sir, it will not be relevant in this discussion to bring out what are my own ideas about giving protection to rice or as to how the price of rice or paddy can be raised. But I may be permitted to submit that I have my own views and I submitted those views in informal conferences before Members of Government. But I found that Government have not been pleased to take any steps whatsoever. It may be that my suggestions were not practicable or would not bring any good or any relief to the rice producing people. Still, when I found that they did not take up the matter seriously, I thought the only way in which we could bring the seriousness of the situation to the notice of Government was by way of protest, and by opposing this measure which has now been introduced in this House.

Sir, my friend, the Diwan Bahadur, has been pleased to refer to the over-production of wheat which will shortly come owing to the opening of the Sukkur Barrage. At the same time, there is a history behind it. By the opening up of the canal colony in the Punjab and vast tracts of country which did not grow a single blade of grass for two thousand years from the days of Fa-Hien and Hieuen-Tsang, that tract of country now produces a bumper harvest and there is a district town in the Canal Colony now known as Lyallpur which is represented here by my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh. Sir, I myself have been in the centre of that Canal Colony for some time, and I was surprised at the growth of agricultural produce there. There is almost a mile of godown at Lyallpur for storing these crops and I have not seen such a large godown anywhere in India. When so much wheat was not needed, to open up a tract of country with the money of the tax-payer and thereby lower the price of wheat, was not a very profitable undertaking which was taken up by Government. Now that Government did it, they probably think that it is their duty to try to save them. But apart from this calculation of their own mistake and attempted reparation, I would bring to their notice the very verge of starvation to which the paddy producing Provinces in India have been reduced; and is it not up to Government to devise means as to how the price of paddy can be raised and how these poor agriculturists of paddy producing Provinces can be saved? If they have not done so and taken up the matter seriously, I think it will be the duty of every patriotic Indian,—even the Members of the wheat producing Provinces, considering that we gave them whole-hearted support in their case,—to oppose this measure. They should say: "We do not want this protection. You want to have so many brethren of ours starving and you only want to keep us up to support you. We are not so selfish as that and we don't want to have it." That is the attitude which I want to take up and I want to press it for their consideration.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the motion, but I may be permitted to make one or two observations. The figures given by the Honourable the

Commerce Member clearly show that it is impossible for this country to capture the outside market. We were at one time reckoned among the wheat exporters, but we have now ceased to be wheat exporters, so much so, that, as Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar pointed out, India was not even invited to the Wheat Committee convened in London last year. So when it is not possible for us to have any market outside, we should at least make efforts to keep our own market for ourselves, and that is really the intention of this Bill. I would have very much liked on this occasion to know the exact figures for this country, that is, the amount of consumption in 1933, our production in 1933 and the amount of wheat which is now lying surplus in this country; and these figures would have been very useful on this occasion.

Sir, there is one thing which I cannot understand and perhaps the Honourable the Commerce Member will explain it to me. Why is it that the life of this Bill is extended only by one year, specially when it is explicitly provided here that power is retained to reduce or remove the duties by executive action before 31st March, 1935, if circumstances so change as to render the duties excessive or unnecessary? The executive Government have kept for themselves the power to reduce the duty at any time they consider desirable. Then, why should not the life of this Bill be extended for, say, three years instead of one year? Why is this Bill brought up year after year specially when this provision is there? Why is not an enactment made for three to five years under this provision? I can see only one explanation which is this: we have in India what is called a *Mushaira* or a poetic competition, where poets come and recite their own verses; usually it takes each one about five to twenty minutes, but there was one poet who came with a solitary verse and he had nothing more to recite: so he went on repeating each part of his verse five or six times, and then he repeated the whole verse five or six times to make much of his solitary effort. The only help that Government have given to the agriculturists is the wheat Act. They want to show that they have passed several Bills, by introducing this wheat Bill, every year and saying, here is a wheat Bill No. 1, wheat Bill No. 2, wheat Bill No. 3 and wheat Bill No. 4, while, really speaking, such repetition was quite unnecessary. Even today this Bill can be extended for three years, especially in view of the provision that this duration can be reduced by executive action; with this proviso it was quite safe to extend the time limit of this Bill to a much longer period than one year. In that case, the only difficulty would be that the number of wheat Bills would be reduced: instead of one Bill every year, there ought to have been one Bill probably for three or four years

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Let us hope that there is going to be a consolidated Bill for rice and wheat together.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Rice is not under discussion just now; and whenever the question comes up, you will find that every Member of this Assembly interested in agriculture will give his hearty support to rice as we are giving to wheat. My friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, pointed out the other day that this wheat question is the *Antara* of the Honourable the Commerce Member. Whenever any question about help given to agriculture comes in, the Government always point out that they have brought in this wheat Bill. But I think we should not have the same Bill repeated again and again and it would have been much better

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had the life of this Bill been extended to three or four years. It was quite safe in view of the provision in the Bill. With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural):
Sir I rise to support the introduction of this Bill.

Although I do not agree with my friend who has just sat down, I think it is very right on the part of Government to bring a Bill again and again every year, because it gives an opportunity to this House to ventilate its grievances on wheat and other food grains. Government have not been doing enough for the protection of the agriculturists: they have done something only for wheat, and are sitting quite contented with what they have done for raising the price of wheat. The figures that were read out in this House by the Honourable the Commerce Member are no doubt very convincing. They show that, as soon as this duty is removed, there will be a considerable surplus in the world markets, and the exporting nations will not be slow in dumping the surplus quantity of wheat wherever it will be allowed to enter, and, therefore, this measure is a very necessary one.

As for rice, I may point out that the cultivators who grow rice are the poorest and they do deserve consideration at the hands of Government. Rice is a very important food grain, and, therefore, Government ought to take into consideration the plight of the cultivators and do something for them also.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural):
Sir, the entire population of those Provinces where wheat is grown will be thankful to the Honourable the Commerce Member for introducing this Bill. We know that in India the prices are always counted in terms of the prices of wheat. The whole depression in this country is on account of the fall in the price of wheat. If wheat becomes costlier, then all commodities will also rise in prices. Gold is no longer the standard of exchange. In this country the standard of exchange, as far as Northern India is concerned, is wheat; and if a labourer can find that he can live on two annas he will accept two annas only if he can purchase sufficient quantity of wheat for his livelihood for that amount. But if the price of wheat goes up, then the same labourer asks for a wage of 12 annas, when he finds that he cannot live on less than 12 annas. We have seen that the ordinary wages of the labourer here now in Delhi are about six annas, while, when wheat was sold at five or six seers a rupee, you could not get an ordinary labourer for less than 12 annas or sometimes even a rupee per day. That means that if a man has sufficient money, he can afford to purchase articles whose prices vary according to the price of the staple food on which he lives. A *pukka bigha* and 12 *biswas* constitute an acre in Northern India, and if a man can produce about 12 maunds of wheat in one *bigha*, he can pay his canal dues and his rent and then save enough money in order to live an ordinary life: that is to say, the standard price ought to be something like 10 seers to the rupee to enable him to do so. If the cultivator cannot sell his produce at 10 seers a rupee, that is, if he cannot get Rs. 4 for a maund, then he cannot live—he gets a deficit. Last year we found that wheat was sold in Hapur, which is only 20 miles from Delhi, at 23 seers a rupee and in Lyallpur the price was Rs. 1-4-0 a maund. If wheat is

sold at Rs. 1-4-0 a maund, and the cost of production is something like four rupees a maund, how can this poor labourer or tenant live by selling his commodity? He does not get his wages in money; he merely gets sufficient to enable him to live throughout the year: that is his only profit. This is a great problem for Northern India, because prices of wheat must remain at the level of four rupees per maund, otherwise people will be forced to desert their lands in the villages and march into the neighbouring towns where they will get no employment. Sir, much has been said about famine conditions and famines in India, but there is no famine here in the sense that there is not sufficient quantity of grain, but there is great famine in the sense that people have not got sufficient opportunities to be employed in labour. People cannot find employment

