

20th January 1930

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume I, 1930

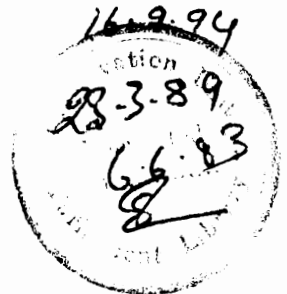
(20th January to 24th February, 1930)

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1930

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THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE THIRD
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.)

VOLUME I—1930.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 20th January, 1930.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the Sixth Session of the Third Legislative Assembly, pursuant to S. 63-D (2) of the Government of India Act. The President (the Honourable Mr. Vithalbhai Javerbhaji Patel) was in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MR. PRESIDENT *RE* PROTECTION OF THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AND ITS PRECINCTS.

Mr. President: Before I call upon new Members desiring to take their seats to take the oath or make the affirmation in the manner prescribed, I desire to bring to the notice of this House a very serious situation which has arisen as a result of certain differences of opinion between the Government of India and the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, on the one hand, and the President of the Assembly on the other, regarding the question of control over admission of visitors in the outer as well as the inner precincts of the Assembly sector. The Government of India and the Chief Commissioner maintain that they, being responsible for the safety of the President and other Members of this House, are entitled to take such measures and post as many policemen in any part of the sector, with such instructions to them as they consider necessary, and that they are the sole judges of the adequacy of the protective measures to be taken in that behalf. The President of the Assembly, on the other hand, is of opinion that his authority within the precincts of the Assembly sector is so supreme and his control so complete, that his word as to the adequacy of the protective measures to be taken is final, and that no measures which have not his previous approval could be put into force within the precincts of the sector.

Last night, after the clock had struck nine, I received an urgent communication from the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, with a copy of a series of orders which have been issued by him to the police. I wish I could read

[Mr. President.]

these orders to the House, but as the communication is marked "Confidential", I refrain from doing so. Simultaneously I received the following communication from the Honourable the Home Member:

"Immediate.

Dear Mr. President,

The Chief Commissioner of Delhi has referred to the Government of India certain questions relating to the police arrangements for the protection of the Assembly Chamber, its precincts and the Council House Building, which I understand he discussed with you yesterday. The most essential of these relate to the proposals for checking admission to the Council House Building and the presence of police, including uniformed police, in the public gallery. These questions, after discussion, have been referred to His Excellency the Governor General and, with his concurrence, the considered view of the Governor General in Council is that, while supporting to the furthest reasonable limits the Honourable the President's dignity in consultation with him with regard to arrangements for protecting the Assembly and the public resorting to its precincts, if the Honourable the President is not prepared to concur in the advice of the Local Government, which is in law responsible, in essential matters of the provision for protection, Government must take the final responsibility for the adequacy of protective measures, on which point the authority immediately responsible is clearly the best judge.

The Chief Commissioner of Delhi has accordingly been instructed to carry out his proposals in respect of the two essential points which I have mentioned above.

*I consider it, however, important that we should discuss the position personally, and I shall be glad to meet you at any time tomorrow convenient to you before the Assembly meets.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) J. CRERAR."

The communication speaks for itself and needs no comment.

As Honourable Members are aware, the President of the Assembly had appointed a Watch and Ward Committee under the Chairmanship of the Leader of the House to consider the whole question of the precautionary measures to be taken and to advise him thereon. The Committee had recently submitted their Report, and the President has passed certain orders on their recommendations. The proposals which the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, with the full concurrence of the Government of India, has put into operation from to-day, after full knowledge of the orders passed by the President on the recommendations of the Watch and Ward Committee, are in deliberate defiance of those orders and constitute a challenge to the authority of the Chair. To take only one instance. The President has directed that the galleries shall be guarded by the Assembly Staff and that there shall be allowed only one policeman in plain clothes in the public gallery, in accordance with the practice in the House of Commons, while the Chief Commissioner has posted four policemen in uniform in the public gallery. I have carefully studied the large number of orders issued to the police by the Chief Commissioner, and I have no hesitation in saying that, taken as a whole, they seek to substitute the authority of the Government for the authority of the Chair in the whole Assembly sector including the galleries.

In these circumstances, I have no other course open but to direct that all the galleries except the Press gallery, be forthwith cleared and closed, and that no further passes be issued to strangers until further orders. I hope the authorities concerned will in the meantime reconsider their position, and I will also consider what further steps I should take to vindicate the authority of the Chair.

I express my regret to those who might be inconvenienced by this order.

The Honourable Sir James Crerar (Home Member): Sir,

Mr. President: Orders must be carried out first.

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I request you, Sir, to give me an opportunity to make some observations on the statement you have just made.

Mr. President: Orders must be carried out first.

(All the galleries, except the Press Gallery, were then cleared.)

Dr. A. Suhrawardy (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, may I inquire whether your order applies also to the Members of the Council of State, who are entitled to come without passes?

Mr. President: Yes.

Members desiring to take their seats

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: Sir, may I with all respect ask to be allowed to make some observations?

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member kindly resume his seat? With regard to what does he wish to make his observations?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: With regard to the statement which you, Sir, have just made.

Mr. President: I have passed my order and it cannot be questioned. Gentlemen desiring to take their seats will come to the table and make the oath or affirmation in the manner prescribed.

MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Arthur Moore, M.L.A. (Bengal: European); Colonel J. D. Crawford, M.L.A. (Bengal: European); Mr. Gerard Mackworth Young, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Army Secretary); Mr. Evelyn Berkeley Howell, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.L.A. (Foreign Secretary); Mr. Alfred Alan Lethbridge Parsons, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Financial Commissioner, Railways); Mr. Hubert Arthur Sams, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs); Mr. Clement Wansbrough Gwynne, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A. (Home Department: Nominated Official); Mr. John Coatman, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Director of Public Information); Mr. Kodikal Sanjiva Row, M.L.A. (Finance Department: Nominated Official); Mr. Hugh Stuart Crosthwaite, C.I.E., M.L.A. (United Provinces: Nominated Official); Mr. John Monteath, M.L.A. (Bombay: Nominated Official); Mr. Ernest Frederick Baum, M.L.A. (Burma: Nominated Official); Mr. Kismet Leland Brewer Hamilton, M.L.A. (Central Provinces: Nominated Official); Mr. Samuel Henry Slater, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.L.A. (Madras: Nominated Official); Mr. Rajnarayan Banarji, M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official); Mr. Ram Prashad Narayan Sahi, M.L.A. (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official).

Mr. R. S. Sarma (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): On a point of order. Is it your ruling, Mr. President, that the Members of this House

[Mr. R. S. Sarma.]

should be denied the opportunity of knowing the views of the Honourable the Leader of the House, not on the order that you yourself have been pleased to say that you had already passed but on the circumstances leading to that order, especially in view of the fact that his name had been frequently mentioned in your ruling and he presided over the Watch and Ward Committee?

Mr. President: No point of order arises.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROSCRIPTION OF THE BOOK "MOTHER INDIA."

1. ***Mr. Mukhtar Singh** (on behalf of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava): (a) Are Government aware that the United States of America have proscribed "Uncle Sham" by Mr. Gauba, written by way of reply to "Mother India" by Miss Mayo?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to proscribe "Mother India"? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) No. My information is that the book is admitted by the United States Customs and is on sale in New York.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have the Government of India by this time read this book of Miss Mayo thoroughly?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I have no doubt that many individual Members of the Government of India have read the book.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member find objection to portions of the book or no?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I think that the Honourable Member is asking for an expression of opinion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I ask not for an opinion but for information. Has the Honourable Member, by reading that book, come to know that it is a book fit to be proscribed?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I do not think that the Honourable Member has successfully discriminated between information and opinion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I would request the Honourable President to give me a ruling on this, whether I am asking for an opinion or for information. I do not want the opinion of the Government of India, but I want to know whether, on the reading of the book, it appears to the Government of India that the book is objectionable or not. I ask it from that point of view.

(No answer was given.)

THE LAW OF BRIBERY.

2. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been invited by the Government of Madras, as desired by the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, to the observations made by him regarding the unsatisfactory nature of the present law of bribery, as laid

down in section 161 of the Indian Penal Code, in Venkatrama Naidu *versus* Emperor in Cr. Revision No. 921 of 1928 and Cr. Revision, petition No. 762 of 1928, decided on 9th April, 1929, and reported in All-India Reporter, 1929 Madras 756?

(b) If so, when and with what effect?

(c) Do Government propose to undertake any legislation to amend the Indian Penal Code for the purpose of penalising the conduct—

(i) of a person who offers a bribe to any public servant, even when that public servant did not accept the same or indignantly refused to have anything to do in relation to it;

(ii) of a public servant who accepts the bribe for an object in regard to which he is *functus officio*?

(d) Do Government propose to undertake any legislation, either by amending the Indian Penal Code or in such other manner as the Government deem proper, in order to give effect to the following observations of Coutts Trotter, C. J., in the same case:

“It is time that fresh legislation were introduced into the Code to make these most dangerous offences of giving or taking bribes punishable in much wider terms than are contained in the Code at present. Moreover, there is no provision for the bribing of anybody except a public official, and no provision at all corresponding to what is known in England as Fry's Act”?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The matter was brought to the notice of Government in April 1929, and they have noted the amendments for consideration when the Indian Penal Code next comes under general revision.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member aware that under section 161 read with section 109 of the Indian Penal Code, the offerer of the bribe can be prosecuted?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The Honourable Member is, I think, raising a point of law. I have no doubt that with his knowledge of law, he is perfectly capable of putting his own construction.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: This was a preliminary question to my putting another question, and that is whether the Government have been using, against the persons who offer bribes, section 161 read with section 109?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I must have notice of that question. I cannot undertake, without examination, to make any definite statement as to the action that has been taken in the circumstances suggested by the Honourable Member.

RAILWAY CONFERENCE SPEECHES.

3. ***Sir Darcy Lindsay** (on behalf of Mr. E. F. Sykes): Will Government be good enough to place in the Library of the House, or otherwise make accessible to Members, copies of the speeches delivered at the Railway Conference at Simla in October, 1929, by the Honourable the Commerce Member and the Chief Commissioner for Railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Copies of the speeches referred to have been placed in the Library of the House.

COMMUNISTS PROSECUTED IN INDIA SINCE 1910.

4. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** Will Government be pleased to state how many prosecutions of communists have been undertaken since 1910, and lay a statement on the table showing the names of persons so prosecuted and the results of these prosecutions?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The Honourable Member will of course understand that it is not an offence merely to hold Communist views, and that Communists are prosecuted only when they are believed to have engaged in specific illegal activities. If as I understand, the Honourable Member wishes to have a statement showing the number of professed Communists who have been prosecuted for offences against the State under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code. I shall be happy to collect the information and furnish it to him.

JAIL ADMINISTRATION.

5. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the arrangements in all the jails are of a uniform standard? If not, will Government be pleased to point out the nature of the differences?

(b) Are Government aware that complaints have been made here and there against the jail authorities in regard to general treatment of prisoners?

(c) Do Government propose to constitute a central board of inquiry, consisting of officials and non-officials, to investigate the position?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Prison administration is, under the Devolution Rules, a provincial subject, and provincial variation in matters of detail is inevitable. I am afraid I cannot, within the compass of a reply to a question, indicate the exact extent and nature of these variations, but would refer the Honourable Member to the provincial jail manuals.

(b) Government are aware that occasional complaints have been made.

(c) Substantial uniformity of principle already exists and Government do not consider that the action suggested would be advantageous.

EMPLOYMENT OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN SUBORDINATE STAFFS OF STATE RAILWAYS.

6. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table, showing all the appointments in the subordinate staff made by the State Railways month by month, and the nationalities and communities to which the appointed men belong?

(b) Is it a fact that the orders of Government that 33 per cent. of the appointments should be given to the members of the minority communities have not been given effect to. If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The information in the possession of Government will be found in Appendix F to Volume I and Appendix C to Volume II of the Annual Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railways, copies of which are in the Library.

(b) The policy of Government is to secure adequate representation of minority communities. The rule is that, where recruitment is conducted

by means of competitive examinations, one-third of the vacancies are reserved for the redress of marked communal inequalities. Where recruitment is carried on otherwise than by competitive examination, steps are taken to prevent an undue preponderance of any one class or community.

This policy has been communicated to Railway Administrations and Government have no reason to believe that it is not being carried out.

IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVIES IN THIRD CLASS RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

7. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the privies of third class carriages are provided with hooks on which to put the clothes of passengers using these privies? If not, do Government propose to provide such hooks at an early date?

(b) Are the privies of third class carriages provided with water-taps? If not, do Government propose to provide these taps at an early date?

(c) Are Government aware that the privies in third class carriages are on a higher level than the floors of the carriages themselves, and water from the privies easily finds its way into the compartments? Are Government prepared to take steps to rectify this at an early date?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government are not aware of the exact position on all the railways, but they recognise that the Honourable Member's suggestion is a reasonable one and are bringing it to the notice of Railway Administrations.

(b) Government understand that water taps are provided on all Class I railways, except the Burma and Jodhpur Railways, where the conditions are exceptional.

(c) Government believe that the design of certain stock does permit the water to find its way into the compartments. This can be, and is being remedied, by raising the ledge of the door, but the matter is being brought to the notice of Railway Administrations.

RESERVATION OF RAILWAY BERTHS FROM HOWRAH.

8. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** (a) Are Government aware that for the reservation of berths, first and second class passengers, travelling by the East Indian Railway from Howrah, have to go to the Head Office at Fairlie Place in Calcutta, and that this causes not a little inconvenience to the travelling public?

(b) Is there any station of like importance in any railway which is debarred from reserving accommodation without reference to the Head Office?

(c) Do Government propose to direct that, in future, the reservation of berths should be done at Howrah?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Owing to numerous complaints from the public, the work of reserving berths was transferred in January 1927 from Howrah to the East Indian Railway Chief Operating Superintendent's Office, where the booking is done on week days during office working hours. During other than office hours the work is done at Howrah, and on Sundays and gazetted holidays the booking is done entirely at Howrah. It is, however, not necessary for any passenger to go to the office of the Chief Operating Superintendent to have berths reserved as the booking can be done

by the Inquiry Clerk at Howrah station, or by the Booking Clerk of the City Booking Offices in consultation by telephone with the Chief Operating Superintendent's Office.

(b) So far as I am aware, the answer is in the negative.

(c) Government understand that the arrangement referred to in item (a) above has worked quite satisfactorily, and in the circumstances they do not propose to take any action.

AMALGAMATION OF THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY WITH THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

9. ***Sir Darcy Lindsay** (on behalf of Mr. E. F. Sykes): Will Government please say with what objects the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway was amalgamated with the East Indian Railway? To what extent have they been attained? Did the amalgamation result in any increase in earnings or reduction of working expenses?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am sending the Honourable Member a copy of the Report recommending the amalgamation, from which he will be able to ascertain the objects aimed at. The Railway Board consider that the objects have been, in a large measure, secured.

As regards earnings, numerous factors of varying degrees of importance contribute to the fluctuations in the earnings of a railway system, and it is not practicable to ascertain the extent to which the amalgamation of the two systems affected the gross earnings.

As regards working expenses, the reply is in the affirmative.

NAMES OF ROADS IN NEW DELHI.

10. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi**: (a) Are Government aware that pedestrians in New Delhi, particularly visitors, are often lost in a maze for want of means of identifying the roads except at the crossings and at the two ends?

(b) In view of the fact that almost all the roads stretch far away and that the crossings are few and far between, have Government considered the question of the desirability of inscribing, both in English and in the vernacular, the names of the roads on the street lamps at suitable intervals?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Government are not aware that any such difficulties have been experienced.

(b) The indications of the names of roads which have been provided, are considered adequate.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER AT MOSCOW.

11. ***Mr. B. Das**: Do Government intend to appoint an Indian Trade Commissioner or Consul at Moscow to look into the special interests of Indian trade and commerce?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: No, Sir.

Mr. B. Das: Do I take it that in the opinion of the Honourable Member, the volume of trade between India and Russia is not sufficient to justify the establishment of a Trade Commissioner's office in Russia?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: No, Sir, I do not think the Honourable Member would be justified in drawing that inference. We have at present no Trade Commissioners anywhere except in London, although we contemplate the appointment of Trade Commissioners in several places. The position at present is that we are only starting our programme of the appointment of Trade Commissionerships, and the question of appointing a Trade Commissioner at Moscow does not really arise.

Mr. B. Das: Has not England got a Consular Official at Moscow?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I presume there is a British Consul at Moscow. So far as I am aware, India has no Consular Office in Russia.

FARES CHARGED ON STATE RAILWAYS.

12. ***Sir Darcy Lindsay** (on behalf of Mr. E. F. Sykes): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the current rates and fares charged on State Railways represent the amount which the traffic can bear?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the negative, have Government estimated how much additional net revenue it would be possible to raise from these railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government are not prepared to state that a higher net revenue could not be secured if the freight rates on certain commodities or the fares of certain classes of passengers were raised.

(b) It is quite impracticable to make any estimate.

PROHIBITION OF OPIUM-SMOKING.

13. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 472, regarding the prohibition of opium smoking in the provinces, and the reply given to it by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 16th September, 1929, will Government be pleased to state if the report from the Bombay Government has now been received?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, have Government reminded the Bombay Government of the necessity of expediting their report?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) and (b). The Government of India have ascertained from the Government of Bombay that the report may probably be expected in February.

CONFERENCE ON OPIUM.

14. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** (a) With reference to the Honourable the Finance Member's statement at page 870 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 16th September, 1929, that it was high time that the Conference on Opium was called, have Government fixed the date and the composition of the proposed Conference?

(b) Have Government circularised Local Governments, asking them to prepare for such a Conference as early as possible?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) and (b). The Government of India have invited Local Governments to send representatives to a conference to be held in Simla in the first week of May next. Their replies are awaited.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO INDIA TO MR. SAKLATWALA.

15. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Saklatvala has been refused a passport by the Secretary of State for India to come over to this country to attend the session of the Indian National Congress at Lahore?

(b) Did any correspondence on the above subject pass between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India before the refusal referred to above; and if so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the said correspondence?

(c) Are Government prepared to inquire from the Secretary of State for India as to the reasons for the refusal of the passport?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that, as a result of the said refusal, a storm of indignation and discontent has passed throughout the length and breadth of this country?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) The fact appears to be as stated.

(b), (c) and (d). The reply is in the negative.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING DELHI MANIFESTO OF INDIAN LEADERS.

16. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to (1) a joint manifesto called the Delhi Manifesto of the Indian leaders, issued as a result of the recent Viceregal announcement regarding the ultimate political goal of India, and also to (2) the debate in the British Parliament on the same announcement?

(b) Has any correspondence passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India on the said Delhi Manifesto, and if so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the said correspondence?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are not in a position to lay any papers on the table.

AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS.

17. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are really considering the question of amnesty, and if so, has any correspondence passed between them and the Home Government on the same subject?

(b) If the answer to the second part of part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the same correspondence?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Under the conditions at present prevailing, it is not practicable for Government to consider such questions.

(b) Does not arise.

WITHDRAWAL OF PROTECTION FROM THE TINPLATE INDUSTRY.

18. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision on the recommendations contained in the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, the 24th September, 1929, regarding the withdrawal of protection from the tinplate industry in this country, and if so what is that decision?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Government do not propose to take any action on the Resolution.

DUTCH AIR MAIL SERVICE TO INDIA.

19. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): (a) Will Government kindly state if it is a fact that a Dutch air mail service has been established to bring mails and passengers from Europe to India? If so, who owns the company, and under whose authority has such a foreign service been inaugurated?

(b) Since when has this service been started, and what are the stations to which mails are delivered by air through this agency?

(c) What facilities have been extended to this Dutch air mail service, and why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No Dutch air mail service has been established for the purpose described by the Honourable Member. With the consent of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, a Dutch air transport company is carrying out a series of trial flights between Holland and the Dutch East Indies with the ultimate object of establishing a regular air mail service.

(b) There is, as explained already, no regular service. On a few occasions small quantities of air mail correspondence have been carried by air and delivered to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department at Karachi, Jodhpur, Allahabad, Calcutta, Akyab and Rangoon on the east and west bound flights of the aeroplanes. There are no regular receipts of mails at any of these places by each flight. The receipts are intermittent. These flights are not being utilised by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department either for the inland transport of air mails or for air mails for destinations abroad.

(c) No special facilities are being afforded to the Dutch aeroplanes. They are allowed the use of the civil aerodromes on the route across India but will be called upon to pay the landing and housing charges for the time being in force.

AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN KARACHI AND DELHI.

20. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): How far has the project of an air mail service between Karachi and Delhi progressed?

(b) Is it intended to hand over this service to an Indian company, or to be run by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The air mail service between Karachi and Delhi was inaugurated on the 30th December.

(b) This service is being operated as an Indian State Air Service with aircraft chartered from Imperial Airways, Limited.

CONSTITUTION OF AN INDIAN AIR FORCE.

21. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Indians and Europeans under training in the Air Force College at Cranwell, the number of those who appeared at the examinations, and the number passed separately?

(b) What is the method of selecting candidates, and is any Indian associated with the Selection Board, if any?

(c) Has any Indian air force been constituted, or is it intended to create one? If so, when; and at what cost?

(d) Is it proposed to withdraw from India the Royal Air Force, on the creation of an Indian air force? If not, is it the intention that India should be saddled with the cost of both? If so, why?

(e) Is there any statutory or other bar to the employment of Indians in the Royal Air Force as officers? If so, why?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) 104 British cadets are now under training at Cranwell. No Indian has yet passed into Cranwell. Those now under training at Cranwell are those who passed at the half-yearly Entrance Examinations in 1928 and 1929. I am afraid it is impossible to give statistics of the numbers who applied for Cranwell but did not pass at all these examinations, as many of those who appeared may have also competed for Sandhurst, Woolwich or the Navy. For instance, at the last examination held in November 1929, 11 Indians altogether applied for Cranwell, but only two put Cranwell as their first choice.

(b) Indian candidates have to pass the Army and Air Force Entrance Examination held in India. The papers are set and examined by the Civil Service Commissioners in England. An Indian non-official gentleman is nominated by His Excellency the Viceroy as a member of the Interview Board in India which conducts the oral examination.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 2nd September last to part (b) of starred question No. 22. It is too early yet to calculate the cost of the proposed Indian Air Unit.

(d) It would be premature, as I am sure the Honourable Member will agree, to consider any reduction of the Royal Air Force until the new Indian Air unit has been raised, and has demonstrated its efficiency.

(e) The only bar to the appointment of Indians as Officers in the Royal Air Force is that the Royal Air Force is a British service. The object of founding an Indian Air unit is to build up an Indian service.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Will the Honourable Member please say whether the boys who failed in the examinations failed in the interview or in the written examinations?

Mr. M. S. Aney: Did the boys who failed, fail in the written test or at the interview?

Mr. G. M. Young: Does my Honourable friend refer to the two candidates who made Cranwell their first choice?

Mr. M. S. Aney: Yes.

Mr. G. M. Young: I must ask for notice of that question.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE GANGES AT MOKAMEH GHAT.

22. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): (a) How far has the project of making a railway bridge over the Ganges at Mokameh Ghat in Bihar progressed?

(b) Are Government aware that, for want of a bridge at Mokameh Ghat coal, grain, piece-goods, glass, and other commodities are subject to great delay and damage in transit?

(c) Do Government propose to explore the possibility of constructing a bridge at Mokameh Ghat?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No definite proposals for a bridge over the Ganges at Mokameh Ghat have been drawn up yet.

(b) Government are aware that railway traffic takes longer to cross the Ganges at Mokameh Ghat by the ferry service than it would, if a railway bridge existed. But the chief cause of delay and of any damage to goods which may occur, is the transshipment which is necessary on account of the change of gauge at this point, and this would not be avoided by the provision of a bridge.

(c) The Railway Board will not overlook the possibility that at some future date a bridge at Mokameh Ghat may be required; but the prospect of funds being available for such a project is not at present such as to justify the preparation of a definite scheme.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN STATION MASTERS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

23. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): Will Government be pleased to state how many Indians have been appointed A Grade Station Masters, and A Grade Assistant Station Masters on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway? If none has so far been appointed, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: One Indian was appointed in 1924. He is now working as a Yard Controller.

The Agent explains that the reason why Indians have not hitherto been appointed is that those who took up the lower posts, such as guards, from which promotions are made, had not the educational qualifications required for A Grade Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters. Recently Indians with the necessary educational qualifications have been recruited as guards, and this will lead to suitable men being available to be made A Grade Station Masters and A Grade Assistant Station Masters.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact that classes A, B and C of guards and station masters have been abolished?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: No, Sir.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunru: I understood the Honourable Member to say that guards of the A class were men who had been promoted thereto from the lower classes; I want to know whether there are instances on record where direct appointments have been made to the A class of guards.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am afraid I shall have to ask for notice, in order to discuss what the present position is with regard to guards. The question deals not with guards but with A grade station masters and assistant station masters who are taken from guards.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN AS CHIEF ASSISTANT PUBLICITY OFFICER, STATE RAILWAYS.

24. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): (a) Is it a fact that the post of Chief Assistant Publicity Officer, State Railways, on Rs. 1,600 or so, is vacant? How long has this post been vacant? Do Government propose to advertise for it?

(b) How many gazetted officers are there in the office of the Publicity Officer, State Railways; and what are their names?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of filling this post of Chief Assistant Publicity Officer, State Railways, by an Indian?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) There is no such post, (c) therefore does not arise.

(b) Seven: Major F. H. Budden, Messrs. G. W. Dawson, G. Tait, F. M. Khan, F. W. Rose, Lieut. Commander H. A. Pelham and Mr. W. DeVerinne.

125*—29*.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO INDIA TO MR. SAKLATVALA.

30. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): Has a passport been refused to Mr. S. Saklatvala to visit India and attend the Indian National Congress? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: As regards the first part of the question, I understand that this is the fact.

As regards the second part, there has been no recent correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Government of India on the subject; but it is to be inferred that the passport authorities were satisfied that it would not be in the public interest to grant the passport.

CASES UNDER SECTION 124-A OF THE INDIAN PENAL CODE.

31. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): Will Government kindly state how many cases under section 124-A, of the Indian Penal Code have been instituted, since the statement of His Excellency the Viceroy was made on the 1st November, up to date?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: According to the reports received by the Government of India, the number of such cases is eight.

MAKING THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT KNOWN.

32. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): Will Government kindly state what steps they have taken, in the form of propaganda, or otherwise, to bring to the notice of the people, especially in the villages, the provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act; and are they aware that misconceptions as to the true scope of the Act prevail in certain quarters?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The Government of India have asked the Local Governments to take suitable steps to make the provisions of the Act widely known.

†For these questions and their answers see Proceedings of the 21st January, 1930.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Does the Honourable Member know what are those special efforts that are being made to make this public?

The Honourable Sir James Creer: That has been left to the discretion of the Local Governments.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I understand that the Honourable Member does not know if any scheme has been framed or any rules framed in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir James Creer: The Local Governments have received instructions in the matter and I have no doubt that they have acted upon them.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE OF INDIA.

88. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje** (on behalf of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh): Will Government kindly state if and how far the question of international disarmament will lessen the military expenditure of India; and has this subject been under correspondence with the India Office, or His Majesty's Government?

Mr. G. M. Young: It is impossible to estimate the effect of the question of international disarmament on the military expenditure of India, or indeed of any country, until the question itself has been solved by international agreement, and the conditions and extent of the disarmament, if any, are known. It would therefore be premature at present to discuss the above effect with His Majesty's Government, and the answer to the second part of the question is consequently in the negative.

EFFECT OF INCREASED IMPORT DUTY ON YARN.

34. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what additional income has been derived by the increase of the import duty on yarn in 1927?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if Government allotted any portion of that amount for the benefit of handloom weavers?

(c) Have Government made any inquiries as to the effect of the enhanced duty on yarn on the handloom weavers?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state to what extent the spinning mills were benefited by the enhancement?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The additional revenue obtained is estimated at about 15 lakhs.

(b) No.

(c) The Government of India have made two inquiries. A copy of the replies received from the Local Governments to the first inquiry has already been placed in the Library. Replies from only two Local Governments have so far been received to the second inquiry which was made in October last, and these are also being placed in the Library.

(d) The minimum specific duty on cotton yarn was intended to meet Japanese competition at the point where that competition was most injurious to the Indian cotton spinning industry, namely, in yarns of 81s.

to 40s. The extent to which the mills in India have benefited by this duty may be judged from the statement of imports into and production in India of yarn of these counts which I lay on the table.

Import of cotton yarn of counts 31s.—40s. into India.

(Thousand lbs.)

Year.	Japan.	China.	United Kingdom.	Total (from all places).
1923-24	9,838	..	8,019	19,807
1924-25	19,192	..	6,428	27,688
1925-26	20,059	..	4,318	26,294
1926-27	16,123	915	6,011	24,405
1927-28	7,714	10,883	7,171	27,304
1928-29	2,219	10,536	6,120	19,938
April to November 1929	1,728	} Not avail- able.	4,465	13,124
1929-30 (on the basis of 8 months figures)	2,592		6,697	19,685

Production of cotton yarn of counts 31s.—40s. in Indian mills.

(Thousand lbs.)

Year.	Bombay Island Mills.	Mills outside the Bombay Island.	Total (Indian Mills).
1923-24	6,605	13,062	19,667
1924-25	7,961	11,407	19,368
1925-26	5,885	13,852	19,737
1926-27	9,201	18,456	27,657
1927-28	12,280	21,477	33,757
*1928-29	8,567	28,921	37,488
April to September 1929	5,645	16,457	22,102
1929-30 (on the basis of 6 months figures)	11,290	32,014	44,204

* Affected by strikes in the Bombay mills.

PROPOSED METRE GAUGE RAILWAY FROM TIRUPATI EAST TO MADRAS.

35. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the proposal to make Tirupati East (Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway) a junction and connect it with Madras by a metre gauge is still under consideration or has it been dropped?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The proposal for a connection between Madras and Renigunta or Tirupati East has not been finally dropped, but it is considered that the link could be more suitably constructed on the broad gauge.

RAILWAY TO CHIRTANOOR.

36. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** Have Government any idea of diverting the line between Renigunta Junction and Tirupati East so as to touch the village of Chirtanoor—a place of pilgrimage? If so, when will that proposal be given effect to?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: A survey for the realignment of the line between Renigunta and Tirupati East so as to touch the village of Chirtanoor has been sanctioned and the report is awaited.

BOOKING OFFICE FOR METRE GAUGE RAILWAY BETWEEN VILLUPURAM AND GUDUR.

37. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that the present location of the booking office on a platform where the trains do not arrive is causing a good deal of hardship to those passengers who arrive by the trains on the metre gauge section between Villupuram and Gudur?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the shifting of the booking office from the original place?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: If the Honourable Member will let me know to what station he is referring, I will obtain for him the information he wants. The South Indian Railway authorities, who were addressed, are unable to verify the station from the question.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE.

38. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** Will Government be pleased to state how many recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee have been given effect to and how many have been dropped?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: In the case of the recommendations of the Committee in which action was directly within the competence of the Government of India, 37 recommendations have been given effect to or are under consideration and 72 have not been proceeded with. These figures do not include the many recommendations in which action was within the competence of the Local Governments or High Courts or the presiding officers of courts.

†39*.

PROTESTS AGAINST THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

40. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** (a) Have Government been in touch with the number of protests against the Child Marriage Act which have been made by the Hindus as well as the Muhammadans from various centres?

(b) Do Government propose to introduce any measure in order to modify the rigour of the Act by suitable exceptions being provided for?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not in contemplation any such measure.

†For this question and its answer, see Proceedings of the 21st January, 1930.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY TO BADRI NARAYAN.

41. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that the shrine of Badri Narayan in the Himalayas is a place of pilgrimage for the Hīndus all over India?

(b) Have Government any idea of connecting that shrine from Hrishikesh or otherwise by railway communication?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes, (Badri Nath).

(b) There has been an investigation of a line from Rikhikesh to Karanprayag which is on the pilgrim route to Badrinath, but it showed that the line would be unremunerative.

UTILIZATION OF KHADDAR FOR THE CLOTHING OF RAILWAY SUBORDINATES.

42. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total value of clothing supplied per year by the Railway Companies to their subordinates?

(b) What is the extent to which Indian mill cloths or other Indian-made cloth is supplied by the contractors?

(c) Is it a fact that the contractors are asked not to supply *khaddar* cloth?

(d) Are Government prepared to order that as far as it may be available, *khaddar* alone must be supplied?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The approximate value of clothing supplied per year by the Class I Railway Companies excluding the Bengal Nagpur Railway to their subordinates amounts to Rs. 5,88,000.

(b) With the exception of the Assam Bengal Railway, the railways referred to in part (a) report that Indian mill cloth or other Indian made cloth form more than 86 per cent. of total supply.

The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway report that all cloth is from Indian mills, except blue serge and waterproofs.

(c) No.

(d) Government do not propose to interfere in the arrangements made by Railway Companies for providing uniforms for their employees unless it can be shown that unnecessary expenditure is being incurred.

†48*.

TRAIN FROM PAKALA TO DHARAMAVARAM STATIONS.

44. ***Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the distance between Pakala and Dharmavaram stations (Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway), and the time taken by the trains to go from one to the other?

(b) Is it not possible to run at least one train to and fro per day so as to cover the distance in at least five hours?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The distance between Pakala and Dharmavaram stations is 141½ miles.

†For this question and its answer, see Proceedings of the 21st January, 1930.

The time taken to travel over this length by passenger trains is from 9 hours 5 minutes to 9 hours 50 minutes, and by mixed trains from 11 hours 20 minutes to 13 hours 25 minutes.

(b) It is not possible to run one train in each direction to cover the distance in 5 hours, as there are heavy gradients on this metre gauge section. The maximum permissible speed on this section is only 30 miles per hour.

REMISSION OF RENT DUE FROM RYOTS IN YEARS OF FAMINE.

45. ***Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** (a) Are Government aware that the Famine Commission and the Decentralization Commission recommended the remission and suspension of rent to be paid by ryots to landholders in years of famine and failure of crop, and the former Commission laid down at pages 91 and 92 of its Report of 1901, definite recommendations on the subject?

(b) Are Government also aware that the Government of Madras drafted clause 124 of the Madras Estates Land Bill of 1905 on the lines of the said recommendations?

(c) Are Government aware that a non-official Member of the Madras Legislative Council, Mr. Biswanath Dass, introduced a Bill further to amend the Estates Land Act of 1908 on the lines of clause 124, above-mentioned, and that the Government of Madras intend to oppose the said Bill?

(d) Are Government aware that His Excellency the Governor General accorded sanction to the said Bill in his letter dated the 24th of November 1928, omitting sub-clause (5) of clause 2 of the Bill?

(e) Are Government prepared to place on the table the correspondence that passed between the Government of India and the Government of Madras on the subject of this Bill?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: (a) The Indian Famine Commission of 1901, in paragraph 268 of their Report, laid emphasis on the importance of suspensions and remissions of land revenue and rent. The Royal Commission on Decentralisation made proposals only in respect of suspensions and remissions of land revenue with the object of giving freer discretion to Commissioners and Collectors.

(b) The Government of India are not aware whether the clause to which the Honourable Member refers, namely clause 124 of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, was inspired by the recommendation of the Indian Famine Commission referred to in the reply to part (a).

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The Government of India have no information as regards the second part.

(d) Sub-section (v) of the section which clause 2 proposed to insert in the principal Act as section 29A required the previous sanction of the Governor under section 80C of the Government of India Act and the necessary sanction had been refused by His Excellency the Governor before the Bill was submitted for the previous sanction of the Governor General under section 80A(3). The Governor General's sanction was conveyed in a letter from the Legislative Department dated the 7th November, 1928.

(e) Government are not prepared to place the correspondence on the table.

PROMOTION OF MR. H. L. KEELAN ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

46. *Mr. V. V. Joglah: 1. Will Government be pleased to state (a) if it is a fact that one Mr. H. L. Keelan, while employed in the North Western Railway as carriage examiner at Ghaziabad, was dismissed from service for making several unauthorised payments to the staff under him, and (b) whether, in spite of his dismissal from the North Western Railway, he was appointed as train examiner on the Eastern Bengal Railway on Rs. 150 *per mensem* and has been promoted to the post of head train examiner at Naihati on Rs. 375 *per mensem* within a very short time, superseding the claims of many senior Indian train examiners?

2. If the replies to items (a) and (b) of part 1 above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state under what law a man dismissed from a State Railway for misconduct, has been appointed in another State Railway, and what are his special qualifications, for which he has got such rapid promotion in preference to senior Indians?

3. If the replies to items (a) and (b) of part 1 above are in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for the man's dismissal from the North Western Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: 1 (a) and 3. Mr. Keelan, who was working as Head Neutral Train Examiner at Ghaziabad on Rs. 500 *per mensem*, was dismissed in August 1927 by the Director of Wagon Interchange because he was unable satisfactorily to explain certain unauthorised payments made by him. The greater portion of the sum involved was recovered from him at the time under the orders of the Director of Wagon Interchange.

1(b). The Eastern Bengal Railway, not having a suitable man either Indian or European to fill a post of Head Train Examiner shortly to become vacant, appointed Mr. Keelan in July 1928 as Train Examiner on probation, on a salary of Rs. 250 *per mensem* with a view to promoting him to the post of Head Train Examiner should he prove satisfactory.

The Eastern Bengal Railway Administration were fully aware of the circumstances of Mr. Keelan's dismissal, and before appointing him, they made a reference to the Director of Wagon Interchange. That officer reported that he was a very smart Train Examiner, and a steady man and that he had no objection to his being given employment on the Eastern Bengal Railway. He was therefore appointed, and in August 1928 was promoted to act as Head Train Examiner. He has since been confirmed in this post.

2. It is not usual for an employee dismissed by one railway to be re-appointed to another railway, but in this particular case the Railway Administration, taking all circumstances into consideration, together with his history previous to his dismissal, his experience of interchange work, and the lack of suitable men on their own railway, decided to appoint him on probation. He has proved himself to be satisfactory, fully qualified and well above the average.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO THE RAILWAY STAFF AT SILIGURI STATION.

47. *Mr. V. V. Joglah: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association represented to the Agent of that Railway to grant a Terai

allowance to the staff posted at Siliguri Station, such as is granted to the staff of other Departments of the Government of Bengal posted at Siliguri to compensate them for the unhealthiness of the locality and expense of living at that station, and that the Agent has refused to grant any compensatory allowance but proposed to improve the sanitary conditions of the station instead?

(b) What steps have the Eastern Bengal Railway Authorities taken to improve the sanitary condition of the station and how long will it take to make the station healthy?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the Eastern Bengal Railway staff should not be given the compensatory allowance, till such time as the sanitary condition of the station is not improved, and Terai allowance at present paid to the staff of the Bengal Government employed at that station, is withdrawn?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) A good deal has been done already towards improving the drainage by the filling up of low lying land and by connecting borrow pits and stagnant pools with running streams. The running rooms have been provided with mosquito nets and electric fans: a dispensary has been opened and an anti-malarial campaign has been inaugurated.

(c) As has been explained, action has already been taken to improve the sanitary condition of the station.

QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY STAFF ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

48. ***Mr. V. V. Joglah:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, owing to financial stringency, the Eastern Bengal Railway has not yet been able to provide a large number of staff with quarters?

(b) Will Government be also pleased to state if at certain centres of the Eastern Bengal Railway, the Administration has not provided all the staff with quarters, on the plea that quarters are not available there, whereas the managing staff and other employees of the refreshment room contractors, Messrs. D. Sorabjee and Co., have been provided with railway quarters at these centres?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the names of these centres where such quarters have been provided, and the number of quarters allotted, with their respective area and the amount of rent collected for each quarter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) At certain centres of the Eastern Bengal Railway it has not yet been possible to provide all staff with quarters.

(b) One of the conditions of the agreement executed between the Secretary of State for India and Messrs. D. Sorabjee and Co. for the supply and sale of refreshments at stations and in restaurant cars on the Eastern Bengal Railway is that the railway should provide habitable and sanitary quarters for the Purveyors' staff at stations other than Calcutta. The reason for inserting this condition to the agreement is that, in the interests of the travelling public, it is desirable that refreshment room staff should be on railway premises.

(c) A statement showing the names of stations where such quarters are provided under this agreement, together with their number, area, and the amount of rent collected respectively, is laid on the table. The rents in some cases are too low and are being reviewed.

