

13th March, 1933

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

1933

FIFTH SESSION
OF THE
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1933



SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS

1933

6

M97LAD

Legislative Assembly.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Upto 7th March, 1933.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY. (From 14th March, 1933.)

Deputy President :

MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, M.L.A. (Upto 13th March, 1933.)

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A. (From 22nd March, 1933.)

Panel of Chairmen :

SIR HARI SINGH GOUR, KT., M.L.A.

SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT., M.L.A.

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

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

Secretary :

MR. S. C. GUPTA, C.I.E., BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistants of the Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Public Petitions :

MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, M.L.A., *Chairman.* (Upto to 13th March, 1933.)

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A., *Chairman.* (From 22nd March, 1933.)

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

SIR ABDULLA-AL-MAMÜN SUHRAWARDY, KT., M.L.A.

MR. B. SITARAMARAJU, M.L.A.

MR. C. S. RANGA IYER, M.L.A.

M97LAD

CONTENTS.

VOLUME III.—13th March to 30th March, 1933.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
MONDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1933—		MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1933—	
Questions and Answers ..	1933—66	Questions and Answers ..	2205—31
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1966—73	Short Notice Question and Answer	2231—32
Short Notice Question and Answer	1973—79	Election of the Deputy President	2232—34
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> two Muslims shot down at Chittagong by the Military—Not moved	1979	Statements laid on the Table ..	2235
Statements laid on the Table	1980—95	Election of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways ..	2236
Election of the Standing Finance Committee	1995—2010	Election of the Central Advisory Council for Railways ..	2236
Election of the Public Accounts Committee	2011	Election of the Standing Committee on Roads	2237
The Cotton Textile Industry Pro- tection (Amendment) Bill—		Election of the Standing Finance Committee and the Public Ac- counts Committee	2237
Introduced	2011	The Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Bill—Introduced	2337—38
The Indian Finance Bill—Discus- sion not concluded	2011—38	The Cotton Textile Industry Pro- tection (Amendment) Bill— Passed	2238—78
TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1933—		TUESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1933—	
Statements laid on the Table	2039—44	Questions and Answers ..	2279—2303
Election of the President	2044, 2053—60	Election of the Standing Finance Committee	2303—04
The Indian Finance Bill—Discus- sion not concluded	2045—52, 2060—92	Election of the Public Accounts Committee	2304
Election of the Deputy President	2060	Statement of Business	2304
Appendix	2093	Statements laid on the Table	2305—08
WEDNESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1933—		Election of the Deputy President ..	2308
Statements laid on the Table	2095—96	Election of the Standing Committee on Emigration	2309
The Indian Finance Bill—Discus- sion not concluded	2096—2145	Election of the Standing Committee for the Department of Educa- tion, Health and Lands ..	2309
THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1933—		The Wheat Import Duty (Extend- ing) Bill—Passed	2309—45
The Indian Finance Bill—Discus- sion not concluded	2147—58, 2159—2203	WEDNESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1933—	
The Indian Tariff (Ottawa Trade Agreement) Supplementary Am- endment Bill—Introduced ..	2158	Questions and Answers ..	2347—59
The Provincial Criminal Law Sup- plementing Bill—Introduced ..	2158	Unstarred Questions and Answers	2359—68
Statement of Business	2159	Statements laid on the Table ..	2369
		Message from His Excellency the Governor General	2370
		The Indian Finance Bill—Discus- sion not concluded	2370—2413

	PAGES.		PAGES.
THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1933—		FRIDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1933—<i>contd.</i>	
Questions and Answers ..	2415—44	The Nudity Exemption Bill—Introduced ..	2537
Statements laid on the Table ..	2444	The Removal of Doubts about the Application of the Doctrine of Representation, in case of Succession to Stridhan under the Dayabhadg Bill—Introduced ..	2538
The Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Bill—Discussion not concluded	2444—65, 2467—87	The Indian Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2538
Statement of Business ..	2466—67	The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2538
FRIDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1933—		The Imperial Bank of India (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2538
Questions and Answers ..	2489—2503	The Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill—Introduced ..	2538
The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill—(Amendment of section 51)—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee ..	2504	The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2539
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Motion to circulate negatived ..	2504—24	The Hindu Temple Entry Disabilities Removal Bill—Discussion on the motion to circulate not concluded	2539—53
The Hindu Temple Entry Disabilities Removal Bill—Introduced	2525—32	SATURDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1933—	
The Child Marriage Restraint (Repealing) Bill—Introduced ..	2532	Member Sworn	2555
The Girls Protection Bill—Introduced	2533	Message from the Council of State ..	2555
The Untouchability Abolition Bill—Introduced	2533	Statements laid on the Table ..	2555—56
The Bengal State Prisoners Regulation (Repealing) Bill—Introduced	2533	The Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Bill—Passed ..	2557—64
The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Bill—Introduced ..	2534	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion not concluded	2564—89, 2589—2606
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2535	Statement of Business	2589
The Mussalman Wakf Validating (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2535	MONDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1933—	
The Hindu Widows' Right of Maintenance Bill—Introduced ..	2535	Member Sworn	2607
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2535	Questions and Answers ..	2607—40
The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2536	Unstarred Questions and Answers ..	2640—51
The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Introduced ..	2536	Short Notice Question and Answer ..	2651—52
The Hindu Widows Maintenance Bill—Introduced	2536	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Lawlessness in Sind—Ruled out of Order	2653—56
The Ajmer-Merwara Juveniles Smoking Bill—Introduced ..	2536—37	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion not concluded	2656—91
		Appendix	2692
		TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1933—	
		Questions and Answers ..	2695—2723
		Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration ..	2723
		The Indian Finance Bill—Passed as amended	2723—53
		Demands for Supplementary Grants	2753—67

PAGES.	PAGES.
WEDNESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1933—	THURSDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1933—
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Order of expulsion served on four Chet- tiyar bankers of Saigon by the Government of Indo-China—Post- poned till next day .. 2769—71	Unstarred Questions and Answers 2825—28
Election of Members to the Stand- ing Finance Committee for Rail- ways and the Standing Com- mittee on Roads 2772	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Order of expulsion served on four Chettiyar bankers of Saigon by the Government of Indo-China— Withdrawn 2828, 2877—92
Statements laid on the Table 2773—74	Election of Members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways .. 2829
Proposals for Indian Constitutional Reform—Discussion not con- cluded 2774—2823	Election of Members to the Stand- ing Committee for the Depart- ment of Education, Health and Lands 2829
	Message from the Council of State 2829
	Proposal for Indian Constitutional Reform— <i>contd.</i> .. 2829—92

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 13th March, 1933.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

POST OF SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE.

713. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to call for nominations for the Superintendent's post for the Sind and Baluchistan Postal Division?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the claims of Sindhis?

Sir Thomas Ryan: As regards part (a) of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (a) of Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur's starred question No. 592 on the 22nd September, 1932, to which Government have at present nothing to add, and as regards part (b) to the reply given to part (c) of Mr. Maswood Ahmad's starred question No. 1493 on the 28th November, 1932.

PROPORTION OF SINDHIS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POST OFFICES, KARACHI.

714. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to keep the proper proportion of Sindhis in the office of the Director of Post Offices, Karachi?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give the number of Sindhi officials who applied for transfer in the Director's Office (before the circular separating the circle gradation list was issued by the Director's Office)?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for refusal to these officials?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) According to the existing orders which were originally laid down in the year 1926, recruitment to the subordinate postal service is made from among persons with local domicile. Since the issue of these orders only 6 persons were recruited for the Director's Office, five of whom are Sindhis and the sixth a domiciled resident of Karachi.