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): The case in Orissa is different.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am not talking of Orissa. My friend, I know, is a great authority on Orissa and he can talk about Orissa when his time comes. I am pointing out to the House that our main difficulty is to provide employment for labour in the villages, because, when they don't find employment in the villages, they naturally migrate towards the adjoining towns in search of employment, and, there too, they don't get any kind of work, with the result that there is always great discontent in cities. That is why all this agitation is being carried on. It is a well-known fact that most of the Congress volunteers joined the Congress ranks simply because they could get some sort of employment for the time being; these people could not get any employment in the villages, and, so, when they came to the cities, they were well fed and clothed by people who had made money, and these poor people were kept employed as volunteers. This was the cause of the whole trouble in the country, and if the Government cannot see their way to bring about contentment and happiness to the village population, if the village population is not kept fully employed and contented, which is very essential and necessary for keeping up good administration in the country, then the Government will be cutting their own root, and, in order to bring about peace and contentment in the village, the level of the prices of those commodities, which are standard commodities like wheat, should be kept up at standard prices, that is, 10 seers of wheat to the rupee.

Every country during the past few years has been producing a surplus quantity of wheat and so India too has produced more, and this surplus quantity has to be consumed somehow or other. I was not aware of all these facts until I was a member of the Ottawa Agreement Committee, and then I learnt that there was a great deal of surplus of wheat in the world. And, Sir, talking about wheat, India cannot be called upon to consume foreign wheat merely to provide a market for foreign wheat growers. We have to keep up our own market and we have to keep our own people contented, and, therefore, I feel that it is not a sound policy to bring forward this measure year after year, because the man who grows wheat must know beforehand what will be the prospects of sale in the months of May and June. By this measure you are merely giving protection up to 31st March, 1935, which means nothing. It means protection for May and June, 1934, because wheat is brought into the market for sale only in the months of May and June, and the grower will have no opportunity to bring his goods again from July up to the end of March,

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

because the protection which takes effect from July, 1934, does not affect the producer at all. That may benefit the middlemen who get the produce from the cultivator and hoard it up. Therefore, it is essential to see that the producer gets the benefit of this protection and also a sort of guarantee that, when next year he produces wheat, he will be able to sell it at the standard price. This measure, however, does not hold out to him any such guarantee for these few months. Therefore, the attempt you are making for bringing forward this measure year after year is not a right attempt: it is not a sound policy, so far as wheat is concerned. The proper thing to do is that you should give an extension to this Bill for at least three years, so that the producers may have a sort of guarantee that, when they produce wheat next year and in succeeding years, their wheat will be sold at a good price in spite of the market fluctuations. Both the purchasers and the middlemen know exactly where they stand. This is the reason why there is a great deal of gambling going on. If the Honourable the Commerce Member likes, I can give him numerous instances of gambling that is going on in the wheat market, and people, who had no money, small firms, which were not financially strong, have become very rich on account of gambling in wheat. Side by side with this, there is also the *Khati* business. I shall briefly explain to the House what this *Khati* is. At the time of the harvest, they collect all the wheat and bury it underground in *Khati*, which is an underground cellar. This wheat never sees the world's light, and all sorts of fictitious documents are being executed with regard to the wheat that is stored in these *Khatis*, and people make contracts two or three months in advance. In this way gambling goes on, because these people get quotations and information about prices of wheat in foreign countries, and they also know whether wheat will be imported from Canada and other places. I think, Sir, this sort of gambling is neither beneficial to the country nor for the good morale of a country and its producers. Therefore, in order to check this evil, I would advocate that, instead of keeping this Bill in force till 1935, it should be extended at least up to 1938. Of course, I can understand the anxiety of some people like my friend, Mr. Morgan, . . .

Mr. G. Morgan: May I rise to make a personal explanation, Sir? I am not showing any anxiety at all. As the Honourable Member has raised the point, what I wish to say is, the agriculturist would still be in the same position as in the last year if the protection were extended to any number of years. If you want to get over the May-June position, the date must be extended to a later month.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, one year's guarantee to the producer means nothing. It does not give these people any kind of security. Of course, there are some people who do not want that this concession should be extended beyond March, because they get some kind of grain from other countries to make it into flour and then export it, but, for the sake of these few people who make a little bit of money in this business, why should the whole of India suffer? The Honourable Member in charge had given a good reason when we were discussing the other Bill. He said, why for the sake of a few people the entire country should suffer, and there was no reason certainly that to benefit a few people the whole of the country should be penalised. But I say that in this industry we have very many more people who are engaged in it, a much bigger population is involved, and the livelihood of millions entirely depends upon

the production of wheat. If they do not produce wheat, the land is not fit for producing anything else which can find a good market. They are producing now sugar cane, but it is limited in its usefulness. We find so many factories have arisen, and even sugar cane is not so beneficial as it used to be in former days. Gur was sold some time ago at Rs. 10 a maund, but now it is selling at Rs. 1-8-0 a maund, and who will produce sugar cane under such conditions? The whole of Northern India, the Punjab and Sind are dependent upon wheat which is the chief produce. I should have advocated a much higher duty in order to encourage production, but whatever it be, I want that the protection should be extended to more than one year in order to give security to the wheat producers, and I would like the Honourable Member to change his figure from 1935 to 1938.

Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz (Punjab: Nominated Official): During the course of the debate, reference has been made to the possibility of over-production of wheat. I rise just to lay before the House a few facts that I know about this question. About thirty years ago, I started studying in my own way the question of food as consumed by the people. At that time nearly one-third of the people in the Punjab did not consume wheat, but consumed other cereals; and for only four months in the year they lived on wheat. Even in the bigger towns, the lower class of people considered wheat as a great luxury and they lived on gram or on jowar, and so on. During the last ten years, there has been a considerable rise in the consumption of wheat among the poorer people, but we have not yet reached the point where we can say that there is proper consumption of wheat by all classes of the community. I will just mention one thing. Those that harvest the wheat crop get paid in kind, that is, in bundles of wheat. These poor people immediately go and sell these bundles of wheat to the *bania*, because they consider it as too good a food for them and they live on a mixture of gram, jowar and other cheaper cereals. In the United Provinces, if you go to any village, you can ascertain that all the poor people live on *bhejar*. Similarly, the poorer people in the Punjab live on cereals that have, as compared with wheat, a lower nutritious value, and I hope that the House will not entertain the misconception that we are anywhere near that position when we can be said to over-produce wheat. If wheat is a good food, we do really want all our poor people to have their share of this cereal. If so, I hope those Members, who objected to the transportation of wheat at a cheaper rate to Bengal, will see that the Punjab is doing something in her own humble way to provide a better food elsewhere, and, from that point of view, I am sure that the House will support this motion without any objection whatsoever.

There is one other thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the House. We know that certain areas cannot produce wheat. Sandy soils cannot produce good wheat, and we have got gram still growing there. But owing to the mechanisation of the army, the demand in the army for gram is not so great as at one time it was, and we are, therefore, studying in the Punjab the substitution of a better crop in place of this, but that is no reason why there should be any suggestion that wheat is going to flood the market and that there is no demand for it. With these remarks, I support the motion.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I venture to seek the indulgence of the House for a few minutes

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

because Honourable Members, in the course of their remarks, have not limited themselves to wheat, but covered generally the question of the attitude of the Government towards agriculture and the agriculturist.