Name of Stations.	Number and area of quarters provided.	Rent collected.
		Rs. as. p.
Sealdah	One Room 13' x 11'	3 2 3 per mensem.
Ranaghat	2 rooms 14 3/4' x 11' each	} 1 0 0 per annum.
	3 rooms 10' x 9 1/2' each	
Poradah	1 room 14 1/2' x 10 1/6'	} 1 0 0 per annum.
	1 room 10' x 6 5/6'	
Santahar	1 room 20 1/4' x 20 1/4'	} 5 5 7 per mensem.
	1 room 20 1/4' x 15 1/3'	
	1 room 30 2/3' x 11 1/8'	
Parbatipur	1 room 20' x 20'	10 2 5 per mensem.
	4 rooms 15' x 15'	} 28 3 9 per mensem.
	1 room 37' x 22'	
	1 room 10' x 8'	
	4 rooms 12' x 10'	1 14 4 per mensem.
	2 rooms 8' x 6'	2 3 6 per mensem.
	1 room 25' x 25'	} Nil.
	and 6 ft. verandah	
	Thatched building area 1,800 s. ft.	Nil.
	On top of station building 2 rooms	} 13 8 10 per mensem.
	18' x 16'	
	Soda water factory—	
	1 room 40' x 30'	} 28 2 0 per mensem.
	1 room 30' x 30'	
	18' x 18'	2 3 3 per mensem.
Siliguri	2 rooms 18' x 16'	} 15 10 0 per mensem.
	1 room 11' 1/2' x 8 1/2'	
	1 room 19' x 11 1/2'	
	1 room 14' x 12'	
	1 room 14' x 9'	
	1 room 14' x 9'	} 15 6 0 per mensem.
	1 block of 12 rooms 10' x 9'	
Lalmonirhat	1 room 18' x 16'	} 21 7 9 per mensem.
	1 room 8' x 5'	
Sorbhog	2 rooms 12' x 10' each	1 0 0 per annum.
Rangiya	2 rooms 11 1/2' x 10' each	1 0 0 per annum.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

49. *Mr. V. V. Joglah: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that European and Anglo-Indian subordinates are being promoted to the rank of Assistant Traffic Superintendents in the Eastern Bengal Railway, who have no technical qualifications as Station Masters, Traffic or Transportation Inspectors?

(b) Will Government be also pleased to state if it is a fact that the names of European or Anglo-Indian subordinates recommended by the District Traffic Superintendents for promotion to the post of Assistant Traffic Superintendent are at once approved by the authorities and promoted to the posts of Assistant Traffic Superintendents without testing their technical knowledge?

(c) Will Government also be pleased to state why senior Traffic or Transportation Inspectors or senior Indian Station Masters who possess the necessary technical qualifications and who are still holding responsible posts are not promoted to the posts of Assistant Traffic Superintendents in preference to men not possessing such qualifications?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No; only suitably qualified persons are promoted.

(b) No.

(c) Permanent promotions to the rank of Assistant Traffic Superintendents are made by the Railway Board, and acting promotions are made by the Agent of the Railway; both promotions are made by strict selection of the most suitably qualified subordinates.

QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY STAFF AT SEALDAH.

50. ***Mr. V. V. Joglah:** (a) With reference to Government's reply to part (b) of my starred question No. 521, in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th February, 1929, are Government aware whether it is a fact that rents of quarters provided by private enterprise at or near Sealdah (Eastern Bengal Railway), are so exorbitant that many Indian guards, being unable to pay such exorbitant rates have been compelled to hire quarters some two or four miles away from the station?

(b) Have Government considered the question of providing accommodation for this class of staff as near as possible to the Sealdah Station?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state, what steps they propose to take in the matter and when?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a), (b) and (c). From inquiries made, it has been ascertained that non-railway quarters are to be obtained in the vicinity of Sealdah at a rental of about Rs. 20 per mensem per room. It is realised that on men with families on a low rate of pay these rents bear heavily. To improve the position, a progressive programme for the building of quarters for Indian guards at Sealdah has recently been sanctioned, and under this programme a special effort will be made to build quarters so that, by the end of the next financial year, about 50 per cent of the Indian guards will be provided with quarters.

ARTICLE IN "THE INDIAN RAILWAYS" REGARDING EXCESS FARE TICKETS.

51. ***Mr. V. V. Joglah:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article headed "Hotch-potch Kings Hundy-duddy" appearing at page 16 of the monthly journal *The Indian Railways* in its issue of May and June, 1929?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the facts, as stated therein, are true, and will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Audit Inspection Report on the subject and state whether the amounts involved in the missing excess fare ticket books have been credited to the railway? If not, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes: by the Honourable Member.

(b) The information is being obtained.

QUARTERS FOR THE STATION STAFF AT JHIKERGACHA.

52. ***Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article headed "Quarters for the Station Staff at Jhikergacha" appearing at page 5 of the Eastern Bengal Railway *Labour Review* for July, 1929, and if so, whether the facts stated therein are true?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they propose to provide quarters for the Station Staff at that station? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). Government have seen the paragraph mentioned. It is true that no quarters have been constructed for station staff at Jhikergacha Ghat station. The reason is that quarters exist for this staff at the old station, which is less than a mile away.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY AT CALCUTTA.

53. ***Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** Will Government be pleased to state whether on account of the dearness of living at Calcutta and its suburbs it is proposed to sanction a local allowance to all subordinate and inferior staff of the Eastern Bengal Railway working at Calcutta? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to question No. 234 asked in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Amar Nath Dutt on the 4th September, 1928, and to the information supplied to him in Railway Board's letter No. 6988-E., dated 9th November, 1928, which is in the Library of the House. They give information on the subject of the grant of compensatory allowances to employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway stationed at Calcutta.

2. I would add that the question of the suitability of the rates of pay of certain classes of the lower paid establishments of the Eastern Bengal Railway is at present under examination.

ANTI-INDIAN AGITATION BY RETIRED OFFICIALS.

54. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Indians in the service of the Government of India who have been punished for taking part in anti-Government and anti-Indian agitations?

(b) Are there cases where pensions of Government officials have been stopped as such people took part in political activities against the Government?

(c) If the reply to part (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the officers of the Imperial services come under similar scrutiny after they are pensioned off?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) The information is not available and I do not consider I should be justified in making the elaborate inquiries which would be necessary in order to answer the Hon'ble Member's question. Personally, and so far as my Department is concerned, I am not aware of any such cases. It is, I need hardly say, an uncommon thing for a Government servant to take part in an anti-Government or any other agitation.

(b) and (c). The pension of Government servants may be withheld, withdrawn, or reduced, if the pensioner is guilty of grave misconduct, and activities directed to the subversion of Government or resistance to its authority would certainly be regarded as grave misconduct.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA BY RETIRED OFFICIALS.

55. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Have Government noticed the propaganda in the British Press especially in the *Daily Mail* by Indian pensioners such as Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Sir Reginald Craddock and others against the Government of India and the Indian people?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they have asked the Secretary of State to prosecute these anti-Indian agitators in England?

(c) Have they asked the Secretary of State for India to stop their pensions for deliberate propaganda against Indians?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) I have seen references in the Press to some articles contributed by these gentlemen on the present political situation.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. There have obviously been no grounds for taking such action.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA BY RETIRED OFFICIALS.

56. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if ex-Government servants drawing pensions are allowed to carry out propaganda against the declared policy of the Government of India? Does the same principle govern the conduct of subordinate officers recruited (a) by the Government of India, and (b) by the Secretary of State for India?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: A Government pensioner, by whatever authority appointed to Government service, is no longer subject to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules regulating such matters. Government, however, retain to themselves the right to reduce or withdraw a pension in cases of grave misconduct.

MAKING THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT KNOWN.

57. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what instructions they issued to the Provincial Governments to promulgate the Sarda Act for restraint of child marriage from 1st April 1930?

(b) What steps have the Government of India taken to inform the people of remote villages under their own administration about the Sarda Act and its consequences?

(c) In how many languages have the Government of India so far translated the Sarda Act, and has it been distributed freely to the villagers, and if so when?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) and (b). The Government of India have asked Local Governments and Administrations to take suitable steps to make the provisions of the Act widely known.

(c) The practice of the Government of India is to have Acts of the Indian Legislature translated into Urdu. Distribution and translation into other languages are dealt with by Local Governments and Administrations.

MAKING THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT KNOWN.

58. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the activities of each Provincial Government (a) in translating the Sarda Act in the different written languages within the province and (b) the specific methods of propaganda to bring the Act within the knowledge of every body?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: As already stated, the Government of India have asked Local Governments to take suitable steps to make the provisions of the Act widely known. They do not contemplate calling for reports as to the action taken, and are therefore not in a position to supply the information desired by the Honourable Member.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE ANTICIPATED FOR ADMINISTERING THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

59. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have increased the budget grant under the head "Administration of Justice" in (1) the Delhi Province, (2) Ajmer-Merwara, (3) the North West Frontier Province, (4) Coorg and (5) Baluchistan, in anticipation of a large number of cases that will arise in consequence of the Sarda Act?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what will be the anticipated increment on this particular grant in each of the administered areas mentioned in part (a)?

(c) What are the number of cases that the Government of India expect to occur in these areas in the light of experience gathered from Indian States where the Child Marriage Restraint Act is already in practice?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if they anticipate an increase of their judicial staff in the above mentioned administrative areas in consequence of the Sarda Act?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are not in possession of data which would enable them to frame any estimate.

(d) No.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE ANTICIPATED FOR ADMINISTERING THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

60. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the provinces anticipate an increase of expenditure under the head "Administration of Justice" in consequence of the Sarda Act?

(b) Has any of the Provincial Governments asked for any financial help from the Central Government on that ground or has any of the provincial Governments complained of the imposition of an additional financial burden due to the Sarda Act being placed on the Statute-book? If so, which are these provinces?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) There is no reason to suppose so.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

CHILD MARRIAGES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

61. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Are Government aware that there has been a large number of child marriages all over India during the last few months to avoid the penal clauses of the Sarda Act?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of such child marriages amongst (i) Hindus and (ii) Muslims since the Sarda Act was placed on the Statute-book?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) and (b). I have seen some reports in the Press to this effect, but as such marriages are not ordinarily registered, Government have no definite information.

†62*—64*.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CIRCUIT COURT AT DELHI.

65. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** (a) Has the attention of Government been called to the great hardship caused to litigants from the Delhi Province and the neighbouring districts, in taking their appeals to the Lahore High Court and to the oft-repeated public demand for the establishment of a Circuit Bench of the High Court at Delhi?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps in the near future to establish a Circuit Bench of the High Court at Delhi?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Mr. Abdul Haye's question No. 421 on the subject on the 10th September 1929, and the answer by the late Sir Alexander Muddiman to Sir Hari Singh Gour's question in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th January 1926, which is published in Vol. VII—No. 8, of Assembly Debates, page 148. The matter has not again been brought before the Government of India.

UTILIZATION OF VICEREGAL ESTATE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT HOUSES IN OLD DELHI.

66. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** What use do Government propose to make of the Viceregal Estate in Old Delhi, as well as of Flagstaff House and of other Government Houses in Kingsway?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The question of the disposal of the Viceregal Estate and Flagstaff House in old Delhi is under the consideration of Government. The other Government residences at Kingsway are being used by Government officials and are likely to be so used for many years to come.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: Have Government received an application from the Delhi University for the use of the old Viceregal Lodge?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I think, Sir, the answer to the question is in the affirmative, though I am not in a position to give precise information to my Honourable friend at the present moment, not having got the relevant papers with me.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: Are Government aware that the Delhi University, owing to the delay in getting an answer to their application, are incurring heavy expenditure and are finding great difficulty in finding suitable accommodation for the University?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: There also I am quite prepared to take the information which my Honourable friend seeks to impart to me.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: When are Government likely to make up their mind on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: My Honourable friend is no doubt aware that His Excellency the Viceroy entered into occupation of the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, quite recently.

†For these questions and their answers, see Proceedings of the 21st January, 1930.

The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee: Will Government state when the application from the Delhi University for the use of this building was received?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I shall have to ask for notice of that question as I have not got the relevant papers with me.

Mr. B. Das: Are Government aware that the Viceregal Estate is built from money provided by the whole of India, and, as they did with Government buildings in Bengal, when they left Bengal, they should not part with Government buildings to particular institutions without consulting the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I am not sure that Provincial Governments are concerned in this particular matter. But I have already said that the Government of India have not arrived yet at any decision in regard to the disposal of the particular building; and before they arrive at a decision, they will undoubtedly take into consideration all relevant factors.

QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

67. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** Referring to assurances previously given by Government, have they started building quarters for the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and if not, when do they propose to do so?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have not yet started building quarters for the Railway Clearing Accounts Office staff, as they have not yet been able to obtain a suitable site at reasonable cost. The matter is, however, being further investigated.

†68*-69*.

REVENUE DERIVED FROM OPIUM.

70. ***The Revd. J. C. Chatterjee:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, what revenue is derived by them on "Excise Opium", i.e., on opium sold to Provincial Governments for consumption within the boundaries of India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what income is derived by the different Provincial Governments, through the sale of opium, in the shape of profits or by way of licence fees?

(c) Do Government still adhere to their policy regarding the internal consumption of opium, as set forth in their Resolution published in January 1926?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) None.

(b) A statement is laid down on the table.

(c) Yes. The Government of India have had no occasion for a general review of their policy since 1926.

†For these questions and their answers, see Proceedings of the 21st January, 1930.

Statement showing the revenue derived by the Provincial Governments from the sale of Excise Opium during the years 1925-26 to 1927-28.

Province.	1925-26.				1926-27.				1927-28.									
	Gross revenue.		Total.		Expendi- ture. Cost of Opium supplied to Excise Depart- ment.		Appropri- mate Net Revenue.		Gross revenue License fees for Opium.		Sale proceeds of Excise Opium.		Total.		Expendi- ture. Cost of Opium supplied to Excise Depart- ment.		Appropri- mate Net revenue.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Madras	9,87,183	33,04,587	42,91,770	28,70,331	10,20,053	31,78,000	41,97,269	11,62,000	30,46,269	11,09,771	21,08,116	45,10,887	11,06,080	31,04,847				
Bombay	12,80,480	27,46,569	40,26,049	19,97,061	11,14,160	27,18,559	39,00,718	12,18,559	26,82,129	12,00,979	26,24,163	39,25,132	12,10,987	26,24,226				
Bengal	18,88,820	31,07,382	49,96,202	33,12,708	18,14,942	33,15,687	49,30,599	11,55,000	36,75,599	15,08,192	33,00,120	45,08,322	10,64,969	37,60,372				
United Provinces	7,94,725	15,99,818	23,94,543	15,46,039	7,79,545	16,09,779	23,89,324	6,93,010	17,06,314	7,92,794	16,46,978	24,41,769	6,54,110	18,37,659				
Punjab	9,46,320	24,31,468	33,77,813	17,46,645	9,31,168	25,68,417	36,39,171	9,90,086	28,46,076	10,88,617	26,26,928	37,25,545	9,81,145	27,44,400				
Burma	1,608	43,28,692	45,36,110	29,75,211	2,061	40,07,182	40,09,242	4,71,548	35,37,696	3,585	39,18,069	40,18,684	5,70,896	33,47,788				
Bihar and Orissa	8,34,166	25,99,450	34,29,606	21,07,946	8,40,794	26,48,008	34,98,460	9,51,120	26,47,350	7,97,214	27,13,021	35,10,235	8,68,433	26,53,803				
Central Provinces	16,87,638	26,87,560	43,75,098	20,78,544	16,61,415	24,87,831	41,33,746	10,05,540	31,32,006	18,70,619	22,44,170	35,14,769	7,14,480	21,00,289				
Assam	30,05,268	24,90,819	44,94,187	32,94,039	17,46,984	23,46,047	39,91,031	8,96,440	30,96,461	16,63,247	21,72,780	38,26,087	8,64,720	23,61,367				
Total	1,00,40,608	2,63,96,557	3,63,27,166	1,74,62,890	2,28,74,575	97,49,217	2,46,40,254	66,99,451	2,61,66,809	97,18,328	2,45,72,972	3,40,91,300	78,68,081	2,63,27,689				

NOTE.—(1) The figures have been taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India. Figures for 1928-29 are not yet available.

(2) "Sale proceeds of Excise opium" include "Cost price of opium" and "duty" levied by the Provincial Governments. Separate figures for "duty" are not shown in the Accounts. The difference between the figures under "Sale proceeds of Excise opium" and "Cost of opium supplied to Excise Department" in a given year will not give the correct figure on account of duty in that year, since the quantity of opium supplied to the Excise Department by the Ghazipur Factory in a given year will not coincide with the quantity sold to the licensed vendors in that year. In the long run the difference between the two sets of figures must approximate to the figure of duty realised. The "net revenue" figures in the above table are thus approximate only.

(3) Provincial Governments also get some revenue in the shape of fines, confiscations, etc. But in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, fines, etc., in respect of liquors, opium and other dangerous drugs are lumped together, and it is therefore not possible to calculate the share of opium. The amount of revenue is however not much.

Mr. M. S. Aney: May I ask when my questions, Nos. 62 to 64, will be answered?

Mr. President: I understand Sir Frank Noyce is ill and that he will answer them to-morrow. I thought the Honourable Member was informed.

QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI BUILT BY THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

71. ***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Is it a fact that sites in New Delhi were allotted to the Telegraph Department for building quarters for their ministerial staff?

(b) Is it a fact that the Telegraph Department erected quarters by calling for tenders themselves, and is it also a fact that the funds were provided for this purpose in the budget of the Telegraph Department?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the capital outlay on the different types of quarters in New Delhi built by the Telegraph Department as well as the capital outlay on the corresponding types of quarters in New Delhi built by the Public Works Department?

(d) Is it a fact that the capital outlay on the quarters built by the Telegraph Department is far less than the capital outlay on the quarters built by the Public Works Department, type by type? If so, will they be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a). Yes.

(b) No. The quarters were erected by the Public Works Department. The cost was provided for in the budget of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(c) The types of quarters built for the Telegraph Department, and the outlay thereon, are the same as those of other quarters built by the Public Works Department at the same time.

(d) This part of the question does not arise in view of the preceding replies.

QUARTERS FOR THE MINISTERIAL STAFF OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

72. ***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** Do Government propose to allot some sites in New Delhi nearest to the Council House for building quarters for housing the ministerial staff of the Legislative Assembly Department? If not, why not, and why was the Telegraph Department allotted sites for erecting their own quarters?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: No. The sites closest to the Council House could not suitably be utilised for this purpose. Within the limits dictated by financial considerations, Government propose to authorize the construction, during 1980-81 of additional quarters, on suitable sites, for ministerial and other staff employed in New Delhi. The staff of the Legislative Assembly Department will be eligible for tenancy of such quarters, with others, but Government cannot make special provision for any one Secretariat Department. Quarters were provided for telegraph employees in New Delhi as in other stations in accordance with the policy of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to provide housing as far as possible for its staff in places where special difficulty is experienced. To the extent to which these quarters were provided, the difficulty of other employees of Government in finding accommodation is reduced.

CLASSIFICATION OF QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

73. ***Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many times they have classified and reclassified the different types of quarters at New Delhi, since they were constructed?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the pay limits that were in force in 1920 for the eligibility of the ministerial staff of the Government of India for the different types of quarters in New Delhi, and will they be pleased to state how many times these pay limits were raised since then up to date?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the changes that have been made between the years 1920 and 1929 in the pay limits governing the eligibility of the ministerial staff of the Government of India for the different types of quarters at New Delhi?

(d) Is it a fact that the reclassification of the Government quarters at New Delhi from time to time has on each such occasion resulted in depriving the various grades of the ministerial staff of their claim to classes of accommodation to which they were previously eligible?

(e) If the answer to part (d) is in the affirmative, is it a fact that Government have never considered the question whether the reclassification of the Government quarters at New Delhi from time to time has resulted in lowering the standard of living of the ministerial Government of India staff against their will? What steps do Government propose to take in the matter and when?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why they have made such frequent changes in the classification of the quarters at New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

MEMORIAL FROM THE MINISTERIAL OFFICERS' UNION, BOMBAY.

74. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a memorial dated 1st September, 1929, from Mr. S. C. Joshi, the Honorary Secretary to the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union, Bombay?

(b) Has the memorial been considered and decided and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. After careful consideration, the Government came to the conclusion that no case had been established for a revision of the memorialists' pay.

†75*.

AERO CLUBS IN INDIA.

76. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many aero clubs have been established in India?

(b) How many of them receive Government grants and what are the amounts of grant given to each of these clubs?

†For this question and its answer, see Proceedings of the 21st January, 1930.

(c) How many Indians were trained by and are under training in each of these clubs?

(d) What are the courses of training and what fees are charged per student for a full term of training?

(e) Are there facilities for training for "B" certificates?

(f) How many Indians were granted "A" certificates and how many "B" certificates?

(g) Are any of these Indians with "A" and "B" certificates provided with any appointments in the Department of Civil Aviation?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Six.