(b) and (c). Government have no information. The posting of officials to particular offices is entirely within the competence of the Head of the Circle.

CONVICTIONS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE IN CONNECTION WITH
THE RED SHIRT MOVEMENT.

715. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons in the North-West Frontier Province who were convicted during the regime of the Central Government in connection with the disturbances caused by the Red Shirt movement and are still in jail?

(b) How many of them are undergoing their sentences outside the North-West Frontier Province?

(c) How many of them are in A class and how many in B class?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am making enquiries, and a statement will be laid on the table in due course.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Have Government seen the article published in the *National Call* on the 8th March, about the prisons in the North-West Frontier Province, and will Government be pleased to enquire about those allegations mentioned by a non-official visitor of the jails?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am afraid I have not seen the article referred to, and if the Honourable Member wishes to put a question about it, I would suggest that he should give the ordinary notice.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it not a fact that a great deal of dissatisfaction is said to exist in view of the bad treatment which the political prisoners are given in the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No, Sir, I am not aware of it, but if the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will look into the matter.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Are Government aware that an adjournment motion was going to be moved in the Legislative Council of the North-West Frontier Province on this very question, but it was disallowed if I remember aright.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am afraid, I have not seen that in the newspapers.

PARTIAL SITTINGS OF SUBORDINATE CIVIL COURTS IN BENGAL ON
FRIDAYS.

716. ***Mr. C. C. Biswas**: (a) Is it a fact that the Calcutta High Court has recently, with the approval of the Governor General in Council, issued a circular to all subordinate Civil Courts in Bengal, directing that the sittings of all such Courts shall in future be suspended on every Friday from 12-30 to 2 P.M. for Jumma prayers?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why similar orders have not been issued for the Criminal Courts as well?

(c) Are Government prepared to suggest to the said High Court the desirability of following a similar rule for itself, or in the alternative, that the High Court might suspend its sittings altogether on Fridays, and sit on Saturdays instead?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India understand that similar orders were issued by the Government of Bengal in respect of Criminal and Revenue Courts in 1925.

(c) The procedure in the High Court is a matter for the Court itself to settle.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MEERUT CONSPIRACY CASE PRISONERS FOR APPEAL TO THE HIGH COURT.

717. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to offer competent legal assistance to the Meerut Conspiracy Case prisoners to enable them to make an appeal to the High Court against the decision of the Sessions Judge?

(b) If so, what will be the form and the extent of the assistance?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask why Government do not propose to give legal assistance to the Conspiracy Case prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I think, Sir, that it would be a course for which, as far as I know, there is no precedent.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are Government aware that many of the accused were given legal assistance in the course of trial before the Sessions Judge?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: It is perfectly true, Sir, that two of them—I think only two—were given legal assistance during the trial. One of these, I believe, was acquitted, and I am not sure about the other. But I would ask the Honourable Member to consider that when the original trial is over and persons have been convicted, it would be improper on the part of Government to give them assistance in appealing against the decision of one of His Majesty's Courts.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria: Has any of the prisoners asked for legal assistance from Government?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No, Sir. I think the only request has come from my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that this trial also is of an unusual character, will the Government of India reconsider the question of giving legal assistance to them, although it is an unusual procedure?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No, Sir; I am afraid, I cannot hold out that hope.

DISCHARGE NOTICES SERVED ON THE STAFF OF THE AHMEDABAD-PARANTIJ AND AHMEDABAD-DHANDHUKA SECTIONS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

718. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that the staff working in Ahmedabad-Parantij and Ahmedabad-Dhandhuka sections of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway have been served with discharge notices with effect from the 18th April, 1933?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of staff so affected and on what terms?

(c) What principles have been followed in selecting the staff for transfer to G. B. S. Railway?

(d) Are Government aware that there is considerable dissatisfaction among the staff on account of the arbitrary method of the selection of the staff for transfer to a different Railway?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to safeguard the interests of the staff?

(f) Are Government prepared to see that arrangements are made to absorb such staff on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, if they are unwilling to go over to the G. B. S. Railway?

(g) Are Government aware that some of the staff proposed to be transferred are not working on the G. B. S. section?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information on the specific questions raised, but it is a fact that the Gaekwar's Mehsana Railways, which were hitherto being worked by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, will be taken over by the Baroda Durbar on the 1st April, 1933, and naturally certain staff, who are at present employed by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, will be surplus unless they are taken over by the Baroda Durbar. I am sending a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to consider the suggestions made therein and to take such action as may be necessary, but I have no doubt that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway have taken all possible measures to induce the Baroda Durbar to take over as many as possible of the staff along with the Railway.

RAILWAY OFFICERS FOR WHOM A SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND FOR GRANT WAS OBTAINED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

719. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will Government kindly give the names of those Railway officers and the amount of excess leave salary given to each of them, for whom a Supplementary Demand for Grants was obtained from this House on the 28th February, 1933 (*vide* Supplementary Demands for Grants for expenditure of the Central Government on Railways for 1932-33, February 1933, page 1)?

(b) Will Government kindly give the names of officers whose salaries are voted taking the place of officers, whose salaries are non-voted? Who are the two classes of officers, their names, and to what posts were they employed [*vide* the paper referred to in part (a) above]?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I lay on the table two statements giving the information required.

Statement showing names of officers whose salaries are voted taking the place of officers whose salaries are non-voted.

Post.	Officer for whom provision was made in the Budget non-voted.	Officer who actually held the post—voted.
Director of Traffic . . .	Mr. C. P. Colvin . . .	Mr. F. D'Souza from the 26th May, 1932, to 14th October, 1932.
Director of Establishment	Mr. J. C. Highet . . .	Mr. P. B. Chandwani from the 30th March 1932 to 30th November, 1932, and Mr. Kirkness from the 1st December, 1932, to the 2nd February, 1933.
Secretary	Mr. J. F. Blackwood . . .	Mr. L. H. Kirkness from the 3rd February, 1933.

Statement showing leave salary provided in the Budget and Revised Estimates for 1932-33 of officers whose salaries are voted.

Names.	Budget provision 1932-33.	Revised estimate based on actuals, 1932-33.
1. Mr. F. D'Souza.	13,000	16,000
2. Mr. G. S. Rego	1,200	2,400
3. Mr. H. W. C. Smith	400	700
4. Mr. W. Daniel . . . . .	..	700
Total .	14,600	19,800

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member kindly state whether any of the excess leave salary as asked for in the Supplementary Demands for Grants is due to officers who are at present in England and whose appointments are being "held in abeyance"?

Mr. P. Rau: May I know, Sir, which of the officers my Honourable friend is referring to?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Surely the Honourable Member knows who these are. Can the Honourable Member tell me whether or not it is a fact that these demands for excess leave salary includes those officers whose appointments are still held in abeyance? The Honourable Member knows that on all State Railways there are many such appointments still held in abeyance which are claimed to be measures of retrenchment?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think I had better read out the names from the statement that I have placed on the table:

Names.	Budget provision, 1932-33.	Revised estimate based on actuals, 1932-33
1. Mr. F. D'Souza	13,000	16,000
2. Mr. G. S. Bago	1,200	2,400
3. Mr. H. W. C. Smith	400	700
4. Mr. W. Daniel . . . . .	..	700
Total	14,600	19,800

None of those posts have been held in abeyance.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it with reference to (a) or (b)?

Mr. P. R. Rau: With reference to (b), the officers for whom the provision was made in the Budget were Messrs. Colvin, Hight and Blackwood, and the officers who actually held the post for the whole or part of the time were Messrs. D'Souza, Chandwani and Kirkness.