Now, Sir, it is quite understandable that Honourable Members coming from Madras, based as they are on what can be described as rice economy, are disappointed that rice at the present moment is not receiving the same treatment as wheat. What I should like, however, to say in the first instance in general terms is that Government are not guilty of favouritism as regards their attitude towards a particular class of agriculturists. Take, for example, this question of wheat. The import duty on wheat was imposed more than two years ago, and it was imposed, because there were data available to the Government to show that, unless such action was taken, there was a grave menace of Indian produced wheat being driven out of the market by foreign wheat. I am stating from memory, but I think that, in the years preceding the imposition of the duty, the imports had risen to a figure of a quarter of a million tons or even more. As regards rice, the position is that, during the quinquennium ending 1927-28, the average imports of foreign rice in this country were 16,000 tons, in 1929-30, about 6,000 tons, in 1930-31, 7,500 tons, in 1931-32, 18,000 tons, and in 1932-33, 35,000 tons. Now, Sir, . . .

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Now during the last few months?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: If my Honourable friend will allow me to proceed. On the basis of the production of the Presidency of Madras alone, which is five million tons on an average, this constituted less than one per cent. of the total production of one Presidency in India. Therefore, I think, the House on an impartial view will agree that Government could not, in the light of the figures which I have mentioned, have been justified in taking a year ago, or even in the immediate past, shall we say, the action which was found to be necessary in the case of wheat. But, Sir, the position is that, when it was brought to the attention of the Government that imports of foreign rice were increasing, they took up the study of this question seriously. My Honourable friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, I think, was a little unkind when he said, that such suggestions, as had been made by him and other Honourable Members to Government, had fallen on sterile soil and that there had been no response to those suggestions or representations. I think the story which I told my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, the other day, will bear repetition. After the Conference in December, I circulated to Honourable Members certain figures which they wanted, and, in the letter, which I sent with those figures, I said that Government were open to receive suggestions from Honourable Members as to what the next step should be. I think I am not betraying any confidence when I say that I have received no response to that suggestion from a majority of the Members; but since my friend, Mr. Mudaliar, returned to Delhi, the question has been pressed on our attention again, and we have also had an informal discussion on the subject. The point I wish to make now is that Government recognise the force of the argument of my friend, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar, that the psychological effect on local prices, even of small imports of rice, may be considerable and the House may be interested to know that Government are, at the present moment, considering what action, if any, is necessary in order to prevent that disturbing influence from becoming perpetual. And I hope, Sir, that within the next few days we shall be in a

position to take the House into our confidence as to what action, if any, we propose to take.

Now, Sir, passing from the question of rice, I would like to deal with one or two suggestions that have been made. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar both dealt with the desirability of planned economy so as to prevent over-production, be it of wheat, or rice or any other commodity. Reference was made to the production or possibilities of production of wheat on a large scale in Sind, as a result of the bringing of large areas under irrigation under the Sukkur Barrage Scheme. My Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Aziz, has said something about consumption in this country not having reached the saturation point. That, I hope, Honourable Members will bear in mind, is a point that is relevant to the consideration of this problem, but I think here again I am betraying no confidence when I say that the whole question of the development of agriculture in Sind is receiving constantly the attention of the Government of India, especially of the Economic Sub-Committee of the Executive Council of the Governor General.

Now, Sir, it is not really necessary for me to elaborate my remarks further, but I would like to say one word about what fell from Mr. Yamin Khan and Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad regarding the duration for which the Wheat Import Duty Act is to be operative. I think Mr. Jadhav had a very pertinent answer to the suggestion that this should be extended by three years. We think first that, in a matter of this kind, where we are taxing a staple commodity of food, the House should have an opportunity from time to time to consider whether the interests of the consumer justify a continuance of the duty. The second point to remember is that the imposition of the duty has already raised the price of wheat above world parity. Therefore, it is idle for anybody to argue that the cultivator is not protected to the extent that, consistently with the interest of the consumer, we can protect him. The third is the point regarding gambling. I do not profess to have the practical experience of gambling that my Honourable friend there has, but the point to remember is that the uncertain factor, the factor which encourages gambling, is not necessarily the price of wheat in Australia or Canada, but the actual output of wheat in this country. That is really what people gamble on. Sir, I have said all that I had to regarding our attitude towards this question.

Mr. B. Das: I am grateful to my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, for letting out one little information that the Executive Council of the Government of India possesses an Economic Sub-Committee. I believe they have a certain planned economy about the general economic condition of India, and I hope that when my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, will get up to speak—I presume, he is the Chairman of that Committee—he will take us into his confidence and tell us how that Sub-Committee has been working during these few months.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do not wish my Honourable friend to put into my mouth words which I did not utter. I simply said that the question of agriculture in Sind was receiving the attention of Government. I said nothing about planned economy for the whole of India.

Mr. B. Das: I am only referring to the Economic Sub-Committee of the Executive Council. I want a little further light on that subject. I was saying that the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore will take us into his

[Mr. B. Das.]

confidence as to what they have been thinking about the low level of prices, particularly in regard to wheat and rice about which we have been talking the whole morning. I find that the House is divided as to what blessings it will give to the measure that is before it. I wish to join my very feeble protest, although it cannot be heard at the distant end of the House where the Government Members sit. Somehow Punjab has triumphed and the interest of all other parts of India have been subordinated. The Government are in the position of a hen-pecked husband. Their soul is hen-pecked by the interests of the Punjab. They have no time to think of other interests, as they are hen-pecked. I find that the representative of Bengal and the two stalwart and mighty representatives from the benighted and glorious Madras Presidency exercise no influence in the Executive Council. Punjab wanted the price of wheat to rise, it was done; and Punjab wanted the rates for wheat to be reduced, that was also done.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Why are you jealous of the Punjab?

Mr. B. Das: I am asking the Government to be fair and apply the system of rates reduction to other commodities. Unfortunately other commodities, industrial or agricultural, like rice, have no champion in the Government of India or even on the floor of this House. I have some experience of rice. We would like to send rice from Orissa to Malabar, Mr. Thampan's territory, but the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway have combined to make the rates very high, and rice cannot go to Malabar from Orissa. Did my friend, the Commerce Member, consult his dual soul, the Railway Member, and ask the other soul whether some hardship was not caused to these commodities and whether rates should not have been reduced, not only to give a much needed relief, but also to restore price levels in the country. My friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, who hails from the United Provinces talked of gambling propensities of the people. My Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, replied to him on that point. I have had the privilege to live in Bombay and I do occasionally pass through Calcutta, and I know this gambling propensity is a propensity of the rich and is a vice of the intelligent stockbrokers in Calcutta and Bombay which are full of gambling dens.

An Honourable Member: Don't exclude Mr. Mody.

Mr. B. Das: Mr. Mody is an industrialist and I won't call him a stockbroker. But, Sir, my friend asked the Government to stop the gambling instinct of a certain class of people in India, because he thought thereby the producer would be benefited.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: I think my Honourable friend is wrong. I never asked that their *instinct* should be abolished by the Government I never said that.

Mr. B. Das: I think my friend said the wheat producer, the poor peasant, would benefit.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: My tenants produce wheat—not I.