(b) Four. Government have provided each club with two "Moth" aeroplanes, a spare engine and a grant of Rs. 9,000 towards the provision of a hangar. Government have also given to each club an annual grant of Rs. 20,000, and a bonus of Rs. 150 per pilot trained, up to a limit of Rs. 2,250 per club in the first year, and Rs. 5,000 per club in the second year of operation.

(c) The figures are as follows:

Trained—

- Delhi, 5.
- Bombay, 8.
- Bengal, 3.
- Karachi, 9.

Under training—

- Delhi, 13.
- Bombay, 13.
- Bengal, 14.
- Karachi, 13.

(d) The length of the course of training and the expense involved are naturally dependent on the aptitude shown by the pupil. It can be taken that the average Indian pupil requires about 17 hours dual control instruction and that the average cost of training for an "A" licence is approximately Rs. 480.

(e) Government are of opinion that the clubs as at present constituted and equipped are not in a position to undertake the training required for "B" licences. They have not, however, actually prohibited clubs from undertaking such training.

(f) "A" Licences, 18.

"B" Licences, nil.

(g) There have up to date been no posts in which their services could be utilised.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Do the Government propose to make provision for training for the B Certificate?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Not in the immediate present.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: When is it likely that the arrangement will be made, if not at present?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I cannot give my Honourable friend over there any definite information. He was a member of the Standing Finance Committee and has some information about our programme in regard to the development of air services.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can the Honourable Member give the approximate time?

Mr. Arthur Moore: Is it not a fact that the present pilot instructors of aeroplane clubs are sufficiently qualified to enable them to give B certificates?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: My information, Sir, is that the clubs as at present constituted and equipped are not in a position to undertake the training required for B licences, though they are not actually prohibited from undertaking such training. The point is this. Training for B licences includes training in meteorology, air navigation and certain other subjects.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: On what principle is the selection of candidates made for this service?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: My Honourable friend is apparently under a misapprehension. We are now talking of training by aero clubs and there is no question of a service.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: The whole question applies to the selection of candidates as well and I should like to know, on what principle candidates are selected for training?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: That depends on the aero club. The aero clubs train people who are members of those clubs and there is no question of selection by Government.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Instead of giving us a vague reply, will the Honourable Member say at least approximately what time it will take to make provision for the training?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I am sorry I cannot be a prophet. It depends on considerations over which I have no control.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I know, if the Honourable Member were a prophet he would say exactly, but I wanted him to say approximately.

Mr. President: Dr. Moonje.

SELECTION OF INDIAN CADETS FOR TRAINING IN MILITARY AND NAVAL COLLEGES IN ENGLAND.

77. ***Dr. B. S. Moonje:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Interview and Record Board was first appointed in India for the selection of Indian candidates for training in the cadet colleges of Sandhurst, Woolwich and Cranwell and for the Royal Indian Marine?

(b) How many times has the Board been meeting every year since its appointment?

(c) How many Indian candidates have presented themselves each time for examination?

(d) How many of them presented themselves for each of these cadet colleges and for marine training?

(e) How many of them were selected for each of these cadet colleges and for marine training?

(f) Has the Board selected any candidates up to now, and if so, how many for Woolwich and for Cranwell?

(g) How many of those passed and selected by the Board here were rejected by the Examining Board in England?

(h) How many vacancies were reserved for Indians at each time the Interview and Record Board met for their training as Army, Naval, and Air Force cadets?

(i) Have Government noticed the opinion of Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, M.L.A., as cabled by Reuter and published in the *Hindustan Times* of Monday the 16th December, 1929, on page 18, at the top of the third column, that after visiting Sandhurst and Woolwich, he found that "contrary to the impression prevailing in India, the standard of recruitment for Woolwich was not higher than for Sandhurst"?

(j) Do Government propose to ask for a report from the Interview and Record Board as to the reasons for their failure to select as many candidates as were required to fill up the vacancies available each time at the cadet colleges of Sandhurst, Woolwich and Cranwell, and for naval training, and if so, will Government be pleased to lay the report on the table?

Mr. G. M. Young: The answer to this long question is necessarily itself very long, and contains much statistical matter. Unless, therefore, the Honourable Member—unless the House—would prefer me to read it out, I propose to lay it on the table.

Most of the information required by the Honourable Member can be found in the pamphlets containing the results of the examinations to which he refers, copies of which have been placed in the Library. As, however, the Honourable Member appears to be under some misapprehension as to the character and functions of the Interview and Record Board, I propose to give a detailed reply. The Board is not, as one might suppose from the Honourable Member's question, a standing Board set up in India, to make a preliminary selection of candidates for admission to the written examination. On the contrary, the examinations themselves consist of two parts—a number of written papers, and an oral test,—which are conducted simultaneously in India: but whereas, in the written examination the papers are set and subsequently marked by the Civil Service Commissioners in England, the oral test is necessarily carried out by a Board sitting in India, on each occasion that an examination takes place. The answers to the various parts of the Honourable Member's question are as follows:—

- (a) An interview and record test has been in force for Sandhurst candidates since 1919, but the present system of examination for entry to the Army and Air Force was introduced in November, 1928, and for the Royal Indian Marine in June, 1929.
- (b) There was one examination in 1928 and two in 1929. An Interview and Record Board was constituted for each of these examinations.
- (c) 59 candidates sat for the Army and Air Force examination held in November, 1928, and 88 and 75 candidates for the Army,

Air Force, and Royal Indian Marine examinations held in June, and November, 1929, respectively.

- (d) A statement is annexed.
- (e) Seven candidates passed for Sandhurst at the examination held in November, 1928, and 11 at the examination held in June, 1929. No candidate passed into Woolwich, Cranwell or the Royal Indian Marine at either of these examinations. The results of the examinations held last November, have not yet been received.
- (f) Three candidates for Woolwich and one for Cranwell passed the oral test in November, 1928. One candidate for Cranwell and two for Woolwich passed the oral test in June, 1929. The number of those who obtained qualifying marks in the oral test at the examination held in November, 1929, is not yet known.
- (g) Nine of those who obtained qualifying marks in the oral test in November, 1928, and six who obtained similar marks in June, 1929, failed to pass the written portion of the examination.
- (h) A statement is annexed.
- (i) Government have seen the message referred to, but are not aware whether the Honourable Pundit has been correctly reported. The standard required for entry into Woolwich is considerably higher than the standard required for Sandhurst. There are certain subjects, *viz.*, Lower Mathematics and Physics or Chemistry, which candidates for Woolwich are compelled to take, and obtain a qualifying mark in them, while Sandhurst candidates are not. Again, the minimum qualifying total of marks for Sandhurst is 540, and for Woolwich, 690.
- (j) Government do not consider that the figures of any of the past examinations are such as call for a report or explanation from the Interview and Record Board. They are satisfied that the Board, on which the Honourable Member has served more than once, is competent to judge the suitability of the candidates who appear before it: and that it rejects only those who are definitely unsuitable. The Board's decisions must obviously be governed by this criterion alone, and not by any consideration of the number of vacancies available.

Statement referred to in the reply to parts (d) and (h) of the question.

- (d) Number of candidates who appeared for the various cadet colleges and for marine training.

Date of examination.	Marine only or Marine as first choice.	Sandhurst only or Sandhurst as first choice.	Woolwich only or Woolwich as first choice.	Cranwell only or Cranwell as first choice.	Total.
November 1928 .	..	36	17	6	59
June 1929 . .	29	40	7	12	88
November 1929 .	19	39	6	11	75

(A) Number of vacancies reserved for Indians at the various cadet colleges and in the Royal Indian Marine.

Date of examination.	Royal Indian Marine.	Sandhurst.	Woolwich.	Cranwell.	Total.
November 1928 .	..	10	3	3	16
June 1929 . . .	7	13	6	6	32
November 1929 .	8	10	6	6	30

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN OFFICERS TO THE ARMY.

78. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is a shortage of British officers in the Army?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what is the number of this shortage, and how do Government propose to make up this shortage, and what is this shortage due to?

(c) What is the number of annual wastage and of yearly recruitment of officers to meet the wastage?

(d) Are Government aware that to meet this shortage, it is proposed that all officers up to a certain rank, say Captain or Major, should be recruited from Indians and that the senior ranks be, for the present, held by British officers?

(e) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following, which is a quotation from the book called the "Autography of General Sir O'Moore Creagh", one of the late Commanders-in-Chief of India? :

"The entrance examination (for selection of British boys for admission into the military colleges of England) was of open competition but it was very easy, as the qualification was low and there normally were more vacancies than competitors. The curriculum, on paper, was very much as it is to-day but the passing out test which qualified for a Commission was much lower. The life of a cadet was less luxurious than is now the case. There were about 250 cadets and the ordinary course was one of two terms; but those who failed to qualify for a purchase commission (or in the competition for a non-purchase commission) at the examination held at the end of a cadet's second term were allowed to put in a third course in order to give them another chance."

(f) If the answer to part (e) is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to bring this point to the notice of the members of the Interview and Record Board, instructing them to bear it in mind while selecting Indian candidates for admission to the Cadet Colleges of Sandhurst, Woolwich and Cranwell and for the Royal Indian Marine?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) There is no shortage in the actual number of British officers in the Indian Army at the moment. On the other hand there is some congestion due partly to exceptional recruitment during the war and partly to certain recent measures of reorganisation.

About three years ago there was a shortage in recruitment. Recruitment has however since improved, and the position is now satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The wastage is about 120 a year, and it is met by recruitment from Sandhurst and by transfer of officers from the British Service.

(d) Government are not aware of any such proposal, nor do they understand how it would be put into practice.

(e) Yes.

(f) If the Honourable Member's suggestion is that the standard of admission should be lowered for Indians in order to meet a shortage in British recruitment, my answer to the earlier parts of his question will show that such a course is unnecessary. In any case the conditions of recruitment prevailing 70 years ago, when the system of purchase Commissions was still in existence, would not, in the opinion of the Government of India, provide any argument for adopting that course to-day.

DEMOLITION OF INDIAN BAZAARS ATTACHED TO CANTONMENTS.

79. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: (a) Are Government aware that the All-India Cantonment's Association have submitted a representation to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, complaining that the military authorities are solicitous of giving a monopoly to coffee shop contractors and are therefore discouraging and demolishing long-standing Indian bazaars attached to Cantonments?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state their reasons for adopting the policy referred to in part (a)?

(c) How do Government propose to compensate the Indian shopkeepers of these Indian bazaars?

(d) Why do Government propose to establish a system of monopoly in favour of a few coffee shop contractors?

(e) Who are these coffee shop contractors, and will Government please lay on the table a list of these contractors and also of the firms, if any, they represent with their names and addresses?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). Government have not adopted the policy attributed to the military authorities in part (a). I am inquiring into the facts, and will communicate the result to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

(e) I will send the Honourable Member a copy of the current list of approved contractors.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE CHANDAUSI TRAINING SCHOOL.

80. *Dr. B. S. Moonje: (1) Are Government aware that the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway, recently invited applications by public advertisements on the prescribed application forms obtainable from his office for Re. 1 *per form*, from Indians for admission in the Chandausi Training School?

(2) If the answer to part (1) is in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(a) What were the qualifications prescribed for eligibility for admission?

(b) What were the rules according to which selection was made?

(c) Who made the selection?

(d) What was the number, if any, that was previously fixed for admission into the school?

(e) Was the number so fixed mentioned in the advertisement calling for applications?

(f) Who authorised the Divisional Superintendent for fixing and according to what rule did he fix the price of one rupee *per form* of application?

(8) Are Government aware that about 700 applications on the prescribed forms were received and that only about 100 candidates were selected for admission into the School?

(4) Will Government be pleased to state if it proposed to return the amount of Rs. 600 or so, received as the price of the application forms from those candidates who were not eventually selected for admission?

(5) Will Government please state:

(a) If the rejected applicants have been informed of the fact of their rejection; and,

(b) If so, with or without mentioning the reasons for rejection?

(6) Will Government please state the numbers of candidates selected for admission into the school according to their religions and colours?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am making enquiries from the Agent and will communicate with the Honourable Member on receipt of his reply.

†81*.

REPRESENTATION OF SIND AT THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

82. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Had the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial in the *Daily Gazette*, Karachi, dated the 6th November, 1929, under the heading "Sind and the proposed Conference" regarding the representation of Sind on the proposed Round Table Conference to be called in England in consideration of Sind having its own problem requiring careful consideration by those who are to draw up a new constitution for India?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Yes.

(b) I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member tell me if any scheme or method of election or selection of the members of the Round Table Conference is being considered by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I cannot add to what I have already said, namely, that I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject.

EXTENSION OF THE WAKF ACT TO THE BORAH COMMUNITY.

83. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** In view of the representations made to the Government of India with regard to the extension of the Wakf Act to the Borah Community, will Government be pleased to say what decision Government have arrived at?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The Honourable Member presumably refers to a petition submitted by Mr. Karimbhoy Adamjee Peerbhoy. It has been forwarded for consideration to the Government of Bombay. The matter is primarily one for the Local Government under section 18 of the Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923.

†For this question and its answer, see Proceedings of the 21st January, 1930.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BROAD GAUGE RAILWAY FROM KARACHI TO BOMBAY.

84. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they intend to take in hand the constructional work of the Karachi-Bombay broad gauge through railway?

(b) Is it a fact that people in Sind have been asking for this railway for the last fifteen years?

(c) Is it a fact that the Bombay Council have shown the urgency of this Railway, and that H. E. the Governors of Bombay and even H. E. the Viceroy on their visits to Karachi have expressed the same view?

(d) Do Government propose to solve the financial difficulty which has always been brought in the forefront and provide for starting the work in this year's Budget?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a), (c) and (d). Government are unable to say at present when it will be possible to start work on the Bombay-Sind through connection. They recognise the importance attached to this by the Government of Bombay and the people of Bombay and Sind and will endeavour to find means to take it up as soon as possible.

(b) Yes.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is not Government still prepared, after the lapse of 15 years, definitely to take this matter in hand, especially when the necessity is being admitted?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: As I have already explained, we propose to take this line up as soon as our means permit. We can hardly be expected to take it up when our means do not permit us to do so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The means are always complained of.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

85. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway Karachi Advisory Committee have resolved, by a majority of votes, more than once to hold monthly meetings instead of quarterly ones as at present?

(b) Are Government aware that quarterly meetings do not sufficiently serve the purpose for which they are designed?

(c) Is it a fact that generally meetings of all other Advisory Committees in other Divisions of the State Railways respectively are held once a month?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the period at which each of Advisory Committee meetings in all the Divisions on the State Railways respectively are held?

(e) Do Government propose, in view of the opinion of the Karachi Advisory Committee, to ask the Agent, North Western Railway, to give a trial to holding monthly meetings?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) I am laying a statement on the table giving the required information. It will be seen that the main Advisory Committee of each of these railways ordinarily meets once a month, but branch Committees, like that at Karachi, ordinarily meet once a quarter or once in two months.

(e) The Agent of the North Western Railway has reported that a meeting once a quarter suffices to deal with the business to be transacted, and that if he finds occasion to call for more frequent meetings, he will do so. Government consider that the present practice meets the requirements.

Item No.	Railway Advisory Committee.	October 1928.	November 1928.	December 1928.	January 1929.	February 1929.	March 1929.	April 1929.	May 1929.	June 1929.	July 1929.	August 1929.	September 1929.	Remarks.
1	E. I. (Calcutta) . . . . .	..	30-11-28	4-1-29	1-2-29	1-3-29	6-4-29	6-4-29	7-6-29	5-7-29 17-7-29	9-9-29	2-9-29	2-9-29	Monthly.
	Do. (Cawnpore) Lucknow (Branch Committee).	..	24-11-28	26-1-29	..	27-3-29	..	..	11-4-29	..	31-7-29	..	30-9-29	After every 3 months.
2	G. I. P. (Bombay) . . . . .	..	1-11-28	6-12-28	10-1-29	7-2-29	7-3-29	..	..	6-5-29	6-7-29	1-9-29	5-9-29	Monthly.
	Do. (Nagpur) (Branch Committee)	13-10-28	..	..	7-1-29	..	11-4-29	..	..	..	31-7-29	..	..	Quarterly.
	Do. (Cawnpore) (Branch Committee)	..	..	4-12-28	..	29-3-29	..	..	..	..	29-7-29	..	..	Quarterly.
3	N. W. (Lahore)	16-10-28	13-11-28	4-2-29	20-1-29	19-3-29	20-4-29	20-5-29	20-5-29	26-6-29	18-7-29	6-8-29	17-9-29	Monthly.
	Do. (Karachi) (Branch Committee)	..	31-11-28	..	30-5-29	..	..	..	26-6-29	..	..	14-8-29	..	Quarterly.
4	E. B. . . . .	..	3-11-28	7-12-28	..	1-3-29	13-4-29	10-6-29	14-6-29	..	..	9-8-29	6-9-29	Monthly.
5	Burma Railways . . . . .	..	..	11-12-28	..	7-2-29	4-4-29	2-6-29	6-6-29	6-6-29	6-7-29	1-8-29	5-8-29	Monthly.

* This meeting was postponed to 4th week of July on account of certain members having been unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member aware that the members of the Committee hold different opinions to those of the Agent? Has the Honourable Member considered that question or inquired into that difference of opinion?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I have, Sir, accepted the statement of the Agent that a meeting once a quarter is ordinarily sufficient for transacting the business. I do not consider it necessary, therefore, for the Agent to call meetings more frequently, even though possibly some of the members of the Committee may desire more frequent meetings.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place the reasons of the Agent on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I can tell the Honourable Member the reasons immediately. The reasons are that a meeting once in three months is ordinarily sufficient for transacting the business that comes up before that Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The reason for the sufficiency there must be, and what I am asking the Honourable Member is to give the reason for showing how that one meeting in three months is sufficient, otherwise it is only an opinion.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: It may be presumed that the meeting once every three months gets through the business which is laid before the meeting.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I have been myself a member of that Advisory Committee, though not now, and I know that the work was not being properly conducted and finished within quarterly meetings. Is the Honourable Member going to contradict that too?

(No answer was given.)

FARES ON THE JODHPUR RAILWAY.

86. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware that the Jodhpur Railway passenger fares for third class are about 65 per cent. higher than those of the North Western Railway for long distances?

(b) Are Government aware that this line is connected with the North Western Railway line from Hyderabad Sind and that British subjects travel from Sind to Gujrat, Bombay, and other places through the territory of the Jodhpur State by this line?

(c) Do Government propose, in view of the fact mentioned in part (b), to move the Jodhpur Railway authorities to reduce their fares?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). Yes,

(c) No. Passenger fares on the different Railway Administrations are not uniform, financial and other conditions varying.

APPLICATION FORMS PRESCRIBED FOR CANDIDATES BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

87. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware that two Railway Selection Boards met at Karachi on 15th and 21st August, 1929, or thereabouts to select candidates?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway called upon the candidates to send in their applications on railway prescribed forms and to appear in person at the headquarters at Karachi?

(c) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway sells to each candidate the railway application form at a cost of one rupee each?

(d) How much was spent by the Railway on the printing and paper of these forms sold on these two aforesaid occasions in August, 1929?

(e) How much was realised by the Railway by the sale of these forms and from the railway fares spent by these candidates in order to attend at the headquarters and what was the balance saved by the Railway in all the Divisions of the North Western Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I propose to reply this and the following question together. I am obtaining the information which the Honourable Member asks for and will communicate with him on its receipt.

CANDIDATES SELECTED BY THE RAILWAY SELECTION BOARD AT KARACHI.

†88. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many candidates actually appeared before the Railway Selection Board at Karachi on the two occasions mentioned in part (a) of my immediately preceding question and how many were selected?

(b) How many Sindhis appeared for the selection on the aforesaid occasions and how many were selected?

(c) Were there any such selected persons relations of railway employees who were given preference in these selections? If so, what are the names and the designations of these railway employees?

(d) Do Government propose in future to call only such candidates as are likely to be selected?

CONSTITUTION OF RAILWAY SELECTION BOARDS.

89. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Have Government by now thought of making some change in the Railway Selection Boards? If so, which?

(b) If the answer to the above be the same as was given on 10th September, 1929, in answer to part (f) of my starred question No. 830, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for making no improvement and for not associating the non-official element with the official members of the Selection Board?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The methods of recruiting subordinates are under examination. Government are unable to agree that it would be an improvement if non-officials were added to the Selection Boards.

APPOINTMENT OF PROVINCIAL SERVICE MEN AS OFFICERS IN THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT.

90. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there are Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries in all the Departments of the Government of India Secretariat, who may have been imported from the Provincial Service or are these appointments restricted to Imperial Service men? If the former, will Government be pleased to state how many and from which presidencies have they been recruited?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 87.