Liaut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Member about the officers who are on leave, do their leave salaries come to a total of Rs. 30,000?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The excess was about Rs. 5,000, Sir.

ALLEGED CALLOUSNESS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AUTHORITIES.

720. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (on behalf of Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury): With reference to the last part of the reply to starred question No. 1370 put on the 22nd November, 1932, will Government kindly state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the doors of a carriage or of a wagon, standing on a siding line which is close to the main line, remaining wide open, is dangerous, especially at night;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are some sort of prohibitory orders on the railway officials against this; and
- (c) whether it was due to the negligence and carelessness of the officials concerned that the doors of the wagon were not kept closed?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) An open wagon door is only one of the possible dangers to which passengers expose themselves by putting any portions of their body outside the window.

(b) I believe it is a general rule that doors of wagons should be fastened.

(c) An open wagon door does not necessarily imply negligence or carelessness on the part of any railway official. For instance, it is possible that the door of a cattle wagon in a running train may be temporarily opened by the cattle attendant.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI, AJMER-MERWARA AND CENTRAL INDIA.

721. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the *Daily Siyasat*, Lahore, No. 3. dated the 4th January, 1933, regarding the present Superintendent of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India and his activities?

Mr. A. G. Olow (on behalf of Mr. G. S. Bajpai): Yes.

DUTIES OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI.

722. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that in addition to the duties as Superintendent of Education, he has been performing the following works:

- (i) Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General in Central India for Education.
- (ii) Chairman of the Board of Secondary Education, Delhi.
- (iii) Member of the University of Delhi.
- (iv) Member of the Agra University.
- (v) Member of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, Rajputana (Ajmer-Merwara).
- (vi) Examiner of the Board of Secondary Education, Delhi.
- (vii) Examiner of the Delhi University.
- (viii) Examiner of the Punjab University.
- (ix) Examiner of the Agra University.
- (x) Examiner of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, Ajmer.
- (xi) Examiner of the Commercial Diploma Examination, Delhi, which is conducted by the Superintendent of Education himself.
- (xii) Member of the Delhi Municipal Committee.
- (xiii) Member of the Notified Area Committee, Delhi.
- (xiv) Member of the Municipal Committee, New Delhi.
- (xv) Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, for Education.
- (xvi) Correspondent of some newspapers?

(b) Will Government kindly state what other responsible duties have been entrusted to the Superintendent of Education by the Government of India or by local authorities and whether all these undertakings or duties referred to in part (a) above have been entrusted by the Government of India, or their permission was obtained? If not, why not?

(c) If replies to part (a) (i) and (xv) be in the affirmative, or that his appointment as Secretary for Education in Ajmer-Merwara is under consideration, will Government kindly state:

- (1) what the qualifications of the Superintendent of Education are; whether he is a first or second class M.A.;
- (2) whether he is a man of the Indian Civil Service or Indian Educational Service; and
- (3) whether before the appointment of the present Superintendent of Education, there had been any post as "Secretary for Education" in the two centrally administered areas, namely, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India; if not, what the special circumstances are which necessitated the creation of these posts?

Mr. A. G. Clow (on behalf of Mr. G. S. Bajpai): Enquiries have been made and a reply will be furnished to the House as soon as possible.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is it not a fact that in many of the Provinces, the Directors of Public Instruction hold many of these offices *ex-officio* which are enumerated in this question?

Mr. A. G. Clow: I do not think it is likely that they hold many of the identical offices such as membership of the Delhi Municipality, etc., but it is not improbable that they hold some similar posts.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: While laying the information on the table, will Government please lay also the information whether any clerk in the offices of the Superintendent of Education has got higher qualification than the Superintendent of Education himself?

Mr. A. G. Clow: I must ask, on behalf of my Honourable friend, for separate notice of that question.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A SEPARATE SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF EDUCATION IN CENTRAL INDIA.

723. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad**: What is the justification for the appointment of a separate Secretary in charge of Education in Central India? Is it a fact that there is a very small number of institutions, almost all of which are managed by local or private bodies?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The required information is being obtained and will be given to the House as soon as it is received.

EXTENSIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT TO THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES.

724. ***Mr. C. C. Biswas**: (a) Is it a fact that in 1925 the Government of India suggested to the Government of Bengal that they would be prepared to extend the provisions of the Provident Funds Act to the Provident Fund established by the Calcutta University for its employees, if the Act incorporating the said University was amended so as to include a provision enabling the Governor General in Council to take the necessary action in this behalf?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Provident Funds Act, XIX of 1925, has since been passed, and this Act, subsequently amended in 1930, renders an amendment of the Calcutta University Act of Incorporation on the lines previously suggested no longer necessary? Is it not competent now to the Government of India, by the issue of a notification under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the present Provident Funds Act, to extend the benefits of that Act to the Provident Fund of that University?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they are now prepared to issue such a notification, adding the name of the Calcutta University to the list of institutions specified in the schedule to the said Act? If not, what impediments still stand in the way?

(d) Is it not a fact that a revised set of Provident Fund Rules has been framed by the Calcutta University, which have received the approval of the Government of Bengal, and are not Government satisfied that these rules are such as would justify the issue of a notification?

(e) Is it not a fact that a college affiliated to a University established by Statute is already included in the Schedule to the Act?

(f) Will Government state if they have so far received any application from any such college in Bengal for the issue of a notification under sub-section (2) of section 8 in its favour? If so, has any such notification been issued; and, if not, why not?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of issuing such a notification at an early date, including all such colleges as have already applied for it?

Mr. A. G. Clow (on behalf of Mr. G. S. Bajpai): (a)—(g). Certain information have been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STOPPAGE OF INCREMENTS OF RESERVE CLERKS IN THE DELHI GENERAL POST OFFICE.

725. ***Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs ordered the withholding of payment of the arrears due to the Reserve Clerks for the period between the dates of failure of such Reserve Clerks to pass the confirmation examination and the date of their passing subsequently?

(b) If so, will Government be also pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, has stopped the increments of all the Reserve Clerks attached to the Delhi General Post Office, indiscriminately including those who had passed the confirmation examination at the first chance as well as those who had since then been promoted as clerks and were no longer Reserve Clerks?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for wholesale stoppage of increments and whether the Reserve Clerks all over India including Reserve Stores in the Delhi R. M. S. have been treated alike?

(d) If not, what are the reasons for discriminating the Reserve Clerks in the Delhi General Post Office?

(e) Will Government be also pleased to state how long the present and late Reserve Clerks of the Delhi General Post Office have to wait for their increments?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) to (e). According to rules in the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, framed by the Director General, a reserve clerk is not entitled to any increment of pay for the period between the date of his failure at the confirmation examination and the date of his passing it subsequently. These rules were challenged by the audit authorities as being at variance with the Fundamental Rules; and revised rules regarding the increments of reserve clerks during their probationary period were thereupon issued. The question of the application of the revised rules to the case of reserve clerks, with reference to the dates of their confirmation, is still the subject of correspondence between the Director General and the audit authorities and is expected to be settled shortly. Meanwhile, the payment of increments to reserve clerks generally has been held in abeyance pending a final decision. Government have, however, no precise information as to how reserve clerks in individual offices have been affected by the revised rules.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform this House how long this matter has been under consideration?

Sir Thomas Ryan: I regret I am not in a position to give that information.

LIST OF "SCHEDULED CASTES" PUBLISHED IN THE CALCUTTA GAZETTE.