Mr. B. Das: I am not thinking now in terms of landholders, I am talking in terms of peasants and farmers. The peasants and farmers produce wheat and rice. If the middlemen, as my friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, characterises the Rallis, the Volkarts, Kilachands, etc., and even the Tatas, who finance money to these people, gamble on the stock exchange and thus raise the price, the enhanced price on the stock exchange does not in any way filter down to the poor cultivator. The latter does not get even the price my friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, suggested, after his produce is harvested and taken to the market. The price he already receives as advance during the crop season from landholders like my friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, or through middlemen like the Rallis and others leaves him very little margin of profit for that produce.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What is your point?

Mr. B. Das: My point is this. Government are no doubt right in bringing this Bill for one year, because the Government know themselves they are not doing the right thing by other staple products. They are partial to one particular kind of staple product only, namely, wheat, and they have neglected the biggest staple product—rice. Any proposal for increasing the duration of the protection is wrong. Government should bring out a consolidated Bill, and thereby not only help the wheat, but the rice industry as well; but, at the same time, they should consider whether wheat deserves the Rs. 1-4-0 protection which has been given for the last three years. I think the time has come, as the price of wheat has risen in India above the world parity, the amount of duty fixed in the Bill should be reduced in the new consolidated Bill. Sir, I have only one word to say about the wheat agreement that was referred to this morning. I wish to draw the attention of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, to one vital fact. I do not want to ask my friend, Mr. Morgan, to take note of it, because his interest and the interest I want to advocate are quite different.

Mr. G. Morgan: Why? Why?

Mr. B. Das: In a year or two, Sir, we are going to face provincial autonomy. Now, is it going to be real autonomy, or is everything going to be controlled by the Central Government who are trying to control the co-operative movement, the agricultural movement and other movements? My Honourable friends, Mr. Bajpai, or Sir Fazl-i-Husain may wish for such control from Simla and Delhi, but how can they lay down what amount of rice should be grown in Bengal, Orissa or Madras, or what amount or kind of wheat will be grown in Sind, the Punjab or the United Provinces? Sir, if that be so, it is quite beyond my comprehension, and if that is the idea of provincial autonomy that my friends designed in the various Round Table Conferences and wish us to accept, then, I say, such a kind of provincial autonomy will not be accepted, and, under the new Constitution, nobody will tolerate any interference on the part of the Central Government on such questions like the production of crops in each provincial area, and so on.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Would my Honourable friend like Tariff Bills and such things in order to control the industries, but not measures to control an industry in which a much larger population, the agriculturists, are concerned?

Mr. B. Das: I represent here the agriculturists of a Province. I do not want any interference by the Honourable the Law Member even, that my people in Orissa won't grow rice and that they must buy rice from Bengal. Sir, it is only the capitalists, gambling at the stock-exchanges, who want to restrict production, so that they may make more middlemen's profits and I want that the effects of such practice should be borne by everybody, before they, either here or outside in the country, moot such proposals.

Mr. K. P. Thampan (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, while I associate myself with what has fallen from my Honourable friends, Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar and Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, in regard to the protection for rice, I have yet another grievance. Sir, I refer to the cocoanut industry of Malabar. (Hear, hear.) (Laughter.) Sir, you might remember that when you were on this side of the House with us, when the question of ratifying the Ottawa Agreement came up for consideration before this House, I had to put up a fight with regard to the duty of copra or cocoanuts exported from Ceylon. Ceylon is the chief country that competes with Malabar in this respect. Sir, the revenue duty on copra at that time was 25 per cent *ad valorem*. According to the terms of the Agreement arrived at at Ottawa, for which, so far as India was concerned, you are unfortunately or fortunately responsible (Laughter), the duty for copra from empire countries was reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent and the duty for that of foreign countries was raised to 30 per cent. The chief principle of the Ottawa Agreement was that there should be a difference of 10 per cent between empire products and those of foreign countries. I suggested that the revenue duty of 25 per cent. might be continued for Ceylon, and that for foreign countries it might be raised to 35 per cent. The Honourable the Commerce Member said that the cocoanut was a raw produce and he had his sympathies with the capitalists of Bombay. There were several oil mills in Bombay which, with the big one in Ernakulam, started by the Tatas, were consuming a lot of more copra than we could supply, and the Honourable Member, in his sympathy with the millowners, did not care to pay heed to my representations. Now, I want to invite the attention of the House to the present position of the import of copra and cocoanut oil from Ceylon.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The Honourable Member cannot go into such details.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: My difficulty, Sir, is this. Non-official Members are precluded from proposing any amendment to include in this Bill a provision for a duty, for instance, on copra, because your rules say that it is a matter which affects the revenues of the country and so the sanction of the Governor General is necessary. Unless the Member in charge secures us the required sanction which he never does, we are helpless to put forward any constructive proposal and our only remedy is to oppose a measure which we think is defective; and if you want that I should oppose this Bill without assigning reasons, I am perfectly willing to do that, but if on the other hand, you want me to state my reasons

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): With regard to the Honourable Member's grievance about the cocoanut, he will get an opportunity when the Finance Bill is introduced. He can then talk as much on the cocoanut as he likes, but on this occasion he cannot dilate on the cocoanut.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: My position is this. I am personally a cocoanut grower and represent them here, and, if I am prevented on this occasion to ventilate my grievances at length and get them redressed, I must oppose and vote against the motion, however much I may sympathise with its merits.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the arguments of my friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, and to oppose his attitude as regards the passing of this measure. I think my friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, is, in his heart of hearts, for this motion, but he wants that the main grievance of Bengal as regards paddy should also be sympathetically considered by Government. I am very much doubtful if our Punjab friends want this measure seriously. I find the House is conspicuous by the absence of all the Non-Official Members from the Punjab. I can understand my friends, Mr. Puri, Mr. Aggarwal and Sardar Sant Singh or even Sirdar Harbans Singh, remaining absent, because they are busy lawyers earning money. But what about the other Non-Official Members from the Punjab such as Mr. Fazal Haq Piracha, Nawab Talib Mehdi Khan, Syed Rajan Bakhsh, Sirdar Sohan Singh and others? Even Mr. Shah Nawaz, who is in Delhi, is also absent. Bhai Parma Nand does not care to come from the lobby. Sardar Jawahar Singh and Captain Lal Chand are also absent, so almost every body from the Punjab is absent, both elected and nominated Non-Officials. Perhaps they think that their interests are quite safe in the hands of the Government, because Sir Fazl-i-Husain is there to look after their interests. I wanted their presence in the House only from one point of view. I wanted to know their views about our grievances about grain and paddy, so that we could settle what should be our attitude towards the present Bill. Anyway, I think Mr. Amar Nath Dutt complained that we have no strong representative in the Executive Council of His Excellency the Viceroy.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: I did not say that: it was Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad who said that.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Yes, it was Mr. Maswood Ahmad who said that. Once even my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, said that Bengal had always good representation in the Executive Council. I wish to say once for all—and my views are perhaps shared by other Members from Bengal—that we do not want that prominent and only big lawyers, who earn three or four times the amount of Rs. 6,666-10-8 which is the pay of an Executive Councillor, should become the Law Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council. We want that the Bengal representative should have the portfolio of Commerce or Industry where he can make his influence felt. I know that the portfolio of the Law Member is sinecure and the Bengal lawyers merely sacrifice their large income from the bar simply from a spirit of patriotism, but do not benefit anybody.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: No Bengalee would be available as a Commerce Member.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: For the benefit of my friend, Mr. Sarma, I can say that even the President of the All-India Federated Chambers of Commerce for the year is Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, who is a Bengalee. If Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar could serve as Commerce Member, many Bengalees can

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

aptly do the same. Mr. Sarma knows it for himself that he had to leave Madras for Bengal to earn his livelihood from the industries of Bengal which he could not do in his own province. So it does not lie particularly in his mouth to contradict me.