(b) If the answer to the first part of part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state if they propose to encourage and train Provincial Service men for the said appointments by giving them appointments in the Imperial Secretariats? If not, what are the reasons for it?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to section 98 and the third Schedule of the Government of India Act, from which he will see that the posts of Secretary and Joint and Deputy Secretaries in some of the Departments of the Government of India are reserved for the Indian Civil Service. The posts of Assistant Secretary are ordinarily filled from the Imperial Secretariat Service. In the past some members of the provincial services have been appointed to posts of Deputy and Assistant Secretary. There are no such officers in the Government of India Secretariat at present.

(b) Government see no reason for making any departure from the present arrangements.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Would the Government be pleased to say why office rules should not be amended in order to make the Indians enter as Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: As I have already stated, the existing arrangements are working satisfactorily and, as the Honourable Member is aware, there is a considerable number of Indians who are holding these posts. The point I understood the Honourable Member to refer to particularly was with regard to the members of the Provincial Services, and my answer is that there is nothing to prevent such appointments being made on suitable occasions, and the heads of the Departments concerned will exercise their discretion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I hope so.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it the considered opinion of Government that no more opportunities are to be given to the members of the Provincial Services to hold responsible posts in the Imperial Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: No, Sir.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What is the exact import of the Honourable Member's reply? I should like him to bear in mind the desire repeatedly expressed in this House for giving wider opportunities to the members of the Provincial Services for employment in the Imperial Secretariat.

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I have no doubt the considerations mentioned by the Honourable Member are borne carefully in mind at the time of making these appointments.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: The Honourable Member said that the present system was working satisfactorily. Is it to be inferred from this that no change will be made by the Government of India and that consequently Provincial Service men will in practice be as much debarred from holding Imperial Secretariat appointments in the future, as they have been in the past?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: A number of members of the Provincial Services have been appointed to these posts in the past and may be so appointed in the future.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: These appointments have been few and far between. At present, as the Honourable Member has said, there are no Provincial Service men who are serving as Assistant or Deputy Secretaries in the Imperial Secretariat. Is the present system to continue as a rule? Is no special effort to be made to extend the appointment of Provincial Service men?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I quite see the point raised by the Honourable Member, but I should like to make it clear in reply that there is no embargo on such appointments. Naturally, experience of the Imperial Secretariat itself is an important qualification for appointment to these posts, but that does not involve necessarily the exclusion of Provincial members. I will endeavour, however, to examine the particular point raised by the Honourable Member more fully.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member please say that in future Provincial Service men will be taken in the Imperial Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I will examine the point more fully.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BUS SERVICE BETWEEN NEW AND OLD DELHI.

1. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the news published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 2nd October, 1929, page 10, under the heading "Cheap Transport for Delhi—New Bus Service", regarding the scheme to link up Old and New Delhi by means of a regular bus service is correct?

(b) If so, by what time is the new arrangement expected to be completed?

Sir Frank Noyce: The necessary information has been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HARTOG COMMITTEE.

2. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 19th October, 1929, page 9, under the heading "Wanted a national policy in education—Centralized control urged by Hartog Committee—Waste of present system—Giving girls first chance of learning"?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state by what time the recommendations of the Committee, i.e., (1) to serve as a centre of information for all provinces, (2) to provide funds to such as want assistance, and (3) to co-ordinate the experience of different provinces—are likely to come into force?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not propose to take the report of the Auxiliary Committee into detailed consideration until they have received the report of the Indian Statutory Commission.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 31st October, 1929, page 9, under the heading "Report posted to India—Publication left to Viceroy's discretion"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Yes.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware, the Report was published on the 28rd December, and copies were at the same time supplied to all Members of the Indian Legislature.

EXTENSION OF DELHI CITY.

4. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 31st October, 1929, page 10, under the heading "Congestion in Delhi City—Extension scheme"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Yes

AIR MAIL SERVICE TO DELHI.

5. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 31st October, 1929, page 10, under the heading "Extension of Air Mail to Delhi—Plans ordered—no chance of service to Bombay"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The London-Karachi air mail service was extended to Delhi with effect from 30th December. This extension is being operated as an Indian State Air Service with aircraft chartered from Imperial Airways Limited. Further extensions to Calcutta and Rangoon are under consideration by Government.

Government are considering the question of an air mail service between Karachi and Bombay. The aerodrome at Bombay is at present only fit for use during the dry season, but it is hoped, if funds permit, to undertake the work necessary to render it fit for use throughout the year during 1930.

OPENING OF THE VICEROY'S HOUSE, NEW DELHI.

6. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 16th November, 1929, page 14, under the heading "Opening of the new Viceregal House—Ready next year"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) It is proposed to hold ceremonies in connection with the formal inauguration of New Delhi during the winter season, 1930-31.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC IN INDIA.

7. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 16th November, 1929, page 10, under the heading "Railway Working in India—Fewer Passengers—Slight improvement in Goods traffic"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the matters reported therein are correct? If correct, will they please state the reasons which led to the receipts for the year 1928-29 being less than for the year 1927-28?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, except that the capital at charge at the end of the year was 739·2 crores. The reasons for the variation will be found in Chapter II of the Railway Board's Annual Report for 1928-29, copies of which will shortly be available in the Library of the House.

WAITING ROOM AT KHAJALI.

8. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Searchlight* of 3rd November, 1929, page 11, under the heading "Waiting Room at Khajali"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the complaint made therein is correct? If correct, do they intend to see that the grievance complained of is redressed?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are not aware of the position; but a copy of the Honourable Member's question has been sent to the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, with the request that he will see what action, if any, is needed.

OPIUM INQUIRY.

9. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 17th November, 1929, page 9, under the heading "Opium Inquiry—Government of India to hasten it"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct? If correct, will they please state when inquiries into opium consumption in the province of Bombay are likely to be completed?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Government have seen the paragraph referred to.

(b) It is correct. It is hoped that the Bombay report will be received in February.

CLERKS' QUARTERS IN PHAGLI, SIMLA.

10. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 871 in the Legislative Assembly, on the 25th September, 1929, on the subject of "Shortage of 'B' Class Clerks' Quarters in Phagli, Simla", will Government please state if the question of constructing additional accommodation has since been considered and a decision arrived at?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The question of constructing additional residential accommodation is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

TERMINAL TAX ON GOODS ENTERING NEW DELHI.

11. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 887 in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th September, 1929, regarding "Imposition of a Terminal Tax on Goods entering New Delhi", will Government please state if the necessary preliminaries have since been considered?

(b) If so, with what results?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The preliminaries are still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERKS IN ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

12. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since considered the matter of "Appointment permanently of clerks provisionally appointed in Army Headquarters" (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 904(d) in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th September, 1929), and come to a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes, in all but two cases, which are still under consideration.

(b) Except for the two cases referred to, the individuals concerned have been confirmed in permanent vacancies.

SUPERSESSION OF CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

13. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 915(b) in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th September, 1929, on the subject of "Supersession of clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office", will Government please state if the Committee appointed for the purpose of determining the seniority of the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office has since considered the question and come to a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision for the information of the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) The Report is now under consideration.

AIR MAIL SERVICE AND AERONAUTICAL SCHOOL IN INDIA.

14. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they contemplate opening an air mail service in India?

(b) If so, do they propose to consider the question of starting a school of commercial aeronautics where flying and aeronautical engineering can be taught in their entirety, and where the youth of India can fit themselves for that line?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The Karachi-Delhi section of the Indian State Air Service was inaugurated on the 30th December, 1929.

(b) Not at present.

THE DACCA-ARICHA RAILWAY.

15. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 9th November, 1929, page 5, under the heading "Dacca-Aricha Railway—Appointment of Site Selection Committee"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the Chief Commissioner of Railways and the Commerce Member have since considered the proposal as a result of the deputation which waited on them and come to a decision in the matter?

(c) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Government have seen the paragraph mentioned.

(b) and (c). It is intended to proceed with the scheme as funds permit.

GRIEVANCES OF RAILWAYMEN.

16. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Searchlight* of the 30th October, 1929, page 11, under the heading "Grievances of Railwaymen"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the complaints made therein are correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state if they are willing to have the grievances complained of redressed?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIAN CADETS FOR SANDHURST.

17. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 19th November, 1929, page 12, under the heading "Indian Cadets—Eleven qualify for Sandhurst"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct?

(c) If correct, will Government please state what were the qualifications of the other five candidates, referred to therein?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b).— Yes.

(c) The information required by the Honourable Member is contained in the Press communiqués issued by the Government of India on the 20th September, 1929, and subsequent dates. For the sake of convenience, however, a consolidated list of candidates who were successful in the Army Air Force and Royal Indian Marine entrance examination held in June 1929 has been prepared and is placed on the table for the Honourable Member's information.

In the half-yearly Army, Air Force and Royal Indian Marine entrance examination held in June, 1929, the following candidates were declared successful:

For admission to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

1. *Bahadur Singh, Kanwar, Son of Major General Ap Onkar Singh, C.I.E., of Palaitha, Kotah State, Rajputana.
2. Bilimoria, Nasservanji Dhanjisha, Son of Mr. D. C. Bilimoria, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anand, Bombay Presidency. (Educated at the Gujrat College, Ahmedabad).
3. Dhargalkar, Krishna Purshotam, Son of Mr. Purshotam Dhargalkar, Dental Surgeon, Bombay. (Educated at the St. Xavier's College, Bombay).
4. Daulat Singh, Son of Rai Bahadur Dewan Dina Nath, Chief Minister, Mandi State, Punjab. (Educated at the Government College, Lahore).
5. Dutt, Raj Kumar, Son of Rai Bahadur P. N. Dutt, Registrar, Punjab University, Lahore, Punjab. (Educated at the Government College, Lahore).
6. *Gambhir Singh, Son of Major Thakur Karam Singh, Officer Commanding, State Forces, Tehri Garhwal State, United Provinces.
7. *Gurdip Singh, Son of Sardar Gurdit Singh, Village Khojki Chak, Pathankot, Punjab.
8. *Lachhman Singh Negi, Son of Subedar Major Sardar Bahadur Hans Ram Singh Negi. (Retired), Pauri, Garhwal, United Provinces.
9. *Rodrigues, Edward Augustus, Son of Sardar Bahadur J. N. Rodrigues, Yeotmal, Berar.
10. Sen, L. P., Son of Mr. Narendra Nath Sen, Barrister, Rangoon, Burma. (Educated at the Diocesan Boys' High School, Rangoon and at Leinster House School, London).
11. *Sheriff, Muhammad Khalilullah, Son of Subedar Major and Hony. Lieut. Muhammad Sheriff, (Retired), Vellore, Madras Presidency.

RAILWAY EARNINGS.

18. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 19th November, 1929, page 12, under the heading "Railway Earnings"?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what were the causes that led to the earnings for the week ending November 2nd being less than the figures for last week as well as for the corresponding week of the previous year?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes; the paragraph merely reproduces a part of the information published in a Press communiqué issued by the Railway Board.

*Educated at the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun.

(b) The principal decreases were in passenger traffic on the North Western, Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways; in food grains, oil seeds, sugar and jaggree traffic on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway; in cotton and metal traffic on the North Western Railway; Jute traffic on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE MECHNA RIVER.

19. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to question No. 13 in the Council of State on the 16th September, 1929, regarding the construction of a bridge over the Brahmaputra, will Government please state if they have since considered the question of the construction of a bridge over the Meghna River near Bhairab Bazaar?

(b) If so, will they please state when the construction work is likely to commence?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) Not before 1931-32.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMITTEES.

20. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to part (b) of my unstarred question No. 28 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, on the subject of expenditure incurred on Committees appointed by the Government of India and the effect of their recommendations, will Government please state if the information required therein has since been received?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government please furnish the information to the House?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Yes.

(b) The information promised was supplied to the Honourable Member on the 14th December, 1929. No further action seems necessary.

OPIUM-SMOKING.

21. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state if the legislation proposed by the Bengal Government has since been passed into law (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 31 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929) on the subject of the suppression of opium-smoking in the Central Provinces and Bengal?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: No, it is still under the consideration of the Local Government, who are making an extensive inquiry regarding the results of the registration of opium smokers elsewhere. This is expected to take some time.

EXTRA PAY FOR POSTAL OFFICIALS.

22. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 32 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding extra pay to postal officials for working on Sundays and holidays, will Government please state if any decision has yet been arrived at?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). No final decision has yet been reached.

UNBOOKED LUGGAGE OF THIRD CLASS RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

23. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 87 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, on the subject of unbooked luggage of third class passengers, will Government please state if the question was discussed at the meeting of the Central Advisory Council?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No. It was not reached at the meeting of the Council on September 21st.

(b) Does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER GANDAK.

24. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 38 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, will Government please state if the revised report regarding the construction of a railway bridge over the river Gandak, has since been examined and whether a decision has been arrived at thereon?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration. No decision has as yet been arrived at.

HAJ COMMITTEES IN INDIA.

25. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 40 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding Haj Committees in India, will Government please state if the information has since been collected?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the information received to the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement containing the information has been placed in the Library of the House.

PERMANENT CADRE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

26. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 984 in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th September, 1929, regarding the permanent cadre of the Public Works Department at Delhi, will Government please state if proposals in respect of the permanent cadre for the Delhi Public Works Department have since been considered and whether a decision has been arrived at?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Proposals in respect of a permanent cadre of the superior engineering staff required for the Delhi Public Works Department have recently been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. As regards the other staff required permanently for that Department, proposals are at present under preparation.

(b) The permanent cadre of the superior engineering staff, which has been sanctioned, includes the following posts:

- 1 Chief Engineership.
- 2 Superintending Engineerships.
- 6 Divisional posts.

The above cadre provides also for requirements for the central works in the United Provinces and the Punjab (including Simla).

ROYAL AIR FORCE METEOROLOGISTS.

27. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since considered the question of the renewal of contracts of Royal Air Force meteorologists and come to a decision in the matter (*vide* Government reply to part (a) of starred question No. 1012 in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes.

(b) It has been decided to make no change at present in the existing system.

LUGGAGE OF INTERMEDIATE AND THIRD CLASS RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

28. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to part (4) of unstarred question No. 230 in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th September, 1929, regarding the free allowance of luggage for intermediate and third class railway passengers, will Government please state if they have since considered the question and arrived at a conclusion in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their conclusion to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: As a result of the recommendation made by the Indian Railway Conference Association, the following revised scale of free allowance of luggage was introduced on the 15th December, 1929:

- 1st Class, 60 seers (no change).
- 2nd class, 40 seers.
- Intermediate class, 30 seers.
- 3rd class, 25 seers.

The Assam Bengal Railway introduced the revised scale on the 1st January, 1930, but some of the minor railways have not at present adopted it.

PROMOTIONS IN THE TRAFFIC BRANCH OF THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

29. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if a decision has yet been reached in the matter of promotions

to the second division in the Traffic Branch of the Telegraph Department (*vide* Government reply to part (a) of unstarred question No. 284 in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It has been decided that no examination should be instituted, at any rate for the present, in connection with promotions to the second division of the Traffic Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

REMUNERATION OF TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS.

30. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to unstarred question No. 236 in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th September, 1929, regarding loss sustained by telegraph messengers in the delivery of messages, will Government please state if they have since considered and come to a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

INDIANS REPATRIATED FROM THE COLONIES.

31. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have done anything to help the repatriates, *vide* Government reply to part (c) of question No. 78 in the Council of State on the 25th September, 1929, regarding unemployment among Indians born in the Colonies who have recently returned to India?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their conclusion to the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to a number of Indian repatriates who have taken up their abode at Matiabruz. For an explanation of the position, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given to Mr. Ranga Iyer's starred question No. 209 on the 6th September, 1928. It is regretted that it has not been found possible, so far, to do more for them than what was stated in the first part of the reply to part (c) of that question. The attempt to find an outlet for them in Malaya proved abortive.

THE RIKHIKESH-KARANPRAYAG RAILWAY EXTENSION.

32. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 22 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding the Report on the Rikhikesh-Karanprayag Railway extension, will Government please state if the report has since been received?

(b) If so, will they please lay a copy thereof on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) As the project is unremunerative and is therefore unlikely to be proceeded with further, the Report is not being printed; but I shall be pleased to show it to the Honourable Member at any time convenient to him.

COLLISION ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

33. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 42 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding the action taken in regard to a certain collision on the Bengal and North Western Railway, will Government please state if they have since completed their inquiry into the matter?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate the result of their inquiry to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The result of the inquiries made was communicated to the Honourable Member in a letter dated the 9th November. I am sorry if it failed to reach him. A copy is in the Library.

HOUSING CONDITIONS OF WORKMEN IN LILLOOAH.

34. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have since considered the question of the housing conditions of the workmen in Lillooah and arrived at a decision in the matter (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 47 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The question is still under consideration.

SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE OF PEONS IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

35. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have since been able to reach a decision in the matter of the increase in the subsistence allowance of peons in the Telegraph Department (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 48 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have recently placed before the Standing Finance Committee their proposals to introduce incremental scales of subsistence allowance for task work telegraph delivery peons at rates rising by four-anna increments from the existing fixed rates, to sums higher than those by five rupees. The Committee have approved of this scheme, and it is proposed that the change should have effect from the 1st April 1930.

INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

36. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have since considered and arrived at a decision in the matter of appointing Indian Trade Commissioners abroad (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 56 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: A detailed scheme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners abroad has been prepared and it is expected that a final decision will be reached shortly.

RAILWAY BETWEEN JAKHAL AND SIRSA.

37. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 57 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, on the subject of the opening of a broad gauge railway between Jakhal and Sirsa, will Government be pleased to state if they have since received the survey report?

(b) If so, will Government please state when the construction of the line is likely to be taken up?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). The survey report is still awaited.

EXAMINATION FOR THE TRAFFIC BRANCH OF THE POST OFFICE.

38. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 63 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, will Government please state if they have since considered and come to a decision in the matter of the introduction of an examination for the Traffic Branch of the Post Office?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The Traffic Branch clerks like those of the Postal, Engineering and Wireless Branches, will have to pass a departmental examination for promotion to the lowest selection grade.

MEMORIAL FROM THE MINISTERIAL STAFF IN CALCUTTA UNDER THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING.

39. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since been able to consider the memorial of the ministerial staff of the four offices in Calcutta under the Controller of Printing and arrived at a decision in the matter (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 64 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government have examined the memorial and are considering what action should be taken.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS ON THE BARSÌ LIGHT RAILWAY.

40. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to the Government reply to part (e) of starred question No. 1 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding insufficient accommodation for pilgrims on the Barsi Light Railway, will Government please state if the Railway Board have since considered the report of the Government Inspector of Railways and arrived at a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will Government please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The Agent of the Barsi Light Railway has stated that his Board of Directors have practically agreed to provide the extra rolling stock which the Government Inspector recommended as necessary in order to remedy the practice of carrying pilgrim passengers in goods wagons. One of the Directors of the Company is visiting the line this month when a final decision will be come to.

ORGANISATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN INDIA.

41. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since considered the recommendations of the Fletcher Committee on the organisation of medical research in India (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 12 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Fletcher Committee regarding the establishment of a Central Medical Research Institute at Dehra Dun. They have also agreed in principle to the constitution of a Recruitment and Appointments Board in India and a Consultative Board in Great Britain, but the actual composition of these Boards has not yet been finally settled. The proposal that any new appointments that may be added to the existing cadre of the Medical Research Department should be open equally to Indian Medical Service and non-Indian Medical Service candidates has also been accepted. Steps are also being taken to reconstitute the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association with a view to the inclusion in it of a certain number of non-officials. The recommendations of the Fletcher Committee concerning the future strength of the Medical Research Department, the emoluments of non-Indian Medical Service officers employed in that Department, the training of research workers and assistants and certain other matters of detail are still under consideration.

INDIAN ARMOURED CAR COMPANIES.

42. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the Secretary of State for India has since considered the question of formation of Indian armoured car companies and arrived at a decision in the matter [*vide* Government reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 21 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding the training of Indians at Sandhurst in departments other than cavalry and infantry]?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration and no decision has been reached.

MINIMUM RATES OF PAY IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

43. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 83 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, will Government please state if they have since been able to collect complete information regarding the minimum rates of pay for skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled labour in railway workshops?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any decision has been arrived at in the matter?

(c) If reply to part (b) be in the affirmative will Government please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The necessary information has been supplied to Mr. Jogiah and a copy of the reply has been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) and (c). It is not understood what the Honourable Member refers to as the previous question merely asked for information regarding rates of pay.

PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES.

44. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have yet been able to arrive at a decision in the matter of the prompt payment of wages (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 91 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will Government please state for the information of the House what their decision is?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

45. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the views of some of the Railway Administrations, regarding the education of the children of railway employees in India has since been received (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 92 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Most, but not all, of the Railway Administrations have replied. Their replies received are at present under examination.

RESTRICTION OF RECRUITMENT IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY.

46. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 93, in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, will Government please state if the Director General has since considered and come to a decision in the matter of the restriction of recruitment in the Postal Department of Bombay?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration by the Director General in connection with new rules for recruitment, of which the restriction referred to forms a part and must be considered with the whole.

PAY OF CLERKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH.

47. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 107 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding the reduction of the scales of pay of the clerical establishment, Government of India Press, Aligarh, will they please state if they have since considered and come to a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The effect on the clerical staff of the revision of the establishment of the Aligarh Press is as below:

(i) One clerical post on Rs. 70—3—100 was abolished.

(ii) The scale of two clerical posts on Rs. 80—4—120 was altered to Rs. 80—4—100.

(iii) Six clerical posts on Rs. 50—3—80 were substituted for six clerical posts previously on Rs. 35—2—75.

(iv) One new clerical post on Rs. 50—3—80 was created.

The post which was abolished was vacant at the time, and the existing incumbents of the two posts, the scale of which has been reduced, will be permitted to exercise their option of retaining the old scale.

RAILWAY FROM HAZARIBAGH ROAD STATION TO HAZARIBAGH TOWN.

48. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since received the results of the survey regarding the construction of a railway between Hazaribagh Road Station and Hazaribagh Town (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 109 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please state when the construction is likely to be taken up?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The results of the survey have not yet been received.

(b) Until they have been received and considered by the Railway Board, it is not possible to state if and when the construction is likely to be taken up.

THE CHAKIA-SIDHWALIA RAILWAY.

49. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the revised report regarding the construction of the Chakia-Sidhwalia Railway has since been examined (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 114 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please state when the construction of the line is likely to be taken up?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration. No decision has as yet been arrived at.

EXCLUSION OF INDIANS FROM SALE ROOMS IN LONDON.

50. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 118 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding the exclusion of Indians from commercial sale-rooms in London, will they please state if they have since received a reply from the High Commissioner, London, on the subject?

(b) If so, are they now in a position to place a copy of it on the table?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not propose to place on the table the communications which they have received on the subject from the High Commissioner. As the Honourable Member is doubtless aware, two Indian gentlemen have now been elected members of the Baltic Exchange and one of them has, in addition, been elected a member of the London Commercial Sale-rooms.

SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY ALLOWANCES FOR POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES.

51. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if any decision has yet been arrived at regarding the grant of Sunday and holiday allowances to Post Office employees (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 120 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please state their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). No final decision has yet been reached.

EMPLOYMENT OF ASSISTANT GUARDS AS GUARDS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

52. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to parts (b) and (c) of my unstarred question No. 129 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, regarding the employment of assistant guards as guards on the Bengal and North Western Railway, will they please state if they have since considered the question and arrived at a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Assistant guards who are qualified in guard's duties are utilised to work trains as guards as and when required, and when so employed for other than short periods are temporarily promoted to the rank of guard.

The position is being further looked into by the Agent with a view to seeing whether any further change in arrangements is necessary, having regard to the practice in this matter on other railways.

LATRINES FOR RAILWAY SERVANTS.

53. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to my unstarred question No. 134 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929, will Government please state if a final decision has yet been arrived at in the matter of the provision of latrines in servants' quarters on State Railways?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have issued orders to State-managed railways to fit lavatory accommodation in servants' compartments of all new carriages which are designed to run on services of over 50 miles between start and destination. Lavatories are also to be provided in the servants' compartments of existing upper class coaches employed on similar services. Instructions have been issued that the work on existing coaches should be completed within three years.

INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

54. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the question of appointing Indian Trade Commissioners at important trade centres in Europe has since been considered and a decision arrived at (*vide* Government reply to my unstarred question No. 137 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: A detailed scheme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in Europe has been prepared and it is expected that a final decision will be reached shortly.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEDICAL CONFERENCE IN 1928.

55. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to part (b) of starred question No. 108 in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th September, 1929, regarding the recommendations made by a conference of medical men in 1928, will Government please state if they have considered the resolutions referred to therein and come to a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their conclusion to the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Forty-six resolutions were passed by the Conference, and if the Honourable Member would be good enough to indicate in respect of which of these he desires information, I shall be glad to furnish it. I may, however, state generally that some of the resolutions are primarily the concern of Local Governments, some contain the opinion of the Conference on matters that have already been decided, some others have been found on examination to be impracticable, while in respect of some others action has already been taken to meet the recommendations of the Conference so far as possible. For instance, the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association has been reconstituted so as to provide for a larger non-official element, and steps are being taken to constitute a Recruitment Board for appointments in the Medical Research Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN CINEMATOGRAPH COMMITTEE.

56. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have yet reached a final conclusion in the consideration of the recommendations and the Report of the Indian Cinematograph Committee (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 137 in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their conclusion to the House?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) and (b). Government have not yet reached a final conclusion on the principal recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Committee, viz., the creation of a Central Cinema Bureau and the means suggested for improving the present system of censorship. The action taken on other recommendations of the Committee is shown in the attached statement.

Statement showing the action taken on the recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Committee.

Recommendations.	Action taken by Government.
*Chapter III and paragraphs 130—141, 144—151, 162, 164—166, 169—183, 185, and 188—199.	The main recommendation is the creation of a Central Cinema Bureau.
Paragraphs 140—142 . . .	Government have commended to Local Governments and Administrations the view that requests for the loan or use on hire of halls attached to educational institutions for cinema shows should be sympathetically considered.
Paragraph 156 . . .	Government have decided that they are unable at present to give effect to the proposal for abolition of duties on raw films.
Paragraph 158 . . .	The question of rebate of customs duty on Educational films is still under the consideration of Government.
Paragraph 168 . . .	Access to buildings controlled by the Archaeological Department is already allowed by Government subject to certain conditions. State-managed Railways have been advised to allow film producing companies the same concessions when travelling by railway as are admissible to <i>bona fide</i> professional entertainers, and Company-managed railways have been asked to grant the same concession on their lines.
Paragraph 187 . . .	The proposal for the abolition of the entertainment tax in respect of seats in cinemas has been referred to Local Governments for such action as they may consider necessary, as it is wholly a matter for their consideration.
Paragraphs 200—209 and 221—222.	Government have considered the question of the exhibition of Educational films as suggested, but are of the opinion that the consideration of the recommendations should await the formation of the proposed Central Cinema Bureau. As regards the exhibition of Public Health films, it is understood that some Local Governments have already taken action in that direction, and the consideration of the action to be taken by the Government of India has been deferred pending a decision on the question of the creation of a Central Bureau.
Paragraph 276 . . .	The question of assisting film producers with Archaeological memoirs, etc., will be considered if and when a Central Bureau has been formed.

FIRE IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY.

57. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since inquired into the cause of the fire in the office of the Executive Engineer of the Kangra Valley Railway at Palampur (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 202 in the Legislative Assembly on the 5th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their inquiry to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the reply sent to the Honourable Member who put the question is in the Library of the House.

SHORTAGE OF RESIDENCES FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN NEW DELHI.

58. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the question of building additional quarters has since been considered (*vide* Government reply to part (b) of starred question No. 254 in the Legislative Assembly on the 9th September, 1929, regarding the scarcity of residential accommodation in New Delhi for Government officials)?

(b) If so, will they please state when the construction of additional quarters is likely to be taken up?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The question of building additional quarters is receiving consideration, and pending a decision on the general question it is proposed to construct 36 class 'B' orthodox quarters for clerks during the next financial year.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN AJMER.

59. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 276 in the Legislative Assembly on the 10th September, 1929, regarding the poor results and increased cost of Government educational institutions in Ajmer in 1929, will Government please state if they have since completed their inquiry into the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their inquiry to the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) The information, as supplied to the Honourable Member who had put the question referred to, is laid on the table.

No. 276 (b) The work of an institution should be judged by its results taken over a number of years and not by its relative lack of success in any particular year. There are every now and again bad batches of students, and there are changes in the standard of examinations, which contribute to fluctuations in examination results. In addition there were considerable changes in the staff of the Government high schools—changes which were inevitable on account of some of the officers taking leave—which led to some dislocation of work.

(d) Government are unable to accept the presumption that public money is not being properly used. They will, however, invite the attention of the Local Administration to the fall in the percentage of successes in examination results.

INTRODUCTION OF A STAFF BENEFIT FUND ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

60. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to part (a) of starred question No. 372 in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1929, will Government please state if the Staff Benefit Fund has yet been introduced on Indian Railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: No.

QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS AND FEES CHARGED IN THE LADY IRWIN GIRLS' SCHOOL, SIMLA.

61. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to parts (e), (f) and (g) of starred question No. 413 in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1929, regarding the number and qualifications of teachers and fees charged in the Lady Irwin Girls' School, Simla, will Government please state if the matter has since been re-examined?

(b) If so, with what results?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) The Governing Body of the school have been invited to consider the desirability of altering the rates of fees.

GRANT FOR THE LADY IRWIN GIRLS' SCHOOL, SIMLA.

62. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since considered the application for an increased grant-in-aid to the Lady Irwin Girls' School in Simla and come to a decision in the matter (*vide* Government reply to part (c) of starred question No. 414 in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have decided to give the school a special additional grant of Rs. 2,000 for the current financial year.

PROMOTION FROM LOCAL TO SUPERIOR TRAFFIC SERVICE ON RAILWAYS.

63. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to part (b) of starred question No. 422 in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1929, on the subject of the number of Local Traffic Service men to be promoted to the Superior Traffic Service, will Government please state if the question of selection of the men to the Superior Service has since been considered by the Railway Board?

(b) If so, will they please give the total number of men in the Local Traffic Service, stating how many of them are to be promoted to the Superior Service and how many of the latter are direct recruits?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Selections for promotion are made once a year. The selections for the year 1929-30 have been considered by the Railway Board and are now under discussion with the Public Service Commission.

(b) The information asked for by the Honourable Member will be supplied to him after the selections have been finally decided upon.

TIME-TEST FOR THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

64. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the Director General has since considered the report of Mr. G. V. Bewoor, a Postmaster General on the time-test of the Postal Department and if his views have yet reached Government (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 437 in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please state for the information of the House what the views of the Director General were and whether they were accepted by Government?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have under consideration the views submitted by the Director General, but are not prepared to communicate them to the House. Government have not yet reached a decision on the Report.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO POSTMEN IN DELHI FOR DELIVERY OF FOREIGN MAILS.

65. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has since considered the question of the grant to postmen in Delhi of an extra duty allowance for delivery of foreign mails and come to a decision in the matter (*vide* Government reply to part (b) of starred question No. 476 in the Legislative Assembly on the 16th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). No decision has yet been reached.

FIELD MANŒUVRES OF INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCES.

66. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to supplementary question to starred question No. 555 in the Legislative Assembly on 17th September, 1929, on the subject of field manœuvres of the Indian Territorial Force and University Training Corps, will Government please state if they have since considered the question of allowing the Territorial Forces to take part in the regular manœuvres of the Regular Army, and arrived at a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware, the Indian Territorial Force consists of units scattered all over the country, and their periods of embodiment are necessarily short. But every opportunity will be taken to permit units, during their periods of training, to take part in the operations of regular troops, if there are any going on in the neighbourhood at the time.

MEMORIAL FROM LINO AND MONO OPERATORS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

67. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to part (c) of starred question No. 624 in the Legislative Assembly on the 18th September, 1929, on the subject of a memorial from the lino and mono operators of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, will Government please state if they have since considered the memorial and come to a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The memorial is still under the consideration of Government.

PAY OF READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS.

68. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since inquired into the matter of the pay of readers in the Government of India Press (*vide* Government reply to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 628 in the Legislative Assembly on the 18th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their inquiry to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). Yes, the result of the inquiry was communicated to Mr. S. C. Mitra in the demi-official letter from the Department of Industries and Labour No. A. 332, dated the 23rd October, 1929, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the Legislative Assembly.

MEMORIAL FROM EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS.

69. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 635 in the Legislative Assembly on the 18th September, 1929, on the subject of a memorial from certain employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press, will Government be pleased to state if the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, has yet dealt with the memorial?

(b) If so, will they please state if they have considered and passed orders on it?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please lay a copy of their orders on the table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Intimation has been received from the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, that, except in regard to the appeals regarding wages and increments, which are still under examination, the appeals relating to other matters have been dealt with by the Agent.

When the former have been dealt with, a statement will be placed in the Library.

ISSUE OF CHEAP RETURN TICKETS ON RAILWAYS.

70. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to supplementary question to starred question No. 658 in the Legislative Assembly on the 18th September, 1929, regarding the issue of cheap return tickets on railways, will Government be pleased to state if they have since looked into the question of issuing third and intermediate class return tickets at single fares during Puja, Christmas, Easter and Moharrum, and arrived at a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The question of issuing third and intermediate class return tickets generally is still under examination.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENTS OF STAMP VENDORS.

71. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if they have since considered the question of appointments of stamp vendors, and arrived at a decision in the matter (*vide* Government reply to unstarred question No. 184 in the Legislative Assembly on the 18th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) No decision has yet been reached.

(b) Does not arise.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS IN "D" CLASS QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

72. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 707 in the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd September, 1929, on the subject of electric lights in 'D' Class quarters in New Delhi, will Government please state if they have yet considered and arrived at a decision in the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the decision arrived at to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE MIGRATORY STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

73. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have since considered the question of starting an additional school (moving between Delhi and Simla) in order to remove the trouble in connection with the education of the sons of the migratory staff of the Government of India and come to a decision in the matter (*vide* Government reply to starred question No. 714 in the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE MIGRATORY STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

74. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) With reference to Government reply to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 715 in the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd September, 1929 on the subject of facilities for the education of the children of the migratory staff of the Government of India, will Government please state whether they have considered the matter and arrived at a decision thereon?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision for the information of the House?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

THIRD AND INTERMEDIATE CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON THE PESHAWAR-MANGALORE EXPRESS TRAIN.

75. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if they have inquired from the Railway Administrations as to whether any steps can be taken to improve third and intermediate class accommodation on the Continental Express from Peshawar to Mangalore (*vide* Government reply to supplementary question to starred question No. 762 in the Legislative Assembly on the 24th September, 1929)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their inquiry to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: As stated in Mr. Rau's reply to question No. 762 on the 24th September, the provision of an intermediate class compartment in these through coaches is not practicable, as the railways over which it passes do not all issue intermediate class tickets. As regards a third class reserved compartment for ladies, the Agents of the railways concerned report that the number of through long distance third class passengers by this train is not sufficient to warrant the reservation of a third class compartment for ladies in the through third class coach, though such a compartment is provided in one of the other coaches on the train.

HOURS OF REST OF THE STAFF OF THE SUCTION DREDGER "VIZAGAPATAM".

76. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 805 in the Legislative Assembly on the 24th September, 1929, regarding hours of rest of the staff of the Suction Dredger "Vizagapatam," will Government please state if they have made inquiries into the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their inquiries to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Subordinate staff of the Suction Dredger "Vizagapatam" are allowed to live on the dredger without charge for accommodation, but are free to live on shore if they wish to do so. The lower ratings receive no house allowance, but their pay is consolidated to comprise a ration allowance, as is customary with men of their ratings when serving afloat. Any question of a house allowance for them would raise that of the continuance of their ration allowance.

The staff work in two shifts of nine hours each only during the 24 hours, although a few of them are required to be on duty for the execution of minor repairs during the remaining six hours.

No complaint has been received from the staff regarding the conditions of their service.

COLLECTION OF EXCESS FARES BY TICKET COLLECTORS.

77. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply to the last supplementary question to starred question No. 857 in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th September, 1929, on the subject of the collection of a minimum amount of excess fares by ticket collectors, will Government please state if they have inquired into the matter?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result of their inquiry to the House?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: It has been ascertained from the Agent of the Bengal and North Western Railway that there are not and never have been any orders to the effect suggested in force on his railway.

PROFESSORS SELECTED FOR THE SASTRI COLLEGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

78. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the speech published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 1st December, 1929, page 10, under the heading "Indian Education in South Africa—Dawn of New Era—Sastri College opened by Earl of Athlone"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state the names and qualifications of the six professors selected for the College from India?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member presumably wishes to know whether it has been arranged that six teachers should go from India to serve on the staff of the college. The answer is, yes.

(c) The selection of teachers has not yet been completed.

REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

79. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Star of Allahabad* of the 2nd December, 1929, page 1, under the heading "Mr. Wedgwood Benn and India"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct?

(c) If correct, will Government please state by what time the terms of reference and the procedure proposed for the election of the representatives for the Round Table Conference are expected to be announced?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I have not seen the article referred to by the Honourable Member, nor am I in a position to make any statement on the matters to which his question refers.

LABOUR IN INDIAN STATES.

80. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the replies given by the Secretary of State for India on the subject of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, published at page 828 of the Journal of the Parliaments of the Empire Vol. X, No. 4, for the month of October 1929?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state if any inquiry was made from the Government by the Secretary of State regarding the Labour question in Indian States?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

TIMINGS OF TRAINS CONNECTING AT NAGPUR.

81. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 4th December, 1929, page 5, under the heading "Improved Lighting on Bengal Nagpur Railway—Narrow Gauge Line"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the Chairman of the Railway Advisory Committee has since received from the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway a census report of passengers travelling through the Bengal Nagpur Railway system off the Grand Trunk Express?

(c) If so, will they please state if the proposal regarding alteration in the timings of No. 1, Down Bombay Mail or Down Passenger Train to provide a connection at Nagpur with the north-bound Grand Trunk Express has been further examined as proposed by the Committee?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) In view of the answer to part (b), this question does not at present arise.

RAILWAYMEN'S WAGES.

82. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 5th December, 1929, page 18, under the heading "Railwaymen's Wages"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct?

(c) If not, will they please place on the table a statement showing how the figures regarding an increase in wages of over 170 per cent. to the workmen of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway between the years 1918—1929, as stated by the Agent have been arrived at?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The information has just been obtained and a statement in a convenient form will be prepared and laid on the table of the House very shortly.

AIR MAIL PASSENGERS.

83. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state the approximate number of persons who have travelled by the air mail from India to Great Britain and from Great Britain to India since the establishment of the service up to the present?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government have no information.

CONFERENCE OF ASIATIC WORKERS.

84. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Geneva telegram published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 6th December, 1929, at page 9, under the heading "Asiatic workers—Conference in India next Spring"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statements made therein are correct?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information beyond what they have seen in the newspapers.

APPOINTMENT OF VAKILS AS JUSTICES.

85. Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 8th December, 1929, page 9, under the heading "Vakils as Justices—M. P.'s Bill to remove disqualification"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the report is correct?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) and (b). The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

APPOINTMENT OF SIKHS IN THE SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICES OF CERTAIN OFFICES.

86. Sardar Gulab Singh: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of posts in the Subordinate Accounts Service in each of the undermentioned offices in New Delhi and to what community and Province the holders of these belong?

- (1) Office of the Auditor General;
- (2) Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues;
- (3) Office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs;
- (4) Office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs;
- (5) Office of the Director of Railway Audit;
- (6) Office of the Controller of Railway Accounts;
- (7) Office of the Central Accounts Officer, Public Works Department;
- (8) Office of the Pay and Accounts Officer, Secretariat;
- (9) Office of the Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department;
- (10) Office of the Audit Officer, Delli Experiment;

(b) Is it a fact that there is not a single Sikh in the Subordinate Accounts Service in any one of the above offices?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take to give the Sikh minority community their due share in this service?

(d) In case there is a great preponderance of only one nationality and province in any one of the above mentioned offices, are Government prepared to stop further recruitment of that community and the men of that province until the other provinces and the minority communities are well represented? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) and (d). A few appointments to the Subordinate Accounts Service are made direct, on probation, subject to passing of the regular examination within a definite space of time. The Auditor General has already given orders that one-third of the appointments so made should be given to members of minority communities. The great majority of appointments to the Subordinate Accounts Service consists of promotions of members of the clerical and divisional accountants' services who have passed the prescribed examination. Such departmental promotions are and must continue to be regulated by considerations of seniority and merit.