726. { *Mr. N. M. Joshi: }
 { *Rao Bahadur M. O. Rajah: } (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to resolution No. 122A of the Government of Bengal, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 19th January, 1933, in which the list of "Scheduled Castes", who are socially and politically backward, is given?

(b) Are Government aware that certain primitive or aboriginal tribes are included in the list referred to above?

(c) Are Government aware that as per section 288 of the Report of the Indian Franchise Committee, Volume I, no primitive or aboriginal tribes should be included in the term "Depressed Classes" now called by the Bengal Government "Scheduled Castes"?

(d) Is not this inclusion against the Communal Settlement arrived at?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I have seen the Local Government's resolution referred to. I observe that the list of scheduled castes was published for criticism and that it was open to any public body, caste association, or individual to submit any representation with reference to the inclusion or non-inclusion of any caste or castes in the list.

Mr. C. O. Biswas: Is it not a fact that in consequence of the Poona Pact, in Bengal they are trying to manufacture Depressed Classes where there were none?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I am not aware of that.

Mr. B. Das: Is it not a fact that it is the Government of Bengal that is manufacturing these Depressed Classes and not the people's representatives?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: No, Sir.

Mr. B. Das: Is it not a fact that the Government of Bengal have recently notified a few castes as Depressed Classes and that representatives of these classes have been resenting that they have been so notified?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I refer the Honourable Member to the resolution itself. It says that the list is not final and that it is open to criticism, and criticism has been invited by the Government of Bengal. My information is that certain criticism has already been obtained by the Government of Bengal. The Government will consider all criticisms and then they will make their final list.

Mr. B. Das: Did the Government of Bengal consult public opinion before they condemned certain high castes as Depressed Classes and publicly notified the same?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I would again refer the Honourable Member to the resolution itself and, with your permission, Sir, I will read only one sentence from it. Paragraph 5 of the resolution says this:

"Before making the list final, however, the Local Government have decided to publish it for criticism. It is to be noted that the list includes not only Hindu castes, but also some groups of aboriginal derivation now resident in Bengal which profess tribal or mixed religion."

In paragraph 6, it is said:

"Any public body, caste association or individual desiring to submit any representation regarding the inclusion or non-inclusion of any caste or castes in the list of scheduled castes should submit it to the Reforms Office of the Government of Bengal in the appointment department."

Therefore, there is no bar either to any individual or any association against criticising the inclusion or non-inclusion of any caste.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Will the Honourable the Law Member kindly state what is the meaning of that expression "mixed religion" in the sentence he read out?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: I am not in a position to answer that question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Have the Government of India issued any instructions to the different Provincial Governments to observe certain uniform standards for the purpose of determining as to whether any particular class should be treated as Depressed Class?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: Not that I am aware of. On the contrary, it appears that the matter was left to Local Governments to make their own classification.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it then that the Government of India will have no final say in this matter and that different provinces may adopt different standards for the purpose of classification?

The Honourable Sir Brojendra Mitter: That is my understanding of the situation.

**HUNGER-STRIKE OF STATE PRISONER MR. TRAILOKYA NATH CHAKRAVARTY,
DETAINED IN THE CANNANORE CENTRAL JAIL.**

727. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): (a) Is it a fact that Trailokya Nath Chakravarty, a Bengali detenu confined in the Cannanore Central Jail in the Madras Presidency, is on hunger-strike since February 15th?

(b) If so, are Government aware that the detenu in question resorted to this method of protest on account of the provocative and insulting behaviour of the Superintendent of the Jail in question?

(c) Do Government propose to inquire into the facts of this case and deal with the Superintendent, if the allegations of insult and provocation against him are found to be correct?

(d) Do Government propose to issue general instructions to Jail Superintendents where State Prisoners are incarcerated that detenus should not be treated like ordinary prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The State Prisoner went on hunger-strike on the 15th February alleging that he was insulted by the Jail Superintendent. The allegation is unfounded and Government do not propose to take any action in the matter. The hunger-strike was abandoned on the 4th March.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: What is the allegation to which reference has been made in the course of the reply?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The incident appears to have been peculiarly trivial. There was some little dispute about a newspaper—whether a newspaper was being delivered to the State Prisoner or not. I gather that actually he was not entitled to it. But when he went to discuss the matter with the Jail Superintendent, he appears to have brought his umbrella into the room, and sat down; and the Jail Superintendent requested him to take his umbrella outside, and that, as far as I understand, is the extent of the alleged insult.

**PROPOSED BOUNTY BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE EXPORT OF
WHEAT.**

728. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin** (on behalf of Mr. Fazal Haq Piracha): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that the Australian Government have proposed to pay or are paying a sort of bounty for the export of wheat in Australia?

(b) If so, are Government in a position to state the manner in which the bounty is paid or has been proposed to be paid? How much does the bounty reckon per maund if calculated in rupees?

(c) Have Government considered the effect this bounty will have upon the price of the imported Australian wheat in India?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if they have considered the effect this bounty will have on the import duty already imposed and proposed to be extended for the next year on the imported Australian wheat?

(e) If the answers to parts (c) and (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what will be the effects?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state if they have considered whether, in the presence of a bounty given by the Australian Government to wheat exporters of their country, the proposed import duty on Australian wheat will have its full effect in raising the price of the Indian wheat in Indian markets in competition with the Australian wheat?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: (a) and (b). The Australian Wheat Bounty Act of 1931 has lapsed. Under the Federal Government's Financial Relief Act, 1932, a grant of £2 million (Australian) has been made available in varying amounts to the States of the Commonwealth to be applied for the benefit and assistance of wheat growers by:

- (i) reducing the cost of production of wheat (including the cost of internal transport and marketing); and
- (ii) providing for the needs of individual wheatgrowers such as the payment of allowances towards the cost of sowing and harvesting the crop.

It is understood, however, that this Act precludes the Local Governments of the States from distributing the sums of money placed at their disposal by way of bounty on production.

(c) to (f). As no such bounty, either on export or production, is now given by the Australian Government these parts of the question do not arise.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Are Government aware that other foreign Governments such as Japan and others as well are paying bounties for the export of agricultural products?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: I shall have to make inquiries in regard to that matter.

Mr. B. Das: Will the Honourable Member kindly suggest to his colleague, the Finance Member, to take a loan of Rs. 500 crores and give it in bounties to Bombay millowners, hosiery-wallas and the kerosene-wallas and, if a little is left, to give it to the wheat producers?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: My Honourable friend can make the suggestion himself. (Laughter.)

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Are Government aware that there is no export duty on agricultural produce in Japan and other foreign Governments?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: There, again, I shall have to make enquiries.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member kindly state what will be its effect upon the prices of wheat in the Punjab as well as in Sind?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: As a matter of fact, I understand that the actual effect has been to reduce the amount of assistance that the Australian wheat grower will now get, as compared with the amount he got under the Australian Bounty Act of 1931.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that the Government are considering to reduce the import duty on wheat?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Shore: My Honourable friend must surely have read the Bill that I have placed before this House.

PURCHASE OF CHEAP ELECTRIC POWER IN PREFERENCE TO ITS GENERATION BY THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

729. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) With reference to the recent confirmation of the superior officers' cadre of the Electric Traction of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, will Government please state why it was considered necessary to permanently retain as many as twelve posts of officers in view of the fact that prior to electrification the technical work of the Bombay Division—to which Division the activities of the Traction Department are confined—was managed by two officers?