Sir, one other thing that we have heard is that there is an Economic Sub-Committee in the Executive Council. My friend, Mr. B. Das, has appealed to Government that they should enlighten this House as to what are the duties of that Sub-Committee of the Executive Council which is to look after the economic interests of the country. Does it consist of only one Honourable Member, Sir Fazl-i-Husain, or there are other Members also? Sir, whatever may be the attitude of the Punjab Members, we the Members from Bengal, agree that this wheat protection measure should be passed and we also agree with Mr. Jadhav that it should be brought to this House year after year for renewal, as long as it is necessary.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I find that Bengal is absolutely out for a revolt this morning in the House. I never thought that terrorism was introduced in this House also. Whatever it may be, I think this wheat import duty and its extension only for a year should not have been the subject for such a heated discussion. The main argument is that as wheat production goes on increasing because of the Sukkur Barrage and other canal fields, Bengal is very much apprehensive of the wheat being imported from either the United Provinces or the Punjab to rice eating Provinces. Sir, from the *Indian Trade Journal* of 2nd February, 1933, it can be proved that the acreage under wheat has decreased by four per cent. I do not see, therefore, any reason for Bengal to complain now as will appear from these figures:

"The total acreage sown in wheat is estimated at 31,29,000 acres as against 33,78,000 acres at this time last year."

Therefore, as the acreage is going down considerably, I do not see why my friends from Bengal should be so much apprehensive of the wheat being imported from the Punjab or the United Provinces to Bengal. It is not necessary that when the production of wheat in the Punjab or the United Provinces is increased, it must all be taken to those Provinces that consume rice. My friend, Mr. Abdul Aziz, has already said that the poorer class people generally do not eat wheat, but they dispose it of in order to pay their rents. Can there be any reason why my friends from Bengal and Madras should grudge that the tenants in the United Provinces or the tenants in the Punjab should be able to get a little rise in the price of their wheat and thus be able to meet the present depressed condition of their own people? If there is to be a legislation by the Government to favour the rising of the price of the rice, we on this side of the House, at least Members from the United Provinces and the Punjab, will not oppose and will not generate that heat which is being generated today in the House, simply because a little rise in the price will be effected by the raising of this duty. Sir, we know as well that Australian wheat and wheat from other countries is being imported to Europe and other places. Our wheat does not find much favour these days. So, if duty on Indian wheat is to be opposed, I think the people from the United Provinces and the Punjab and other wheat producing areas will have to oppose some day if the duty is raised on rice. Besides, this internecine and provincial war should not

be the burden of songs of our friends, either from Bengal or Madras. With these words, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: Sir, there is very little for me to say after the very effective contribution to the debate which has been
 1 P.M. made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, and also after the illuminating remarks which have fallen from Mr. Abdul Aziz. I am quite sure that my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, is far too large-hearted to oppose this measure, simply because he does not at the present moment see in sight some protection for his own rice, and I hope that what Mr. Bajpai has said will, to some extent, relieve his anxiety on that score. Let me say, Sir, that there is no one here who would not deeply deplore his absence from this House if the verdict of his electorate on a future occasion deprived us of his presence here. Certain Honourable Members suggested that the Government of India were concerned only with the question of wheat and in the matter of giving preferential treatment to that commodity. But I endeavoured to remove that apprehension the other day by pointing out that, so far as Railway rates were concerned, we were giving special rates, preferential or concessional rates, not merely to wheat, but to rice, sugar-cane and sugar, and that we were considering the question of concessional rates for oil-seeds as well. I understood my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, to suggest that we should reduce the rate for the export of Uriyas from Orissa, and we shall certainly consider that proposition, Sir, if he would put it up as a practical suggestion at some convenient time. On one point, I should like to register a most emphatic protest. I do not think that any one is justified in suggesting that any Member of the Executive Council represents one particular interest or one particular Province in the deliberations of the Executive Council. (Hear, hear.) Allow me to say, Sir, that they represent not Provinces, not Provincial nor parochial interests, but the interests of India as a whole. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Constitutionally we all do the same, but practically we do represent our Provinces.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I do not think there is anything further for me to refer to. The point made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, as regards the duration of this Act, has been, I think, sufficiently met by Mr. Bajpai, and I would suggest to him that had he felt that it was a matter of real importance, he should have put forward an amendment to that effect. I would ask the House to take the Bill into consideration.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 1 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): Motion moved:

“That the Bill be passed.”

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am thankful to you that my slim figure has at last caught your eye. Sir, I sincerely congratulate the Honourable the Commerce Member for bringing forward a really beneficial measure. It is also a matter for self congratulation, because measures such as this at rare intervals make the life of a Member of this side of the Assembly tolerable. At times, even the Government of India, though seldom, err into humanitarian feelings, and this is one of their lapses. There is a silver lining in every cloud, and in the grave and menacing cloud of protection, further protection, more protection and more and more protection and all-round protection, this measure is a silver lining. The steel frame of the Indian Civil Service has for once given way, and it is a matter of congratulation for all of us. The caravan, for once, has stopped to listen to the wails of the Punjab wheat producer, and my hearty congratulations are to him. The great Punjabi, the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain comes from the rural Punjab—I speak on behalf of the Rural Group. As such, the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Hussain had first hand knowledge of the troubles and woes of the wheat producer. The Wheat Act of 1931 was an outcome of his large heartedness. Paddy is a much more important agricultural produce of India, and a much larger number of people, either directly or indirectly, depend upon it for their living. But this paddy is the worst affected crop of India, and Government have not yet done anything tangible to protect the rice producers. The effect, if any, of the Ottawa Agreement has been negligible indeed on the rice market. Burma has played havoc on Indian rice, and the imports of rice from Siam and Indo-China and other countries have added fuel to the fire. I sincerely believe that the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore will do as much for rice, if not more, as the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Hussain did for the Punjab wheat. Early steps should be taken to impose heavy tariff duties on imported rice from foreign countries. The separation of Burma, which is already a settled fact, should be expedited by all possible means, so that Burma rice may be treated as foreign rice. I may also mention that the sum and substance of the arguments of Mr. Bajpai were that imported rice from foreign countries was not in sufficiently large quantities to warrant a tariff duty. I think he did not include Burma rice in the figures.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I did not include it, because Burma is part of India now.

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra: Railway freight rates on rice should be reduced to the irreducible minimum, and, over and above all these steps, arrangements should be made for the purchase of rice by the Government and for controlling the rice market in the country. I have no doubt that the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce will also do his best to help the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore in the matter. If rice is not able to raise its price, while the two great Madras Civil Servants are in charge of the two Departments of Commerce and Industry, and also when the Honourable the Law Member from Bengal is there to render legal assistance, I shudder to think what will happen to the Southern and Eastern Provinces of India. With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

THE STEEL AND WIRE INDUSTRIES PROTECTION (EXTENDING) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to continue for a further period the provisions made by certain Acts for the purpose of fostering and developing the Steel Industry and the Wire and Wire Nail Industry in British India be taken into consideration."