Distribution of holders of posts by

Serial No.	Name of Office.	Total No. of Subordinate Account Service posts.	Community.					Province.					Remarks.	
			Hindus.	Moham madans.	Euro-peans.	Parsees.	Punjab.	Bengal.	Madras.	Bombay	United Pro-vinces.	Delhi.		
1	Auditor General.	33	31	..	1	..	4	14	8	..	1	4	1	One post is vacant.
2	Accountant General, Central Re-venues.	34	32	2	..	..	6	20	1	..	6	1	1	Ac-countant was not born in India.
3	Accountant Gen-eral, Posts and Telegraphs.	8	8	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	..	2	..	
4	Deputy Account-ant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi.	15	12	2	..	1	3	1	2	1	1	7	..	
5	Director of Rail-way Audit.	9	8	1	..	..	5	1	2	..	1	..	..
6	Controller of Rail-way Accounts.	7	6	1	..	..	3	1	3	..	..	..	..
7	Central Accounts Office, Public Works Depart-ment, Delhi.	9	8	1	..	..	5	1	1	..	1	1	..	
8	Pay and Accounts Office Secreta-riat.	3	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..
9	Office, Indian Stores Department.	16	16	..	..	..	1	15	..	..	..	..	..
10	Audit Office, Delhi Experi-ments.													

The staff of this office is borne on the cadre of the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, and the figures given above for that office include the information relating to this office.

UNSUITABLE SITE FOR QUARTERS AT PAHAR GANJ, DELHI.

87. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that about a hundred of "E" type quarters have been constructed near Pahar Ganj in Delhi?

(b) If so, will Government please state the names of the engineers who selected the site?

(c) Is it a fact that quite close to the quarters there is much night-soil and filth making the atmosphere altogether dirty and full of bad smells?

(d) Has the Honourable Member of the Industries and Labour Department ever visited that area in the evening?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) Sir Alexander Rouse, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Delhi.

(c) There is a temporary pail shoot in the vicinity of the site which it is intended to remove before the quarters are occupied.

At a distance to the north of the quarters, a portion of land which is within the limits of the Delhi Municipality, is being used as a refuse dump. Proposals to have the dumping in this area stopped are under consideration.

(d) No.

WILD BOAR SHOOTING ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER JUMNA.

88. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if wild boar shooting is prohibited on the banks of the Jumna river in the Province of Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that certain peons of the respective tent clubs prevent people from shooting wild boars on the banks of the Jumna river?

(c) Is it a fact that by the illegal prevention the number of wild boars has gone up considerably and is doing great damage to the crops on and near the banks of the Jumna river?

(d) If any part of the Jumna river banks in the Delhi Province is preserved, are Government prepared to mark the boundary and put sign boards?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Sardar Kartar Singh's starred question No. 166 on the 5th September, 1929.

AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND KARACHI.

89. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news reported at page 9 of the issue of the *Statesman* of the 12th December, 1929, under the heading "Bombay-Karachi by air—Report of signing of a contract"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the news published therein is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state the date by which the service is to begin?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF VAKILS AS CHIEF JUSTICES.

90. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the House of Commons has passed the first reading of Mr. Graham Pole's Bill to remove the disqualification of vakils from the office of Chief Justices in Indian High Courts, as reported in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 13th December, 1929, page 9, under the heading 'Vakils Bill Progress'?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: Yes.

MATCH FACTORIES IN INDIA.

91. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (i) Will Government be pleased to state how many match factories there are in all in (a) British India, and (b) the Native States in India, respectively?

(ii) What is the total output of each of these in (a) British India, and (b) the Native States in India?

(iii) What is the capital invested in each of these?

(iv) How many of these factories are owned by (a) foreign capitalists, and (b) Indian capitalists?

(v) What are the facilities provided by the State for the encouragement, support and uplift of the indigenous match trade?

(vi) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Industries and Labour Department, please state, (a) from where the most up-to-date, economic and efficient machinery can be had, and (b) whether any such information or literature has freely been given to the public at large through the Press?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The information is being collected and will be forwarded later.

SUPERSESSION OF GENERAL SKEEN.

92. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that:

(i) General Sir Andrew Skeen has been superseded in his rank by a far junior officer; and

(ii) the Anglo-Indians did not approve of Sir Andrew's report regarding the Indianisation of the military services in India?

Mr. G. M. Young: (i) No, Sir. Sir Andrew Skeen has not been superseded by anyone. The vacancy in the establishment of full Generals of the Indian Army caused by his retirement has been filled by the appointment of the senior Lieutenant-General on the list.

(ii) I do not know to whom the Honourable Member refers by the designation "the Anglo-Indians". There is no foundation, however, for the suggestion that Sir Andrew Skeen's retirement was not due to medical grounds, or that it was in any way connected with the Report of the

Indian Sandhurst Committee. Sir Andrew Skeen had been selected for the post of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, and would have been appointed to that post if he had been medically fit.

INDIAN CANDIDATES FOR THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

98. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the total number of candidates who applied to the Selection Board in India for permanent commissions to the Indian Medical Service in the month of July last;
- (ii) the number of Indian candidates that were recommended for consideration by the India Office, who applied for the permanent commissions while residing in India;
- (iii) the number of Indian candidates separately from India and England, who were approved for the permanent commission, and their respective qualifications;
- (iv) the number of the candidates declared unfit by the Medical Board;
- (v) the number of candidates put on the waiting list separately from India and England, along with their respective qualifications; and
- (vi) the numbers of rejected candidates for permanent commissions from India and England separately, with their respective qualifications?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if the rejected candidates could reapply at any subsequent selection? If the reply is in the negative, will Government please give reasons?

(c) Are Government aware that no such clause, indicating that a rejected candidate shall not re-apply, exists in the current rules and regulations for appointment by selection to the permanent commission in the Indian Medical Service?

(d) Do Government propose to alter or amend the rules and regulations to enable such candidates to re-apply at any subsequent selection, provided they have also by that time improved their academic qualifications and experiences as desired?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) (i). 124 candidates applied for permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service between August 1927, when the last selection was made, and the holding of the Selection Board in July 1929.

(ii) 17.

(iii) Eight Indian candidates from India and five from England were approved for appointment in existing vacancies. A statement showing their qualifications is placed on the table.

(iv) Six.

(v) Nine approved candidates from India and one from England were placed on the waiting list. A statement showing their qualifications is placed on the table.

(vi) 22 candidates were finally rejected by the Indian Selection Board. A statement showing their qualifications is placed on the table. Three Indian candidates had previously been rejected by the India Office Selection Board. 32 candidates were not selected for immediate commissions, but were permitted to apply to appear before the next Selection Board.

(b), (c) and (d). There is nothing to prevent any rejected candidate from re-applying at any subsequent selection. The Selection Board does, however, classify candidates into the three main categories of suitable, possible and definitely unsuitable. Those placed in the last category are informed that further applications from them will not be considered, and it is obviously both in the interests of the applicants themselves and the efficient working of the Board that some such procedure should be observed. Government do not consider that any alteration in the existing practice is called for.

Statement showing the qualifications of Indian candidates who were approved for permanent commissions in the I. M. S.

FROM INDIA (8).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.O.M.S. (Lond.), D.L.O. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Allahabad).

M.R.C.S. (Eng.); L.R.C.P. (Lond.), L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), L.M.(Dublin), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.M.T. (Liverpool).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Passed Primary F.R.C.S.I.

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Aberdeen).

B.Sc. (Punjab), M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.).

FROM ENGLAND (5).

M.B.B.S. (Madras), F.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.), L.M. (Dub.), M.M.&P. (Lond.), Primary F.R.C.S. (I.), Preparing for final F.R.C.S. (I.), M.R.C.P.

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Studying for F.R.C.S.

M.B. (Cal.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

M.B. (Cal.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Preparing for B. Sc. Honours (Lond.), and D.O.M.S. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), D.P.H. (Camb.), D.T.M. & H. (Camb.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Preparing for M.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Statement showing the qualifications of Indian candidates who were placed on the waiting list for I. M. S. commissions.

FROM INDIA (9).

M.B., Ch. B. (Edin.).

M.B., Ch. B. (Edin.).

M.D. (Harvard, U.S.A.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.), L.M. (Dub.).

M.B., Ch. B. (St. And.), D.T.M. & H. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. (Lond.).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab), F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

M.B., Ch. B. (Edin.), D.T. M. (Liverpool), M.D. (Edin.), clinical.

M.B., Ch. B. (St. And.), L.D.S. (St. And.).

M.B.B.S. (Bombay), M.R.C.P. (Edin.), D.T.M. (Liverpool), T.D.D. (Wales).

FROM ENGLAND (1).

M.B., Ch. B. (Edin.), D.T.M. (Liverpool), M.D. (Edin.), clinical.

Statement showing the qualifications of candidates for permanent commissions in the Indian Medical Service who were rejected by the Selection Board in India. (22).

M.B.B.S. (Punjab).
 M.B.B.S. (Madras).
 M.B.,Ch.B. (Leeds).
 M.B.B.S. (Allahabad), D.P.H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Bombay), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M.&H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).
 L.R.C.P.&S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.&S. (Glasgow), D.T.M. (Liverpool), L.M. (Dublin).
 M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Madras), B.Sc. (Madras).
 M.B. (Calcutta), B.Sc. (Calcutta).
 L.M. (Dublin), L.R.C.P.&S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.&S. (Glasgow).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M.&H. (Lond.).
 M.B.B.S. (Madras), D.O.M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.)
 L.R.C.P.&S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.&S. (Glasgow).
 M.R.C.P. (Edin.), L.R.C.P.&S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.&S. (Glasgow), D.T.M. (Liverpool),
 L.M. (Dublin), D.T.M.&H. (Camb.), Pt. 1.
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M.&H. (Lond.), L.M. (Dublin).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. (Liverpool).
 F.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.C.P.&S. (Edin.), L.R. F.P.&S. (Glasgow).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.O.M.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.), L.M. (Dublin).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. (Liverpool).
 L.R.C.P.&S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.&S. (Glasgow).
 M.B.B.S. (Punjab), D.T.M. (Liverpool), D.P.H. (Lond.), L.M. (Dublin).

APPOINTMENT OF A HINDU AS MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

94. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (i) Is it a fact that since the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform scheme in India, (a) the first Member in charge of the Education, Health and Lands Department was a Muslim, (b) the second Member selected for the same place was also a Muslim, and (c) the third Member that has just recently succeeded to the same place is also a Muslim?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to acquaint the House with the relative proportion of Muslims and Hindus employed in the Department concerned in the years 1920-21, 1921-22, 1925-26, and 1928-29?

(iii) Will Government be pleased to state if this appointment of the Member has been exclusively reserved for the Muslim community alone?

(iv) If the answer to part (iii) is in the negative, do Government intend to select a Hindu Member to take charge after the present Member retires, provided a really capable and an efficient hand be available?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (i) The first Member in charge of the Education, Health and Lands Department was Sir B. N. Sarma. The second Member was Sir Muhammad Habibullah, who is still in charge, and his successor will, as already announced, be Sir Fazl-i-Husain.

(ii) The Department of Education, Health and Lands was created in 1928, by the amalgamation of the Departments of Revenue and Agriculture and of Education and Health. The percentage of Hindus and Muslims in the years 1921, 1922, 1926 and 1929 was as follows:

	1st January 1921.		1st January 1922.	
	Hindus.	Muslims.	Hindus.	Muslims.
Department of Revenue and Agriculture	45.45	21.82	45.45	21.82
Department of Education and Health	51.43	25.71	46.15	25.64

	1st June 1926.		1st June 1929.	
	Hindus.	Muslims.	Hindus.	Muslims.
Department of Education, Health and Lands.	48.31	23.59	54.65	23.25

(iii) It will be apparent from what I have already stated that this is not the case.

(iv) Portfolios are allotted to Honourable Members of Council at the discretion of the Governor General.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA.

95. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that discontent due to unemployment in England has recently been met by the introduction of a law to provide pensions to the unemployed and helpless people there?

(b) Do Government intend to consider the problem of unemployment in India as well, a bit more seriously, and to devise some means to curb its rapid increase by putting a similar Bill before this House at their earliest possible convenience?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Government are aware that in England there is compulsory insurance against unemployment for persons engaged in certain specified occupations.

(b) The question of unemployment is in India a matter which is primarily the concern of Provincial Governments. In this connection the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 25th September, 1929, to Dr. Moonje's starred question No. 852.

FLUCTUATIONS IN THE PRICE OF GOVERNMENT PAPER.

96. **Mr. E. F. Sykes:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the price of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Government paper rose in the two years from 1925 to 1927 from 68 to 78 and in the following two years receded again to 68?

(b) Will Government let the House know the causes of those wide fluctuations and how far they are due to world causes and how far to causes over which the Government of India has control?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) Fluctuations are caused partly by world causes and partly by causes which are local to India, though as regards the latter the factors which

are operative may be beyond the control of the Government. The relative importance of the factors which are not local to India can be approximately gauged by studying the course of the securities of other countries. For example, British Government Conversion Loan fell from 77 in 1927 to 72½ in 1929. As regards the relative importance of local factors, this is to some extent a matter of opinion, but I shall be pleased to give the Honourable Member a fuller explanation if he will communicate with me personally. In the meanwhile, I would refer him to the annual reports of the Controller of the Currency and to the speech which I made in introducing the Budget last year, in which I reviewed the Government policy of capital expenditure and borrowing during the past years.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

97. **Mr. E. F. Sykes:** Will the Government kindly lay on the table or put in the Library a revised copy of Table 7 in Vol. II of the Administration Report on Indian Railways for the year 1927-28, replacing the column "Per cent. of gross earnings" by two columns headed "per net ton mile" and "per passenger mile" respectively?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The compilation of the figures required will necessitate a considerable amount of clerical labour and Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by such compilation.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE NEW INDIAN STERLING LOAN.

98. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 19th December, 1929, page 8, under the heading "Today's News" to the effect that "The New Indian Loan for £6,000,000 has been oversubscribed by more than £2,000,000"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the report is correct?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) The report is correct except that the use of the term "Indian Loan" to describe an issue of India Bills is not strictly accurate.

THE DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

99. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 26th October, 1929, page 15, under the head "Problem for Delhi Municipality—Future Status—Government Property Control Question"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the creation of a Municipal Corporation for Old and New Delhi including notified areas, as reported therein is under contemplation.

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government of India.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

100. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report published in the issue of the *Statesman* of 22nd November, 1929, page 9, under the heading "Indian affairs—Government to set up a joint committee"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made therein are correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state the time when a motion to the effect is expected to be moved in the House of Lords?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The motion was agreed to by the House of Lords on the 5th December and the House of Commons concurred on the 19th December last.

OPENING OF A RAILWAY STATION AT NANDGAON BORSANA.

101. **Mr. Mukhtar Singh:** Are Government aware that Nandgaon Borsana, Muttra District, is a place of pilgrimage and Railway trains pass by this place? If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if there is any difficulty in opening a railway station at this place?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am obtaining the information from the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and I will communicate it to the Honourable Member.

POSTAL DELAYS.

102. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 27th December, 1929, page 8, under the heading "Postal delays"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statements made therein are wholly or partly correct?

(c) If correct, will Government please state what steps they are going to take to remove the grievances complained of?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I have no information, but inquiries are being made. Such action will be taken as the results of the inquiries show to be necessary, and the facts will be communicated to the Honourable Member hereafter.

PAY OF NON-GAZETTED STAFF OF THE CURRENCY OFFICE, LAHORE.

103. **Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that the scales of pay of the non-Gazetted staff of the Currency Office at Lahore are lower than those of the Currency Office at Madras?

(b) Is it a fact that Government of India on the basis of the comparative costs of living and the economic conditions prevailing in the various provinces have invariably classed Lahore above Madras in determining the scales of pay of the clerical and the Subordinate Accounts Service establishments of the Audit Office?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take early steps to redress the grievances of the staff of the Currency Office at Lahore by removing the apparent anomaly in the classification and restoring Lahore to its former position above Madras?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The Government are obtaining certain information to enable them to reply fully to the Honourable Member's question. A further answer will be sent to him as soon as possible.

GRIEVANCES OF RAILWAY STATION STAFFS.

104. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that (1) racial discrimination is freely practised in the Eastern Bengal Railway, (2) the "C" class important stations (scales of pay Rs. 420—20—500) are exclusively reserved for European and Anglo-Indian station-masters and that there is not a single Indian in this grade, (3) no facilities for education are afforded to the children of the Indian employees posted at a station where there is no school, whereas these facilities are always given to the European and the Anglo-Indian employees, (4) housing arrangements of the subordinates and menial staff are hopelessly poor in the Eastern Bengal Railway, (5) there is no proper arrangement for drinking water at many stations which are hot beds of malaria, (6) arrangements for medical aid to Railway employees and their family at out-stations is hopelessly poor, (7) no arrangements are made by the Eastern Bengal Railway to fill up the ditches and borrow-pits near the Staff Quarters although stagnant water accumulates there, breeds mosquitoes and forms poisonous gas—detrimental to the health of the staff?

(b) If the state of things described in the above question is correct what steps do Government propose to take to remove the grievances?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a). (1) No.

(a) (2) to (7) and (b). I am making inquiries and will communicate the result to the Honourable Member on receipt.

INCOME-TAX LEVIED ON CANTONMENT PROVIDENT FUNDS.

105. **Mr. K. O. Roy:** (a) Is it a fact that income-tax is levied on contributions to the Cantonment Provident Fund made by Cantonment Fund servants?

(b) Are Government aware that the contributions made by servants of all other local bodies to their respective Provident Funds are exempt from the payment of the tax?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to remove this distinction?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) It is true that such contributions are not allowed as deductions from the taxable income for assessment to income-tax.

(b) Such subscriptions to a Provident Fund of a local authority are exempt from tax under section 15 of the Indian Income-tax Act (XI of 1922) if the Local Government has directed under section 8 of the Provident Funds Act (XIX of 1925) that the provisions of the latter Act shall apply to such Fund.

(c) Local Governments and Administrations have been asked recently to extend the provisions of the Provident Funds Act to the Provident Funds of cantonment authorities. The following Governments and Administrations, namely, Madras, Bihar and Orissa, Assam, Baluchistan, North West Frontier Province, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Hyderabad, Central India and Baroda have already extended the Act, or will extend it soon. Replies have not been received from other Local Governments and Administrations.

RESOLUTION *RE* ATTEMPT TO WRECK THE VICEROY'S TRAIN.

Sardar Gulab Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, there is no denying the fact that His Excellency

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will read his motion first.

Sardar Gulab Singh: I beg to move:

"That this Assembly heartily congratulates Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Irwin on their miraculous escape from the dastardly attempt to blow up their train near Delhi, and this House very strongly detests and condemns the insensate outrage."

(Applause.)

Sir, there is no denying the fact that His Excellency Lord Irwin's regime of the Viceroyalty in India has, so far, been a period of prudence and sympathy and a rule of remarkable equilibrium. Unlike some of his countrymen, His Excellency Lord Irwin has been fighting our cause in India and at home as best as his person, place and office could permit. Even in the teeth of a bitter opposition from the Press at Home he has been literally true to his word of honour.

His Excellency went to England last year as an ambassador of India and he did all what he could do there, even in the face of such an unfavourable atmosphere. He came to India when very few other men could have dared to face the country at such a political juncture, and permit me to say to my Honourable colleagues that he is performing his duties in such an efficient and appropriate manner that he enjoys the fullest confidence of our countrymen at large to-day. His name will most surely go down to history coupled with the names of Messrs. Hoover and MacDonald as the greatest peace-maker of our times. He spared neither occasion nor risk to do for India whatever lay in his province, and is acting as a true and an honest personage.

We heard with a very painful surprise that the life of the man of such professions and virtues was attacked. But we are extremely pleased to know that the attempt on Their Excellencies' life has met with the universal contempt and detestation that it deserved, through the agencies of the Indian Press and Pulpit alike, and that Their Excellencies have been shown a general and an all-round sympathy by the public of every shade and description. We are very glad to learn that His Excellency has taken the mishap in the proper spirit, and we are further glad to read His Excellency's declaration that the catastrophe will not cause the least divergence from the policy that has been taken up and established by the Government of India.

[Sardar Gulab Singh.]

Although the miscreants have given out that their motive was not to kill, we should assert that if we are fighting our battles against the present system of Government on the one hand, we shall equally oppose the anarchy on the other. It is very fortunate that Providence has saved Their Excellencies from any sort of calamity. Therefore we should congratulate Their Excellencies on their escape; and, with your permission, I move, Sir, that:

"This Assembly heartily congratulates Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Irwin on their miraculous escape from the dastardly attempt to blow up their train near Delhi, and this House very strongly detests and condemns the insensate outrage."