(b) Will Government place before the Assembly facts relating to the number of officers in the Traction Departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the South Indian Railways and state why the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is relatively overstaffed in the superior grades?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of abolishing forthwith the present temporary post of Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent (Traction) on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(d) Is it a fact that the Tata Hydro-Electric Power Supply Company, Limited, offered to purchase the Chola Power House if they were given a permanent contract for the supply of power to the entire electric traction system of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what they propose to do in the matter? Is it a fact that there is a decline in traffic earnings which necessitates purchase of cheap power (when available) in preference to its generation by the railway itself at excessive cost?

Mr. P. R. Rau: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 729, 730, 731 and 732 together.

Information to enable me to give a complete reply to these questions is not available here. I am obtaining it from the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire if the Railway Board, when giving sanction to the appointment of higher posts in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Electrification scheme, mentioned in part (b) of my question, took into account the policy of economy and retrenchment that is supposed to be the policy of the Railway Board at present?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The question was not the creation of new posts, but the making permanent of certain posts that were already in existence, and I believe—I am not sure of the exact number—the number of temporary posts was really reduced.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire from the Honourable the Financial Commissioner from his internal knowledge of financial administration of these Railways, how it is that Company-managed Railways engage a lesser number of officers than the State-managed Railways in the matter of electrification?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not sure that I quite follow my Honourable friend's question.

Mr. B. Das: Does the Honourable Member agree to part (b) of my question that Company-managed Railways, like the S. I. R. and B., B. and C. I. Railway engage a lesser number of officials in their electrification schemes than the State-managed Railways like the G. I. P. Railway, and is it also not a fact, within the knowledge of the Honourable the Financial Commissioner, that the G. I. P. Railway Electrification scheme has proved a failure?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I will have to look into the exact numbers to compare them; but my Honourable friend surely remembers that the electrified length on the S. I. R., for instance, is much smaller than on the G. I. P. Railway.

Mr. B. Das: Do I take it that the Honourable Member feels satisfied with the results of the G. I. P. Railway Electrification scheme and that they have brought in greater economy and more profit to the G. I. P. Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The results of the G. I. P. Railway Electrification scheme have not been as satisfactory as we had expected, which is mainly due to fall in traffic.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: What was the rate of interest calculated when the scheme was originally placed before the Assembly and what is the rate of interest the Government are getting now?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If my Honourable friend will give me notice of the question, I shall be in a position to supply him the information required. I am afraid, I cannot carry these figures in my head.

Mr. B. Das: Can the Honourable Member give me an assurance that the over-staffing of the Electrification scheme would be inquired into, and, if there is actually any overstaffing, it will be reduced?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If there is overstaffing, certainly it will be reduced.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In view of the Honourable Member's reply, will he kindly inform this House as to what circumstances have prevented him from collecting the information within the statutory period of 10 days? Has this been a very difficult matter to secure information about? If so, why? Secondly, when the Honourable Member does supply the information, will he also kindly inform the House whether the present Superintendent-Foreman of this Section is a covenanted man, whether and when his contract is over, and, if so, whether the Honourable Member will endeavour to have him replaced by local recruitment by advertising openly?

Mr. P. E. Rau: As regards the second part of my Honourable friend's question, I shall obtain for him the information required.

As regards the first part, it has unfortunately happened that the statutory period of ten days has not been enough to collect all the information required.

POST OF SUPERINTENDING FOREMEN FOR THE MULTIPLE UNITS SECTION OF THE TRACTION DEPARTMENT OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

†730. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government please state why permission was accorded to the retention of the post of Superintending Foreman, maximum grade Rs. 850, for the Multiple Units Section of the Traction Department of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, while a similar post for the Electrical Locomotives Section was considered unnecessary? Is it a fact that the latter section is bigger and more important than the Multiple Units Section?

RECRUITMENT OF A FOREMAN IN ENGLAND FOR THE DISTRIBUTION SECTION OF THE TRACTION DEPARTMENT OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

†731. ***Mr. B. Das:** When superior scale officers were available and recruited in India by the Public Services Commission for the Distribution Section of the Traction Department of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, will Government please state why in November, 1932, a Foreman for the same section was recruited from England on a five-year contract?

INDIANISATION IN THE TRACTION DEPARTMENT OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

†732. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government kindly place before the Assembly figures relating to the number of Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans in the officers' and senior subordinate positions in the Traction Department of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and state whether the policy of progressive Indianisation has been strictly adhered to in making these appointments?

ILL-HEALTH OF MR. SATINDRA NATH SEN, A POLITICAL PRISONER DETAINED IN THE CAMPBELLPORE JAIL.

733. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): (a) Are Government aware that Mr. Satindra Nath Sen, a political prisoner from Bengal, now detained in the Campbellpore Jail (near Peshawar), had been ailing for a long time from "Tubercular Bone" and arthritis, when confined in the Darjeeling Jail and that, having no relief from Allopathic treatment, he was allowed treatment by his own physician?

(b) Is it a fact that Ayurvedic medicines did him a lot of good and so he was allowed to take Ayurvedic medicines at different times in different jails?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 729.

(c) Is it not a fact that Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose and some other prisoners, while confined in the Insein Jail in different times, were allowed to use Ayurvedic medicines and bills for the medicines were paid for by the Government?

(d) Is it not a fact that in almost all these cases Government sought the assistance of Kaviraj Shyamadas Vachaspati of Calcutta?

(e) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to explain why medicines sent by Kaviraj Shyamadas Vachaspati to Mr. Satindra Nath Sen have not been accepted by the Superintendent of Campbellpore Jail?

(f) Are Government prepared to take necessary steps in the matter to get Ayurvedic medicines from the Kaviraj mentioned?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am making inquiries and I will lay a statement on the table in due course.

RENT CHARGED FROM THE CLERKS OF ATTACHED OFFICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

734. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): Is it a fact that the Government of India have reduced the Delhi camp allowance of clerks in the Attached Offices of the Government of India by 10 per cent. without any corresponding reduction in the rent charged from them for Government quarters in New Delhi? Do Government propose to consider the question of reducing the rent correspondingly?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Delhi camp allowance of clerks in Attached Offices has been reduced by 10 per cent. No reduction has been made on that account in the standard rent of clerks' quarters in New Delhi. Government do not admit there is any connection between the Delhi camp allowance and the standard rent of clerks' quarters in New Delhi.

RETIREMENT OF MR. C. A. WILLIAMS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PURCHASE, INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

735. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): Is it a fact that Mr. C. A. Williams, Deputy Director of Purchase, Indian Stores Department, is retiring from service early in March, 1933? If so, do Government propose to recruit a qualified Indian on a lower scale of salary, or do they propose to fill the vacancy by promotion, and, if so, what are the qualifications of the proposed successor?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Mr. Williams has been granted leave with effect from the 9th March, 1933, preparatory to his retirement. The vacancy will be filled by promotion following the normal procedure.

ABOLITION OF ONE APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PURCHASE OF THE INDIAN STORE DEPARTMENT.

736. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): Is it a fact that one appointment of Assistant Director of Purchase of the Indian Stores Department has been abolished, and that the savings accruing from this have been utilised for giving additional pay to other officers employed at the headquarters of the department? If so, who are the beneficiaries and to what extent?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The post of the Assistant Director of Purchase, Engineering, in the Indian Stores Department has been abolished as a measure of retrenchment and the savings accruing therefrom have been surrendered.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire if the Honourable Member has taken final action on the report of the Stores Purchase Retrenchment Committee?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: We have not yet taken final action. There are some recommendations which are still under consideration. Some of the recommendations have already been disposed of.

POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PURCHASE, TEXTILES, IN THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

737. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (on behalf of Mr. S. C. Mitra): Is it a fact that the post of the Assistant Director of Purchase, Textiles, has remained unfilled for a long time, and have Government considered the possibility of abolishing this appointment?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The post of Assistant Director of Purchase, Textiles, has been kept unfilled from time to time in the past. The question of abolishing the post was carefully examined by the Government recently. They came to the conclusion that it was necessary to retain the post in consequence of the retrenchments made in the higher Administrative appointments in the Indian Stores Department.

RECRUITMENT OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

738. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Is it a fact that at present all posts in the first grade of telephone operators are filled by direct recruitment of outsiders and that lady operators are given preference in the matter of promotion?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, have Government considered the question of improving the prospects of operators in the second grade by throwing open to them the appointments in the first grade and ordering that lady operators should not be given preference in the matter of promotion but that their cases should be considered along with those of others?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) No. The posts of Telephone Operators, Class I, are filled partly by direct recruitment and partly by the promotion of Telephone Operators, Class II, according to seniority combined with merit irrespective of sex.

(b) Does not arise.

PLATFORM RAISED BY MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN THE COMPOUND OF THE LAHORE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

739. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Is it a fact that an unauthorized *katcha* platform with thatched roof over it was raised by the Muslim employees in the compound of the Lahore General Post Office for saying their prayers?

(b) Is it a fact that recently the said platform was demolished by the order of the Postmaster, Lahore?

(c) Is it a fact that on its demolition, a deputation of a few Muslim employees was arranged by the Muslim Deputy Post Master General and the Muslim Deputy Post Master, Lahore, to wait upon the Post Master General and that, as a result of this deputation, it is contemplated by the Post Master General to restore the platform in question?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether such structures are permissible under the departmental rules, if any, and whether Government are prepared to grant similar requests if made by the employees of other communities?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes, the facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) No—only the roof which had been erected on the platform was removed.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative and the second part does not arise in view of the reply given to part (b) of the question.

(d) Government are considering the matter and will place a reply on the table later on.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that the so-called *kutch*a platform was actually a mosque from time immemorial?

Sir Thomas Ryan: I am afraid I am not in a position to define precisely what a mosque is, but I doubt whether the Honourable Member's statement is correct.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member please inquire whether that *kutch*a platform was really a mosque?

Sir Thomas Ryan: I do not see any point in inquiring since the question which was at issue with regard to this structure has been settled satisfactorily.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that there is no such place of worship for any other community, nor has one been demanded by any other community?

Sir Thomas Ryan: I am quite prepared to take that from the Honourable Member, but I do not think it follows that any action on my part is necessary.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: I wanted to state the correct facts, and to defend the Department concerned.

SPECIAL PAY FOR EMPLOYEES IN MIR ALI AND WANA SUB-POST OFFICES IN THE DERAJAT POSTAL DIVISION.

740. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Will Government please state whether Mir Ali and Wana Sub-Post Offices in the Derajat Postal Division are remote, unhealthy, dangerous and non-family offices?

(b) Is it a fact that special pay of Rs. 10 per mensem only is sanctioned for Wana Sub-Post Office and nothing for the Mir Ali Sub-Post Office?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, have Government considered the advisability of sanctioning a special pay of Rs. 30 per mensem for these two offices as sanctioned for Razmak Sub-Post Office?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) The facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) and (c). The case of the Wana allowances has recently been reviewed and the rate of special pay for the clerical cadre employed there has been increased from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. At present no similar special pay is sanctioned for Mir Ali but the case is under consideration.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE STAFF OF TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE, BAUDOT AND ELECTRICAL MECHANICS IN THE TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING DIVISIONS IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

741. *Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla: (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the communal composition of the staff of Telegraph, Telephone, Baudot and Electrical Mechanics in the Telegraph Engineering Divisions in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle?

(b) If the figures of composition disclose inadequate representation of the Hindus, what steps do Government propose to take to remove this inequality?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 741 and 742 together.

(a) A statement is placed on the table containing such information as is readily available, and Government hope that it will meet the Honourable Member's requirements, as the collection of more detailed information would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(b) Government do not consider that special steps are necessary to increase the representation of Hindus.

Statement showing the communal composition of the staff under the following heads in Postal Divisions, 1st class Head Offices and Telegraph Engineering Divisions in the Punjab and N. W. F. Circle as it stood on 31st December, 1932.

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Euro-peans and Anglo- Indians.	Sikhs.	Indian Chris- tians.	Other com- munities.	Total.
<i>Postal Divisions and 1 class Head Offices.</i>							
Postmen	1,265	2,080	..	104	4	6	3,459
Inferior servants (including mail peons, letter box peons, packers and others).	1,186	1,952	..	166	11	29	3,344
<i>Telegraph Engineering Divisions.</i>							
Linestaff (including linemen, line Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors).	338	513	..	36	1	..	888
Non-Gazetted non-clerical superior staff (including Telephone, Telegraph, Baudot and Electrical Mechanics and others).	117	156	27	21	6	..	327

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it a fact that all these cadres are taken as a whole and not for particular circles in taking the communal composition?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should like to have notice of that question. My Honourable friend, the Director General, says he is not in a position to give me the information off hand.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE STAFF IN CERTAIN CADRES IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

†742. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Will Government please lay on the table of this House a statement showing the communal composition of the staff in the following cadres in each Postal, Telegraph Engineering Division and First Class Head Post Office in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle:

- (i) Postmen;
- (ii) Mail peons and letter box peons;
- (iii) Linemen staff and mechanics; and
- (iv) packers?

(b) If the figures show that the Hindus are poorly represented in any of the aforesaid cadres, will Government please state what steps have so far been taken to redress the communal inequality and in how many cases the third vacancy has been allotted or reserved for the members of the Hindu community?

PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT ON *DIWALI* AND *DUSSEERAH* FESTIVALS.

743. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Are Government aware that *Diwali* and *Dusserah* are the most widely observed religious festivals of the Hindus?

(b) If so, have Government considered the question of declaring these two festivals as public holidays in the case of the Telegraph Department, and, if so, with what result?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Government are aware that *Diwali* and *Dusserah* are two Hindu religious festivals.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra to parts (b) and (c) of Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar's starred question No. 681 in the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd September, 1929. *Diwali* and *Dusserah* are observed in different parts of India on different dates.

CONSTRUCTION OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

744. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Will Government please state the names of the departmental buildings in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Posts and Telegraphs Department in which churches, temples, gurdwaras and mosques or places of prayer including platforms or enclosures used for these purposes are in existence?

(b) If these exist, will Government please state whether such structures are permissible and have been erected with the sanction of the Director-General?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, what steps do Government propose to take to demolish such unauthorised structures and also to prevent their coming into existence in the future?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) and (b). Government regret that they have no complete information nor do they consider it necessary to make any general inquiry in the matter.

(c) Government do not propose to issue any orders of a general nature. Any case which comes to their notice will be dealt with on its merits.

PERIOD OF STAY OF OFFICIALS IN THE TANK SUB-POST OFFICE IN THE DERAJAT POSTAL DIVISION.

745. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Are Government aware that the Tank Sub-Post Office in the Derajat Division is one of the most unhealthy stations in that Division?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, have Government considered the advisability of fixing the period of stay of the officials in this office for one year?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) and (b). Government are not aware how Tank compares with other places in the Division, as to unhealthiness, but a copy of the question and of my reply is being sent to the Postmaster-General for such action as may be necessary.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE AMRITSAR HEAD POST OFFICE.