I have come before the House asking for an extension of the *status quo* in respect of protection for certain articles covered by measures referred to in this Bill. To my mind, Sir, the measure is inevitable. I would like to assure the House that there is absolutely no ground for the suggestion that the need for this extending measure could have been avoided. A chronological statement of the work of the Tariff Board and of its members will, I think, be quite sufficient to dispose of that suggestion. The Tariff Board completed its cotton textile inquiry by the 10th November, 1932. Thereafter, its President went on leave and the reconstituted Tariff Board began its inquiry into the sericultural industry early in December, that is to say, at the earliest opportunity which it had to function after the change. It continued its inquiry into the sericultural industry until about the middle of May, 1933, when its report was submitted to Government. After that the President was asked to inquire into the case of those industries which had applied for protection under the Safeguarding Act, and he was engaged upon this until August, 1933, when he was asked to proceed with the iron and steel inquiry without further delay. Indeed, Sir, he had to interrupt his work in respect of the safeguarding of industries to begin the iron and steel inquiry. Since then, the Board has been engaged in this inquiry which, as the House will realise, is not only a very difficult one, but a very extensive one indeed. No one will, I think, suggest that the Tariff Board has wasted its time since it began this inquiry, and I now understand that its report will not be in the hands of Government until some time in May. I may say that if its report is received in May, we may well consider it to have done its work with considerable expedition. As I have said, Sir, this measure appears to me to be inevitable and I move for its consideration.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to continue for a further period the provisions made by certain Acts for the purpose of fostering and developing the Steel Industry and the Wire and Wire Nail Industry in British India be taken into consideration."

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I regret I have to oppose this motion, though I know it will be carried. I am doing it with a full sense of the result of the motion made by my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member. But I think certain facts ought to be brought to the notice of this House, before it agrees to the motion which, I suppose, it is going to do. In the year 1932, long before this inquiry was due, there was a Resolution moved in this House by my Honourable friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, and at that time full dissatisfaction was shown regarding the way in which this protection was being utilised; and to the series of allegations that were made by my friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, who was then in the place of my Honourable friend, said that these were all points that would be subject to an inquiry which was to come into existence under, I believe, section 3 of the Steel Protection Act, and that they would be duly considered,—a formula which Government have always in their armoury whenever they want to put off any inconvenient inquiry regarding the action that they have either authorised or that they took themselves. Sir, I find from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the inquiry was ordered in August, 1933. I do not want to charge anybody with anything, but it seems to me that, taking into consideration the fact that it occurs along with the statement contained here, Government had either made up their mind that there is going to be protection or that protection would inevitably follow, and it is on that aspect that I respectfully want to lay a few facts before the House. As I said, I do not allege that Government had already made up their mind, but, if language means anything, it certainly tends to the proposition that this was probably working at the back of the mind of somebody there. This is what the Objects and Reasons say. After stating that the time for protection expires on the 31st March and reciting the terms of section 3 which requires the Governor General to cause an inquiry to be made not later than the expiry, in order to find out whether the protection should be extended or not, and that the inquiry was entrusted to the Board along with other matters in August 1933, it says:

"The enquiry by the Tariff Board is not expected to be completed before April, 1934, and consequently any further protection that it may be necessary to grant to the industry as a result of the enquiry cannot come into operation immediately after the 31st March, 1934, when the protection now enjoyed by the industry will expire."

There was, therefore, a 50 per cent chance that it was in the mind of Government that this protection may have to be extended:

"The Government of India consider it desirable that continuity of the protective scheme should be maintained and they are accordingly of opinion that, pending a decision on the question of further protection, if any, to be granted to the industry, the operation of the existing enactments.....should be extended by a short period."

This sentence requires careful attention. Sir, why should continuity of protection be maintained? If you made up your mind that protection will come into existence, I say, you cannot do it. But the continuity of protection depends upon circumstances about which you have started an inquiry, and the result you do not know. Therefore, I submit that this

sentence is an indication of what probably was passing in their mind, which is strengthened by the fact, I submit, by the report contained in a newspaper under date 28th December, Calcutta:

"It is understood that the Government of India have informed the Tariff Board inquiring into the question of further protection for the steel industry that no interim report would be necessary as there is already provision in the present Tariff Act to extend the period of protection for a further period of one year."

That, I respectfully submit, points to the fact that the Tariff Board need not be particularly anxious to make an inquiry, because we have already a section in the Act and we are going to extend it. That, I submit, is the meaning of that message that they need not submit an *ad interim* report, because we have got the power, and, I suppose, if necessary, as it has now become necessary, we could extend it. That brings me to what I said some time back about *sarkarka nowkar* and *bengunka nowkar*; the Government of India had entrusted an inquiry in August, 1988, and, from the chronological history of the working of the Tariff Board, probably it was not possible to do their work within the time fixed. But if that could not be done, Government ought to have made other arrangements. But that is not my point. My point is that they do not want to hasten this inquiry, because under the Act they have got the power.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What Act and what power?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: The Act is the Steel Industry Protection Act and the power is the power to extend the protection for a further period of one year without a report of the Tariff Board. I hope I have made it clear.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Then why are we considering this Bill here?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: My Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhole, will probably reply to you: I do not know: the Government, knowing the fact that they had the power to extend it for another year. . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: My Honourable friend means that he does not know the existing Act.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: All of us are not industrialists who specially get by heart their one Act and pray and swear upon it: we have got a larger extent of thinking to do, and, consequently, I entirely plead guilty to the statement of my Honourable friend that I do not know the Act. I am prepared to yield to him, and, perhaps when his time comes, he will tell us what that Act contains, in order to smash me.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is there any provision?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: This is what the message says. Is there or is there not a provision is the point. If there is a provision, then I am right. If there is not, I plead guilty to the Honourable Sir Cowasji Jehangir's indictment of me that I do not know the Act.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I am not aware of any such provision. I should be glad if my Honourable friend will bring it to my notice.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: I only asked if there was not that provision: then this message is not correct, and I plead guilty to my Honourable friend's charge that I do not know the Steel Protection Act. I am not ashamed of it: there are many things we are ignorant of, and this merely adds another to that list, and, as I said, I am not ashamed of it. . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Forget it.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: It is no question of forgetting: it makes it all the more necessary for me to make the statement that I am going to do. Regarding the way in which this Company has been managed, I have no doubt that the whole question will come up before the House when the full report is made; but there is one point that I think I ought to bring to the notice of this House—again probably due to my crass ignorance of the provisions of the Act. But whatever it is, it is what strikes a man who has not understood the Act but who has heard something about how these things are going on. In 1982, when this Resolution was under discussion, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, fortunately or perhaps unfortunately, referring to the question of sale of pig iron, stated:

"If the Company sold pig iron to A or to B or to somebody else, shall we interfere with their course of sale? Then the Company would throw up their hands and say 'Well, you interfere with my sale and here I have been put to a loss; therefore, you have got to make up for it.'"

These were the eloquent words in which Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar represented the position, but unfortunately the President of the Tariff Board has got quite different views upon the question of the sale of pig iron as well as the position which he characterises as that of the Company. The President said:

"Another question that arises is the very important question of the price at which pig iron is sold. We have had a great deal of discussion since we examined you last, regarding the question of pig iron prices, and I should like to put to you the position of pig iron as far as we are able to understand it at this stage. The complaint we have received about pig iron prices comes largely from small foundries, and it amounts to this, that the price charged to them in the country is considerably higher than the export price. It is also higher than the price at which pig iron is sold to some large purchasers in the country. I have examined the relation between the prices of foundry-iron and basic iron in other countries and I cannot find any country in the world where there is a difference of this magnitude. To my mind, it is a very unreasonable position."

If I had the time or if there was any necessity for it, I would read the whole discussion between these gentlemen who represented the Company as well as the President of the Tariff Board where he insists and comes to the conclusion that the position is most unreasonable. He wound up by saying:

"It is for the Tariff Board to see that those small industries do not suffer while major interests are safeguarded."