The Honourable Sir James Orerar (Home Member): Mr. President, I desire in a very few words, on behalf of Government, to endorse very cordially the terms of the motion which has been moved by Sardar Gulab Singh. I am sure that he has quite correctly represented the truth when he alludes to the shock of horror and consternation with which the news of this outrage was received throughout India. I may, perhaps, be permitted to quote a few words from the Message published by His Excellency the Viceroy in response to the numerous messages he received on that occasion. He says:

"Since the day on which an attempt was made by the explosion of a bomb to derail my train a few miles from New Delhi, I have received from every quarter of India hundreds of messages congratulating me and those who were travelling with me on the failure of the attempt, and repudiating utterly and without reservation the action of those who originated and carried out the design.

Every class and every community have joined in this universal condemnation; Ruling Princes and people of India; associations political, commercial, social and communal; and individuals in every walk of life."

He concludes:

"It is a convincing proof, if proof were necessary, that Indian public opinion condemns such methods and realizes that those who resort to them are the worst enemies of their own country."

I think, Sir, that I can add little to what has been so feelingly and so eloquently said by His Excellency. For this House there are very special reasons for joining in this motion of congratulation. We have also, in view of our responsibilities, very special reasons for joining in the condemnation of the perpetrators with which the motion concludes. We must share to the full the feelings of relief which were so universally felt in the country at the Providential escape of His Excellency and his party. In these sentiments I am sure that this House will unanimously join, and I can only add, having regard to my own responsibilities in the matter, that no effort will be spared to bring the perpetrators of this insensate and atrocious outrage to justice. (Hear, hear.)

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan-Rural): Sir, I wish also to associate myself with the motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend Sardar Gulab Singh. On account of his genial courtesy, his sympathy with the aspirations of Indians and the manner in which he has carried on his administration in this country, no doubt, Lord Irwin has endeared himself throughout the whole length and breadth of India, and I can say without fear of contradiction that no previous Viceroy of India, probably with the exception of Lord Ripon, made himself so popular with the people of this country as

the present Viceroy has done. We were all shocked that an attempt was made on the life of such a Viceroy, especially after the manner in which he fought our case in England and after the announcement about the Round Table Conference which he made in the teeth of opposition from the die-hards in England. A motion like this does not require a long speech. The unanimity with which this action has been condemned by all the people of all shades of opinion in this country shows the esteem in which the Viceroy is held in this country. Lady Irwin, too, like her noble husband, has shared in the welfare of the people of this country and she has earned the same popularity as her husband. We, the people of India, are really very grateful to Providence that the attempt which was made on their lives remained unsuccessful and no harm was done to Their Excellencies. With these words, I associate myself with the motion and wish that the congratulations of this House may be conveyed to Their Excellencies.

***Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I desire wholeheartedly to associate myself with the remarks which have already been made by the various speakers. I remember when this news was made known to the public, it evoked such indignation as no such outrage on any previous occasion did. All sensible men felt that Providence, in saving the life of such a Viceroy, had saved India from a great calamity. Supposing anything more serious had happened to the Viceroy, I think the stigma on the character of the people would have been indelible. As it is, I think the mentality of those people who commit such outrages is inscrutable. That a Viceroy who is engaged in doing all that he can to help forward the cause of India should be subjected to such outrages is a thing which seems inscrutable to those who wish to help the Viceroy in his mission: Sir, I remember having seen His Excellency in London when he was in England on a short visit. I saw him so full of hope and so full of promise with regard to India that I felt that a man of this character and this moral feeling must be a great asset not only to England, but also to the whole of India. It is a great pity that a man of such convictions should be subjected to this kind of treatment. I do not think that the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member that the culprit will be pursued and discovered will satisfy those who are the friends of India, but wish something could be done to trace the conspiracy behind this outrage and then put an end to this kind of occurrence.

Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers, and I wish on behalf of my Party to congratulate His Excellency on his miraculous escape, and I hope that His Excellency, as he has himself declared, will continue the benevolent work that he has undertaken on behalf of India.

***Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I join my friends in expressing my strong condemnation of the attempt made to blow up His Excellency's train. Such an attempt would be condemnable whoever the person was upon whom it was made. The fact that it was made upon the life of a Viceroy who has made himself so very popular adds to the strength of the condemnation which the attempt deserves. But, as I have said, an attempt like this made upon the life of any innocent fellow-man would be worthy of

*Speech not revised by the Honourable Member,

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.]

condemnation at all times. I also join my friends in heartily congratulating Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Vicereine and their party and the country upon the miraculous escape of Their Excellencies and their party, and it is a matter of profound satisfaction and thankfulness that Their Excellencies did escape from this vicious attempt.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): Sir, on behalf of my Group I join wholeheartedly in the expressions of congratulation to Their Excellencies on their marvellous escape. We cannot express too strongly our horror and condemnation of the dastardly crime. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan in saying that, had there been a disaster, it would have been a disgrace to this whole country. His Excellency the Viceroy has proved himself one of the best friends India has ever had, and that anything should happen to him would have been a calamity. I again join wholeheartedly in this offer of congratulations to Their Excellencies on their escape.

Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on behalf of the Independent Party I rise to associate myself with the Resolution moved by Sardar Gulab Singh. There can be no two opinions about the condemnation of the crime. I also join in congratulating Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Irwin, on their miraculous escape. On this occasion I wish to say a few words to Government, because there is a certain amount of feeling in the country that, owing to this outrage there may be a policy of repression, and therefore I was glad to learn from His Excellency's message in reply to the hundreds of telegrams of congratulation that he has received, that the Government of India or His Excellency's Government will not budge an inch from the present policy which they are following. We are also glad to hear from the Honourable the Home Member that he will take action to punish the culprit; but I hope at the same time the Leader of the House will tackle the root cause of this disease, which is unemployment and poverty in India. I know, Sir, there are certain classes of men who rightly or wrongly think that by these methods, namely, the throwing of bombs, they will achieve Swaraj or independence. I wish at this juncture and in this House to make it clear that they are doing a great harm to this country; that it is only by constitutional method that we can persuade England to give us what is our legitimate due; and instead of advancing the cause of the country, let me tell them that they are doing great harm to this country.

With these words I again associate myself on behalf of my party with the Resolution moved by Sardar Gulab Singh.

Mr. President (to Mr. B. Das): I know the Honourable Member has given notice of an amendment, but I hope he will not move it. This is a formal Resolution and no amendment need be moved.

Wholeheartedly associating myself with every word of the motion which my friend Sardar Gulab Singh has moved, I put it to the vote.

The question is that the following motion be adopted:

"This Assembly heartily congratulates Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Irwin on their miraculous escape from the dastardly attempt to blow up their train near Delhi and that this House very strongly detests and condemns the insensate outrage."

The motion was adopted.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. President: I have the honour to inform Honourable Members that the following Bills, which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature, have been assented to by His Excellency the acting Governor General under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act:

1. The Indian Soft Coke Cess Act, 1929.
2. The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1929.
3. The Indian Census Act, 1929.
4. The Bengal Pilot Service (Centralisation of Administration) Act, 1929.
5. The Indian Income-tax (Provident Funds Relief) Act, 1929.
6. The Indian Territorial Force (Amendment) Act, 1929.
7. The Indian Cotton Cess (Amendment) Act, 1929.
8. The Indian Registration (Amendment) Act, 1929.
9. The Burma Salt (Amendment) Act, 1929.
10. The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Act, 1929.
11. The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1929.
12. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1928.
13. The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1929.
14. The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Supplementary Act, 1929.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

SAVING TO INDIAN REVENUES BY THE TRANSFER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF ADEN TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

Mr. E. B. Howell (Foreign Secretary): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the information promised by Sir Denys Bray in reply to a supplementary question to starred question No. 201 asked by Mr. Gava Prasad Singh on the 29th January, 1929, regarding savings to Indian Revenues by the transfer of the administration of Aden to the Colonial Office.

Statement of savings to Indian Revenues in consequence of the transfer of the Political and Military control of Aden to His Majesty's Government.

It is impossible to arrive accurately at the exact savings accruing to India in consequence of the transfer as the expenditure for the year 1926-27, previous to the transfer, and that for 1927-28, after the transfer, are not strictly comparable in view of the fact that a part of the expenditure is borne direct by His Majesty's Government since 1927-28 consequent on the settlement. Moreover the incidence of a few minor items is still under discussion. Further the savings must necessarily fluctuate to a small degree from year to year with the fluctuation of expenditure. The following figures,

however, give a sufficiently clear idea of the savings accruing to India as a result of the transfer :

	Expenditure for 1926-27 before transfer.	Expenditure in 1927-28 after transfer.*
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Civil (Central and Provincial)	7,04,731	10,19,072
(2) Political	6,74,934	
(3) Military	48,57,372	
Total Civil, Political, Military and Marine expenditure	62,37,037	
Contribution to His Majesty's Government for Political and Military charges . . . . .	..	33,33,333
Total . . . . .	..	43,52,405

The approximate saving to India on a comparison of the above is Rs. 18,84,632, and to this should be added a further sum of at least £100,000 from the year 1931-32, from which date the contribution to His Majesty's Government on account of political and military expenditure will be limited to one-third of the total actual expenditure, or £150,000 whichever is less.

THE INDIAN SALE OF GOODS BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter (Law Member): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to define and amend the Law relating to the sale of goods.

THE INDIAN CONTRACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter (Law Member): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend section 178 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

THE INLAND STEAM-VESSELS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1917.

* (Excludes "political" debited to His Majesty's Government being covered by contribution).

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS BILL.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. E. F. BAUM TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move that Mr. E. F. Baum be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill to centralize and vest in the Governor General in Council the control over certain operations relating to dangerous drugs and to increase and render uniform throughout British India the penalties for offences relating to such operations.

The motion was adopted.

THE CANTONMENTS (HOUSE-ACCOMMODATION AMENDMENT) BILL.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I beg to move that Sir Hugh Cocke be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Act, 1923, for certain purposes.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I understand that Sir Hugh Cocke's name is being proposed in place of Mr. Price who has resigned from the Assembly. Another member of the Committee, Mr. Misra, has unfortunately ceased to be a Member of the Assembly since the Committee was elected. I therefore propose that the name of Mr. N. C. Kelkar be substituted for that of Mr. Misra.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (United Provinces: Nominated Non-Official): Is a Member who has not taken his oath in the Assembly entitled to be put on any Committee until he takes the oath, whether he has been elected or not?

Mr. President: Whose name?

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir Hugh Cocke, Sir. He has not taken the oath yet.

Mr. President: His name can be proposed to the Committee, but he cannot sit on the Committee unless he takes the oath.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Can any name be suggested before taking the consent of the Member concerned to serve on that Committee? Was the consent of Sir Hugh Cocke taken to serve on the Committee?

Mr. G. M. Young: Certainly it was.

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member any objection to add the name of Mr. N. C. Kelkar?

Mr. G. M. Young: No, Sir, none at all.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That Sir Hugh Cocke and Mr. N. C. Kelkar be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Act, 1923, for certain purposes."

The motion was adopted.

THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter (Law Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1929, for a certain purpose.

I will explain the reason for this. In section 4 we provided for the case where a document was registered in a Presidency town, but we omitted to provide for the case where a document which dealt with property scattered in several sub-districts was registered in one sub-district. It is that omission which is sought to be filled by the present Bill.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION RE FIXING MINIMUM WAGES.

Mr. President: The House will now resume discussion of the following Resolution moved by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra on the 28th September, 1929:

"This Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation regarding the machinery for fixing minimum wages in certain trades adopted at the Eleventh International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation."

Pandit Himsay Nath Kunzru: Sir, this Convention, as pointed out last year by the Honourable Member who moved the Resolution, was passed in June 1928. A year and a half has therefore already elapsed since the Convention was adopted by the International Labour Conference. It is true that, since the Convention was passed, a Labour Commission has been appointed with very comprehensive terms of reference which include an inquiry regarding machinery for fixing a minimum average. But considering the wide scope of the terms of reference, one need not be surprised if the Commission's Report is not available much before the end of the next year. There need again be no surprise if the Government of India take about two years to arrive at definite views with regard to the recommendations of the Commission. I should therefore personally have liked that this convention should, in the interval, be accepted by the Government. Unfortunately, however, when I read the various articles of the Convention, I found that article 9 of the Convention stood in our way. It says that:

"A member who has ratified the Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the convention first comes into force."

It is obviously impossible for us, therefore, to accept the Convention as we shall not be able to modify it earlier than ten years since its introduction in the light of the Commission's recommendations. I propose, therefore, that we should not dispose of the Convention finally today. I know that, even if the Resolution is passed in the present form, there is nothing

to prevent us from reconsidering the matter at some future date. But I should like the matter to be kept alive in a more formal way and to throw upon the Government the responsibility of bringing the question again to the notice of the House at a subsequent date. If you will therefore permit me, I shall move the following amendment:

"That the following words be added at the end of the Resolution: 'pending the Report of the Indian Labour Commission'."

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir, I want to oppose both the Resolution and the amendment. When, Sir, a particular convention is passed by the International Labour Conference, surely it is not meant only for the benefit of the Western countries. On the other hand the idea is to raise up the standard of wages and the working condition in the less progressive countries of the East to the level of the more advanced countries of Europe and America. After discussion in two annual sessions of the International Labour Conference, after consultation with all the various Governments, and after hard Committee work for about three weeks, the representatives of labour, of capital and of the Governments of over 40 countries of the world come to a unanimous decision that such and such a convention ought to be universally adopted for improvement of the conditions of labour, and when that comes before the Government of India, the usual practice here seems to be summarily to reject that recommendation, saying that the Government of India should not ratify the Convention. In this particular case, Sir, what is it that we are asked not to ratify? The first Article of the Convention says:

"Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention undertakes to create or maintain machinery whereby minimum rates of wages can be fixed for workers employed in certain of the trades or parts of trades (and in particular, in home working trades) in which no arrangements exist for the effective regulation of wages by collective agreement or otherwise and wages are exceptionally low."

Now, Sir, it is an admitted fact that in India the workers are too disorganised to effect regulation of wages by collective agreement, and in many trades in India wages are exceptionally low when the two elements of disorganised labour and low wages co-exist in India it was the duty of the Government to set up a minimum wage-fixing machinery without waiting for the International Convention, but to remind them of their duty whenever the Government do not desire to do a thing, they have plenty of excuses. Now the latest excuse is that the Labour Commission is sitting. I remember, Sir, in a speech that Mr. Joshi delivered at Geneva he said that, if the Government of India trotted up the inquiry by the Labour Commission as an excuse for postponing labour legislation, he would rather resign from the Whitley Commission than serve on it. Now, as a matter of fact, the Whitley Commission cannot help us very much in the matter. This Convention refers particularly to home working trades which are, I maintain, outside the scope of the terms of reference to the Whitley Commission. Will the Honourable Member kindly say whether the Royal Commission is going to inquire into industries such as lace-making, knitting, hosiery, and the carpet industry, or any other similar home-working trades? If they are not going to do that, Sir, the recommendations of the Whitley Commission will be of no use to us in regard to the question of ratifying this Convention, and I therefore urge that the House refuse to accept the motion.

Maulvi Mohammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): I think, Sir, that the ratification of the Convention and the acceptance of the Recommendations of the International Labour Conference should not be delayed any longer. It ought to have been done long before, because everybody knows that labourers in these home industries suffer very much as they are much scattered all over the country, and they have no resources at their back, and unless we, who understand their difficulties, help them, there are no chances of this being done. I think, Sir, that the International Labour Convention at Geneva has done the right thing. So many countries were represented at the Conference and all men interested in labour were those who have discussed the matter, and I do not think we have any other course to adopt. My friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru says that, if the recommendation is adopted today and the Whitley Commission reject it, it will take ten years for us to revise it, but I do not think such an axiomatic truth can be denied by the Whitley Commission or by any Commission. It is absolutely necessary that things like this should be expedited and not postponed till the Report of the Whitley Commission. I would urge upon Government that it is in the fitness of things that matters like this should not be postponed, otherwise I should say, in the interests of Government themselves, that they will have greater difficulties to face later on if they are not going to look to the interests of such people for whom there is nobody to speak strongly. Unless their case is taken up by Government, they will have much greater cause of grievance against the Government, and I should not like, Sir, that this popular Assembly, sitting here as the representative of the people, should give its vote for postponing the ratification of the Convention. I am strongly opposed to postponement and I would ask my friend over there, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, to consider this question again and see his way to throw out this Resolution of the Government and press the Government to accept the draft Convention and the Recommendations.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I may state at the outset that I am quite willing to accept the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, if you, Sir, are prepared to put that amendment to the vote of the House. The opposition on the part of my friends Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury and Maulvi Mohamed Shafee Daoodi to the course of action proposed by Government is, I submit, based on a misapprehension of the situation. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, if I heard him correctly, stated that this Draft Convention referred to home-working trades only. Article 1 refers to "workers employed in certain of the trades or parts of trades and in particular, in home-working trades . . ." From Article 2 it is also clear that the convention is not confined to home-working trades or parts of such trades. Now, Sir, supposing Government had decided to ratify this particular Convention, what would the implication be arising therefrom? Is it seriously contended that Government must forthwith take a plunge, a leap in the dark and ask this House immediately to pass any legislation which it might have been possible for them to bring forward? In fact I, who am the responsible Member of the Government in this matter, cannot yet even sketch out roughly in my mind what would be the form of that legislation. Before a Bill could be given proper shape, it would have been necessary to start extensive inquiries, in consultation with the parties concerned, as to what would be the form of the machinery. The Royal Commission on Labour is examining this matter already as one of

the various problems to which it is devoting its consideration. My friend Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury is certainly not correct in saying that they will not deal with home industries. Now, the expression "home industries" is rather indefinite. Take the cotton mill industry of Bombay. Is it not partly a home industry? Is not part of the production intended for consumption in India?

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: May I know if home-working trade includes the cotton mills of Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I do not quite understand what my Honourable friend means.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: Sir, by home-working trade, the International Labour Conference meant those trades in which workers did their work at home and in which the difficulty of organising them was inherent in the nature of the work that they were doing.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I am afraid I did not quite follow my Honourable friend's arguments. I think, however, the Honourable Member specifically referred to the carpet industry. I know as a matter of fact that the Royal Commission went to Amritsar to examine the position of the carpet industry there. That being so, I am sorry that I cannot agree to take action on the lines suggested either by my friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury or my friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi. At the same time, in order that the matter may not be lost sight of and may be again taken up for consideration by this House when the recommendations of the Whitley Commission have reached Government, I am quite willing to accept the amendment proposed by my friend, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury: Do I understand that, after the Whitley Commission have made their recommendations, the Government will come up with this same Resolution before this House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: There is no question of this Resolution being brought forward again. My Honourable friend must realise that this House will cease to exist in the near future and the Resolution, if not disposed of by them, will have in fact lapsed automatically.

Mr. President: The original Resolution was:

"This Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation regarding the machinery for fixing minimum wages in certain trades adopted at the Eleventh International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation."

Since which the following amendment has been moved:

"That the following words be added at the end of the Resolution:

'pending the Report of the Indian Labour Commission'."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is that the following Resolution, as amended, be adopted:

"This Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation regarding the machinery for fixing minimum wages in certain trades adopted at the Eleventh International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation pending the Report of the Indian Labour Commission."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—47.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.
Banarji, Mr. Rajnarayan.
Baum, Mr. E. F.
Coatman, Mr. J.
Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.
Crawford, Colonel J. D.
Crerar, The Honourable Sir James.
Crosthwaite, Mr. H. S.
Das, Mr. B.
Ferrers, Mr. V. M.
French, Mr. J. C.
Gulab Singh, Sardar.
Gwynne, Mr. C. W.
Hamilton, Mr. K. L. B.
Hira Singh Brar, Sardar Bahadur,
Honorary Captain.
Howell, Mr. E. B.
Iswar Saran, Munshi.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur
Sardar.
Kelkar, Mr. N. C.
Kunzru, Pandit Hirday Nath.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.

Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra
Nath.
Mitter, The Honourable Sir Brojendra.
Monteath, Mr. J.
Moore, Mr. Arthur.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur S. C.
Mukhtar Singh, Mr.
Pai, Mr. A. Upendra.
Parsons, Mr. A. A. L.
Rainy, The Honourable Sir George.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Roy, Mr. K. C.
Sahi, Mr. Ram Prashad Narayan.
Sams, Mr. H. A.
Sarda, Rai Sahib Harbilas.
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan
Bahadur.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Schuster, The Honourable Sir George.
Singh, Raja Raghunandan Prasad.
Slater, Mr. S. H.
Sykes, Mr. E. F.
Tin Tut, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
Young, Mr. G. M.

NOES—3.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Maulvi.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.

Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Mohammad.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 21st January, 1930.