746. ***Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Is it a fact that in the recent retrenchment of personnel in the Amritsar Head Post Office, out of about 40 permanent Muslim postmen, only two postmen have been retrenched, whereas out of about 24 Hindu postmen, five have been retrenched, thus not maintaining the ratio that existed before retrenchment?

(b) Is it a fact that the Retrenchment Board of the Amritsar Head Office consisted of one Sikh and two Muslim officers?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the Hindus have been retrenched over and above the proportionate ratio and why no Hindu officer was included in the Board?

(d) Are Government now prepared to restore the Hindu officials to service and direct the Post Master General to see that in future any Retrenchment Board appointed for the purpose should be so constituted as to contain at least one Hindu officer?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF A HINDU AS ACCOUNTANT IN THE TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING DIVISION, RAWALPINDI.

747. *Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla: (a) Is it a fact that Hindus are in a minority in the ministerial staff of the Telegraph Engineering Division, Rawalpindi, under the Post Master General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle?

(b) Is it also a fact that the accountant of the same Divisional Office who is the only adviser to the Divisional Engineer in establishment and account matters is a Muhammadan?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to replace the accountant by a non-Muslim?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Government have no information but postings of officials to particular offices are not made on a communal basis.

REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF MUSLIM INFERIOR SERVANTS IN THE KOHAT HEAD POST OFFICE.

748. *Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla: (a) Is it a fact that in the Kohat Head Post Office the whole inferior staff is of the Muslim community with the result that there is none to serve the Hindu staff with water during the duty hours, especially during the summer?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, have Government considered the desirability of reducing the overwhelming majority of Muslim inferior servants in that office and remove the grievance of the Hindu community?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier, to whom a copy of the question is being sent.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: May I know if it is part of the duties of the inferior servants to supply water to higher officials?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Only if they are specifically employed for the purpose.

IMPORT DUTY ON CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS.

749. *Mr. B. V. Jadhav: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of import duty realised by them on raw cinema films;
- (b) the amount of import duty realised on exposed films brought into this country; and
- (c) the amount of rebate paid to importers of exposed films in the years 1930-31 and 1931-32?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Rs. 2,83,986 during 1931-32, the first year in which different rates of duty were prescribed for exposed and unexposed films.

(b) Rs. 5,27,020 during 1931-32.

(c) Rs. 1,03,516 for 1931-32. Exact figures have not been compiled for 1930-31 and would necessitate special reference to Collectors of Customs. The estimated figure is 80 to 40 thousand rupees.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have not followed the answer to part (c) of the question. Does the amount of one lakh and three thousand represent the total amount of rebate for both the years or for each year?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: No. For 1931-32.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Does the Honourable Member realise that the rebate is nearly 50 per cent. of the duty that was collected on the raw films in the same year?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The rebate is on exposed films, not on raw films.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Does the Honourable Member realise that if the rebate is Rs. 1,03,000 after the films have been exposed for a number of months here, it is really a rebate on films which are not worth exposing in any other part of the world, and that, therefore, the period that has now been given for the repayment of the rebate, of nearly two years, is a period which is helpful to the exposed film importers and that it is unfair to the State and the raw film industry in this country?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I believe that, according to the practice followed by the Customs Department, no rebate is granted in respect of films which are not worth more than the amount of rebate.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Does the Honourable Member have any statistics showing how much of this rebate is on films which were not permitted to be shown in this country, that is, which were censored and, therefore, were not capable of being shown in this country, and how much on films which were actually shown in this country?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I must ask the Honourable Member for notice of that question.

JURISDICTION OF THE PATNA GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

750. ***Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the basis of deciding the jurisdiction of a Telegraph Office?

(b) What is the jurisdiction of a free delivery radius of Task Work Messengers?

(c) What is the jurisdiction of the Patna Government Telegraph Office?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) I presume that the Honourable Member refers to the extent of the delivery area served by a telegraph office. This is determined by the convenience of the public, economy in operation and the volume of traffic to be handled.

(b) The free delivery area of a telegraph office includes generally places within a radial distance of five miles from the office.

(c) The jurisdiction of the Patna Government Telegraph Office for the purpose of delivery of messages is about five miles radially on the Patna side of the river Ganges.

ADJUSTMENT OF PAY OF TELEGRAPH OFFICIALS.

751. ***Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore:** (a) Is it a fact that the adjustment of pay of the Telegraph officials is regulated in accordance with the Fundamental Rules made by the Secretary of State for India in Council?

(b) Is it a fact that in relation to services under its administrative control, other than All-India Services, a Local Government may make rules modifying or replacing any of the Fundamental Rules subject to certain restrictions?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state who is the authority to make, modify or replace the Fundamental Rules applicable to the Telegraph officials?

(d) Is it a fact that there are different classes of Station Service Telegraphists with different grades in pay recruited for different Telegraph Offices and the pay has been fixed with special reference to the cost of living in each town?

(e) Is it a fact that one of the service condition of the Station Service Telegraphists is that they are immune from transfers except on an occasion of national emergency?

(f) If the reply to (e) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether the Station Service Telegraphists so transferred will get General Service pay? If not, why not?

(g) Is it a fact that, under the Fundamental Rules, the substantive pay of an official cannot be decreased even when transferred unless with his written declaration to accept the pay of the station transferred?

(h) Is it a fact that on the conversion of the Telegraph Office at Barisal into a Combined Post and Telegraph Office, the Station Service Telegraphists attached to that office were transferred to the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, on the same pay as drawn at Barisal Office though the grades are different in two places?

(i) If the reply to (h) be in the affirmative, will Government please state, under what rule, the transfer was ordered and whether such transfer did not break the service condition of the men concerned?

(j) Is it a fact that on representation of the case by the All-India Telegraph Union, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs informed the General Secretary that the pay of the Telegraphists was fixed in accordance with statutory rule for which the Director-General has no power to depart?

(k) If the reply to (j) be in the affirmative, are Government aware that the case is one of genuine hardships? Are they prepared to recommend the modification of the rule and, if not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a), (b) and (c). What the Honourable Member means by adjustment of pay is not understood. The fixation of pay is within the competence of a Local Government under rule 19 of the Fundamental Rules. Under rule 2 of those rules the Fundamental Rules apply in general not only to Telegraph officials but to all Government servants whose pay is debitable to civil estimates in India. The Rules may be cancelled or modified by a competent authority in exercise of the powers conferred by rule 7 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules. In the case of the Telegraph officials the authority is the Governor General in Council.

(d) Yes.

(e) Station Service Telegraphists are generally immune from transfer except that they are liable for field service in case of need.

(f) The remuneration of such staff if employed on field service would be determined by the regulations in force at the time.

(g) The fact is substantially as stated.

(h) to (k). The Honourable Member apparently refers to the fact that on the conversion of the Barisal telegraph office into a combined post and telegraph office some years ago three Station Service Telegraphists of that office were transferred to the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, on the local Station Service scale for Calcutta of 80—5—170. The pay of these men on transfer was fixed under Fundamental Rule No. 22. My information is that two of these men had expressed their willingness to serve anywhere within the Bengal and Assam Circle while one of them made an exception only in the case of Chittagong. It appears therefore that the transfers were in accordance with the wishes of the officials and no hardship appears to have been entailed.

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS FOR CARRIER CURRENT WORKING IN THE TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

752. *Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore: (a) Is it a fact that all non gazetted officers of the Telegraph Engineering Branch of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department are recruited under rules set out in Chapter X of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Vol. IV, issued under the authority of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs?