On opening the issue of the *Hindu* that I got this morning, I found the following advertisement about the progress of the Indian steel industry by the Tata Iron and Steel Company:

"Whereas, in 1906, the output of India was only 1/2000th part of the annual world production of pig iron, while for steel we had to go to foreign countries, in the year 1932-33, 72 per cent. of India's requirements of the kinds of steel produced at the works at Jamahedpur were supplied by the Tata Iron and Steel Company. This included practically 100 per cent. of India's requirements of rails, about 80 per cent. of her requirements of steel sleepers, structural sections, plates, etc., etc."

Now, I trouble this House with a quotation like this, because the discontinuity of protection is not going in any way to divert the operations of this Company, which, according to its statement in the advertisement, has practically captured the Indian market, having had this protection in one shape or another for the last nearly 20 years—certainly for the last seven years. My friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, may get up and say: "Where did you get your figures from? You are entirely wrong." But, I think, I can say, at least for the last seven years they have been having this protection; and when I oppose this, I am not doing it in a hostile or unfriendly spirit, although, of course, the spirit in which I move it is nothing to the Company, I believe and honestly believe—I do not make it as a mere matter of debate here—that the late Mr. Jamshedji Tata was one of the great benefactors of India in having brought into existence this industry of such magnitude, one of the key industries in India. That is absolutely no reason why I should support the position that the Government want to take up now in order to extend the protection to this industry, because I will say why I am opposing it. There is another reason. The amount, I think, that goes into the pockets of this Company in a year is about Rs. 2½ crores on account of protection being granted. There is agricultural depression all over India. We wanted a remission of land revenue, and they would not give us any remission, because—it would be a long quotation to trouble the House with now—but the Finance Member of the Madras Government in introducing the budget said that it would involve a loss of Rs. 69 lakhs if what we wanted was granted to us. Now, if you only withheld this protection for half a year, you would get about Rs. 1½ crores in some way, and I think the Government of India might arrange to give out of that money to the Madras Government at least this 69 lakhs and say: "Here is the money; you had better relieve the agriculturists instead of allowing this protection to continue." My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, laughs at my statement. As I said at one time, he was born with a golden spoon in his mouth; he does not understand anything about agricultural distress; and why should he trouble himself about it? Therefore, his criticism is of absolutely no account, and I respectfully request this House not to pay any attention to his criticism—I think he is taking notes. But I am quite prepared to get a smashing from him, but I would request the House, before I sit down, not to pay any attention to his criticisms, because it is just like the story of the ruler. When this ruler was told that famine was raging, he said: "*Khichdi bhi nahi miltha!*" My friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, is in that position. I am not in that position. Consequently, when the Government say that there is no money to give us, poor agriculturists, I point them out here a source from which they can give help to agriculturists. Further, Sir, this Company will not be inconvenienced in any way, because, from the statement of facts contained in this advertisement, which I have just read out to the House, it is clear that they have already captured the whole of the Indian market, and if Government stop giving them protection, the

[Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar.]

industry will not be dislocated to such a great extent, because they will get the protection as a matter of course later. That is quite clear, whatever may be the range of the discussion in this House, for whatever length of time you may carry on the discussion here, we all know what the result is, because, after the discussion, you, Sir, will put the motion and say: "As many as are of that opinion will say 'Ayes' and those against 'Noes'"; and you will find that you get 89 solid votes for the "Ayes" and probably 10 for the "Noes"

An Honourable Member: You will get more than 89 votes for the "Ayes".

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: We all know the result. There is an old proverb which says that a hungry man looks at his past accounts just to see if anything could come out of his balance. Being in that position, I am trying to point out to the Government the source from which they could help the poor agriculturists. That is the more important reason why this protection should not be granted to this Company. I have nothing to say against this Company, in fact no one has got a greater admiration for the Company than myself, and if this Company's progress is going to be hampered at all by withholding this protection for six months, I would be the last person to come in its way, but, I say from the facts which have come to light, it is clear that they are not going to be hampered in the least, and six months is such a short period that they can afford to get on without this protection. We all know that the Simla Session ends in September, and by the end of September, this Company will certainly get this protection, and I shall be happy because I shall also get my remission, and everybody will be quite happy, except my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, who, I know, is spoiling for a speech, and, therefore, I give him the chance.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Sir, I support the motion for taking this Bill into consideration, because at this stage it is almost inevitable for us to extend the life of the earlier Act for a further period, but I do not know why Government should ask the House to extend these Acts temporarily every time. It was known to Government for the last seven years that a Tariff Board inquiry would be necessary, not only in connection with this measure, but also in connection with the Textile Act as well, but it was just this morning only that the House was asked to temporarily extend the life of the Textile Act. I quite appreciate the point made by the Honourable the Commerce Member that the Tariff Board was very busy doing real and substantial work, but I do not see why there should be only one Tariff Board for India. It is possible that the Tariff Board may be engaged for some months or for a longer period on big questions, but is it contended that during all this time other industries which can rightly claim protection should be debarred from having an investigation undertaken by this Board? I think the reason advanced by the Honourable the Commerce Member that the Tariff Board were engaged on big issues and could not afford the time to attend to other industries is not sound enough; the pre-occupation of the Tariff Board with one item for protection does not necessarily mean that all other industries requiring protection have to wait until the Tariff Board is free: I feel that an expert body with long experience behind it may have larger chances to do justice, and I personally know that the Chairman of the Tariff Board and other Members are all very worthy and capable men, but I do not

think it can be said that throughout the whole of India we cannot find another group of three men among our industrialists or financiers or economists to form another Tariff Board

An Honourable Member: This Assembly itself can provide any number of Members.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: No, Assembly Members are not entitled to have any such place in the Board so long as they are Members of the House. My point is, when it was known to the Government for a long time past that investigation into various industries would have to be carried on, they should have made adequate provision for it, and there would have been no necessity for asking for these temporary extensions.

As regards the period; Sir, it happens on many an occasion that when a Report is submitted, generally only one or two weeks are left before legislation is taken up in the Assembly. Members of the Assembly are not provided with the Reports of the Tariff Board in proper time, nor with the evidence tendered before the Board, and the whole thing is hustled through afterwards. That has become almost a regular practice in this House. Of course, Government can take their own time over the important Reports of the Tariff Board, but this House should be given sufficient time, after the publication of those Reports, to read them through and come to a proper decision. If necessary, the Government can take a few months more now, but there should be no attempt to hustle us through, on the ground that the life of the Act would expire soon and so forth. With these few words, I support the motion.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend

An Honourable Member: You support?

Mr. B. Das: Yes, I support it, except the wheat measure, which arose out of favouritism, I support all measures of protection, and I even advocate protection for rice. I have a good deal of sympathy with my Honourable friend, Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar. I am afraid my friend, the Raja Bahadur, mistimed his speech. Had he made his speech when the main Tariff Board Report was published, I would have conceded that some of the points raised were such that they needed the attention of this House at the time, and I know the Resolution which my friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, moved in Simla two years ago and the object which he had in view and the interests which prompted him to move that Resolution, those interests must have represented their view before the Tariff Board

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I had no interest in the matter.

Mr. B. Das: I mean those interests on whose behalf you spoke, those small structural engineers, those small Indian foundries which were not making much headway, because pig iron was not sold to them at an economic price, I hope those interests are alive in the country, and they have submitted, whatever they had to say, before the Tariff Board, and their evidence and the Board's recommendations will be available to this

[Mr. B. Das.]

House. Naturally we wish to see that if any further protection is given to the Tatas, the Tatas also function as a supplier of pig iron and similar raw materials to smaller industries, and they must give certain relief, particularly in the matter of pig iron. As my friend, the Raja Bahadur, talked of the question of pig iron, I also raised the question, last Session, of Japan levying heavy duty on the exported Indian pig iron. The Honourable the Commerce Member has not yet made the Indo-Japanese agreement available, and so we do not know whether that aspect of the question was discussed, and whether, in spite of the most favoured nation treatment that Japan expects from this House, Japan can put heavy duty against Indian pig iron, as she has done during the last three years. In that case, how can there be that most favoured nation treatment when there has been retaliation against Indian pig iron and against the prosperity of Indian rice? I would tell my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, that the procedure which the Honourable the Commerce Member has adopted today is not a new one. The Bill which this morning this House passed—it is another Bombay Bill—to amend the Cotton Textile Industry Protection Act

An Honourable Member: It is an all-India Bill, not a Bombay Bill.

Mr. B. Das: To me it is only a Bombay Bill. These duties were due to expire on the 31st March, 1933, and were extended up to the 31st March, 1934, by two amending Acts passed last year. The principle that is involved in the Indian Steel Protection Bill this House has considered on three different occasions, and at that time no definite opposition was offered by any Member of this House on the principle of the question.

Mr. S. C. Sen (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce: Indian Commerce): Two wrongs do not make one right.

Mr. B. Das: I do not know if my Honourable friend, Mr. Sen, who represents the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce which is one of the biggest commercial bodies in this country, remembers that he has always approved of the procedure which the Government adopt in this instance in order to save industries from total ruin. If the suggestion of the Raja Bahadur is adopted, what would happen? For six months there would be dumping of steel, pig iron and other things, not only from England, but from the continent. After six months—I do not know yet if protection is necessary, if any, but if it is found that protection is necessary, what will happen? The Tata Steel Works would have to compete against a large stock of iron and steel, and the protection we may give would be of no avail. This steel protection scheme is not a novelty. It comes up before this House every year like King Charles's head. For instance, we had the galvanised iron protection measure every year for three years, and we have discussed this steel question on so many occasions. The impression that is left on my mind is that the industry still needs protection, but, whether it needs protection or not, that is a point for the Tariff Board to go into and give their decision. I hope that the House will approve of the motion of my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore: I do not propose to deal with criticisms which refer to the merits of the case for protection: indeed, it would be entirely improper for the Government at this stage to express

any opinion which might be interpreted as either supporting or rejecting a scheme for protection. The issue in the present case is a very narrow one. The issue is, whether, having regard to the fact that the scheme of protection which is now in existence will come to an end by the 31st March next, and having regard to the fact that this House will not be in a position to record its final verdict until its next Session in Simla, we should extend the existing system of protection or not. My Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, made an effective reply to my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, when he said that if, as a result of the Tariff Board's enquiry and as a result of the examination of the case by this House, it was decided eventually to grant protection, then, Sir, the lapse of protection at the end of March would place the industry in a very difficult position, and, further, it might help to render nugatory to some extent the sacrifices that have been made by the country in the past years in order to establish the industry. I think that that establishes an overwhelming case for the Bill that I have placed before the House.

With regard to what my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, said, I would only reply that it is not a very easy matter to constitute two Tariff Boards dealing with questions of the first importance and magnitude, and I would submit that he really has no ground of complaint in regard to the time that is made available for the study of Tariff Board Reports before the matter is taken up in this House. I may say that I have deliberately refrained from making a second motion in regard to the Cotton Textile Protection Bill until well into March, in order that Honourable Members might have no just cause for complaint on that score. So far as I am concerned, I realise the justice of the demand that my Honourable friend has made, and, as far as it lies in my power, I will see that the most ample provision of time is allowed to Honourable Members to study the relevant literature in the shape of Tariff Board Reports, before I bring up any legislative measure on the subject concerned before this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That the Bill to continue for a further period the provisions made by certain Acts for the purpose of fostering and developing the Steel Industry and the Wire and Wire Nail Industry in British India be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, President of the Rural Group, has already entered his protest against this measure. I also join my feeble voice with

[Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra.]

him on behalf of the Indian consumer. The general consumer of industrial products, the general tax-payer and the poor agriculturist, is practically one and the same man in India. In order to strengthen my voice, I cannot do better than quote a few lines from the speech of Sir Charles Innes delivered on the floor of this House on the 16th of February, 1928:

"Our policy of protection must increase the level of price for the consumer generally and particularly for the agricultural and middle classes. There is no getting away from this fact.....But in India we have a country of 300 millions. Two-thirds of that population are agriculturists. Most of them are poor, and the standard of comfort is low. One thing I think is certain. If the agricultural classes were able fully to bring their influence to bear upon this Assembly, I doubt very much whether this Assembly today would accept my amendment.....The agricultural classes in every country in the world, I think, I may say this with confidence, stand to gain the least and lose the most by a policy of protection."

This prophecy of the great Commerce Member has come to be too true. Since this statement was made eleven years ago, the Indian general consumer and agriculturist has become poorer still. I believe, Sir Charles Innes was a true friend of the Indian peasant. It was he who planned the separation of Burma. But it is a tragedy that our Government are too apathetic to this fact. They have a definite plan and a political motive behind it. I have no doubt that they are in favour of protection, not so much because they want our industries to grow up, but to fill up their depleted exchequer. Have they earmarked the income derived from all their protective measures to be spent on improvement of industries? The political motive is that thereby they have found scope for enforcing Imperial preference, so as to patronise British industries. Sir, I understand this measure is for the benefit of the Tata Iron Company alone.

An Honourable Member: No, no. There is the Bhadravati Iron Works and other concerns also.

Mr Sitakanta Mahapatra: Then, I stand corrected. This is a temporary measure till the report of the present Tariff Board is available for consideration. Are the Tariff Board inquiring as to what burden the Indian consumer can bear under the present economic situation in the country, if they come to the decision that protection is necessary? I think it is pertinent to ask why the Tariff Board did not begin their work earlier so that their report might have been available to us by now. Is it not by overt means that the Tatas are getting this extension for seven months? As for the activities of the Tatas themselves, if you will allow me, I shall read out a small passage that appears in the *Modern Review*:

"Tatas have submitted a representation to the Tariff Board. They have not said a word as to how they have directed their activities towards expanding steel industry in India, how they have fostered subsidiary industries, like foundries, rolling or sheet mills, engineering works, etc., or how they have worked for the promotion of village artisans by putting their own scrap and other materials in the Indian market. On the contrary they have been exporting basic materials, like pig iron, billets, etc., as also scrap at a much cheaper rate to foreign countries. For instance, pig iron is sold to foreign countries at Rs. 19 per ton. The Indian consumer gets it at not less than Rs. 75 (now reduced to Rs. 55) per ton. Scrap is sold to Japan only through Japanese firms here at Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per ton. It is never sold to any Indian consumer though that also contains the article the village artisan badly requires. The result is that foreigners get cheap raw materials to compete in our market and Tatas want more and more protection. In the sales policy these are combined with competing firms here and also there is discrimination in the sale of raw materials."

Are these not a horrible state of things?

Sir, under these conditions, I strongly oppose the measure.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration.”

The purpose of the Bill has been clearly set out, I think, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The Government of Burma have pointed out a defect in sections 2 and 3, which has the effect of preventing the University of Rangoon as also the registered medical practitioners possessing university qualifications in Burma from electing representatives to the Council. The amendments which we have proposed are intended to remove that defect and I hope the Bill will have the support of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

“That the Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 1 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, I move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

I should like to tell my friend, Mr. Mahapatra, that this has got nothing to do with agriculture. (Laughter.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 27th February, 1934.