(b) Is it a fact that the employment of different classes of Engineering Supervisors whether on permanent or temporary vacancies are conducted in accordance with instructions embodied in notes below paragraph 452 of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Vol. IV?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the same principles are applicable in respect of the appointment of Electrical Supervisors for the Carrier Current Working? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes, except as regards Workshops supervisory staff referred to in paragraph 427 who are recruited now wholly in India.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b).

SELECTION OF TELEGRAPHISTS FOR THE CALCUTTA-BOMBAY CARRIER CURRENT WORKING.

753. *Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore: (a). (i) Is it a fact that in 1981 when the Calcutta-Bombay Carrier Current Working was introduced, volunteers from amongst telegraphists of more than five years' service were called for to learn the new system?

(ii) Is it a fact that at the time of selection, Telegraphists having less than even three years' service were selected for the training?

(b) If the answer to part (a) (i) be in the affirmative, will Government please lay on the table a statement showing (1) total number of selected telegraphists, (2) number of telegraphists selected with less than three years' service, (3) number of telegraphists selected with less than five years' service?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) (i). No; there was no restriction with respect to the length of service of a volunteer.

(ii) Yes.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) (i) above.

TASK WORK DELIVERY SYSTEM IN CERTAIN TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

754. *Raj Bahadur Lal Brij Kishore: (a) Is it a fact that under certain rules of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Task Work Delivery System can be introduced by a Postmaster-General who may fix a rate of task work delivery per message as he considers fit having regard to the volume of traffic, the area to be served, the facilities for getting about and the necessity for speedy distribution of telegrams?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what are the rates and methods of delivery prevalent in the Telegraph Offices of Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon, Madras, Karachi and Agra, since 1927?

(c) Is it a fact that, under the existing rules of the Department, the computation of task work delivery peons is generally based on an average monthly delivery of more than 2,500 messages subject to the limitation of ensuring to every task work messenger an income not less than his subsistence allowance according to the task work system of the office concerned?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the number of task work delivery peons (including temporary ones) attached to the offices of Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon, Madras, Karachi and Agra, and the number of messages delivered by them in each of the offices during the years 1927-28, 1929-30, 1930-31 and 1931-32?

(e) Is it a fact that the charge of every telegram includes the cost of delivery also with special reference to the class of the messages concerned?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are not in possession of precise information since as stated in the first part of this question the rates and methods of delivery are fixed by Heads of Circles without reference to Government.

(c) A Postmaster General may introduce, without reference to the Director General, task-work delivery in all large offices dealing with an average monthly delivery of more than 2,500 messages, and may fix the staff of task-work message delivery peons required in each office and the rate of task-work delivery per message as he considers fit having regard to the volume of traffic to be handled, the area to be served, the facilities for getting about and the necessity for speedy distribution of telegrams. He will fix such a standard as will ensure a monthly income to a task-work messenger from task-work fees of not less than the minimum subsistence allowance sanctioned for the station.

(d) The number of task-work messengers varies from time to time according to the requirements of traffic and Government regret that the figures required by the Honourable Member are not readily available.

(e) In fixing the tariff charges for telegrams the general cost of delivery is one of the items taken into consideration, but such cost is not computed with reference to each class of message.

TRANSFERS OF STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPHISTS.

755. *Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore: (a) Is it a fact that the service conditions of station service telegraphists make them immune from transfer outside the stations to which they are attached except in time of war or any other national emergency?

(b) Is it a fact that the Post and Telegraph Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee, 1931, recommended transfers of telegraphists to combined offices as an "emergent measure" designed to absorb the surplus?

(c) Is it a fact that only station service telegraphists are picked out for such transfers?

(d) Is it a fact that under paragraph 64 (4) of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, transfers of signalling staff can be made to meet the general requirements of discipline and efficiency?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) to (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this House to Pandit Satvendra Nath Sen's identical starred question No. 1527 on the 5th of December last.

LIGHTS IN THE COMPOUND OF THE QUEENSWAY QUARTERS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

756. *Sir Muhammad Yakub: (a) Are Government aware that during the last November Special Session of the Assembly, Sir Muhammad Yakub wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly Department, requesting him to move the Central Public Works Department, in order to fit in some lights in the compound of the Queensway Quarters for the Members of the Assembly and that the Secretary of the Assembly forwarded the letter to the Public Works Department requesting them to take immediate action?

(b) Are Government also aware that Sir Muhammad Yakub also personally spoke to the Engineer about the matter?

(c) Will Government state why no action has been taken as yet about the matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am informed that the Honourable Member's letter did not reach the Central Public Works Department and I am making further enquiries into the matter.

OFFICERING BY INDIANS OF THE VARIOUS ARMS OF THE PROPOSED INDIANISED DIVISION.

757. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda): Will Government kindly state what steps they have taken for the prospective officering by Indians of the various arms and services of the proposed Indianised Division?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The posting of Indian King's Commissioned officers to units composing the Infantry Division and the Cavalry Brigade has already been begun, but officers of these units will mainly be found from cadets trained at the Indian Military Academy, the first batch of whom will pass out in October, 1934. Arrangements are now being made for the formation of a regiment of Indian Artillery as well as Signal and Engineer units. The officers for these arms will also be found mainly from the Indian Military Academy. The method of officering the services, such as the Supply and Transport and Veterinary Services, is now under consideration, and announcements will be made in due course as to the procedure which will ultimately be followed. I may add that a few Indian King's Commissioned officers have already been attached to the Indian Army Service Corps on probation.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether, in the formation of these new units, the rank and file will be thrown open to all communities alike, or whether they will, as hitherto, be confined to what is now called the "enlisted classes"?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The policy of the Government of India in this matter will not be altered on account of the Indianisation of the division, but, as I have already announced in this House, an opportunity will be given to Madrassis to enlist in the artillery.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member kindly explain to the House why he confines it to the Madrassis and refuses to include in it any other classes?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Because the Madrassis were considered most suitable. (Hear, hear.)

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member please state whether he is giving his own opinion or the opinion of the Government of India?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The opinion of the military authorities which was endorsed by the Government of India. (Cheers.)

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In view of the reply given by the Honourable Member, why did he consider that the Madrassis were not suitable for other branches of the Army, e.g., Pioneers?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Madrassis are now to be enlisted for the artillery which is not the same as infantry.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether it requires better physique, better stamina and altogether a better type of recruit for the artillery than for a pioneer or an infantry regiment?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: You want brains for the artillery.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: And brawn too!

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The requirements for artillery men are somewhat different from those for infantry men, and it was considered that although Madrassis were not such good infantry men as other classes in India, they might make equally good artillery men.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Is it not a fact that for an artillery man an exceptional physical development is a *sine qua non*, and is this obtained or is this the characteristic of the people in Southern India?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Yes, certainly, Sir. (Cheers.)

Sir Muhammad Yakub: May I understand that the Madrassis are as fit for the artillery as the Anglo-Indians are for the Railway Department?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it not a fact that better divisions have not been Indianised and only poor divisions have been Indianised?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not understand my Honourable friend. There is no such classification.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: What I wanted to suggest is this. Only those army divisions which are poor, which have not got sufficient funds for their use have been Indianised, and the point is that men in one of the Indianised army could not send their horses in the lancers' competition.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I think the Honourable Member is under a misconception. There are no units of the army which are poor as compared with other units.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: Is it not a fact that some divisions have got some reserve funds for their benefit, raised by the regiments themselves?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I can assure the Honourable Member that that has nothing to do with this question.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Is it not a fact that the real reason why this exclusive enlistment has been given to the Madrassis by the Army Department is a sop to Cerberus, because the pioneer regiments have been disbanded?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir. It is because His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief definitely thinks that Madrassis will make good artillery men. I may also make it perfectly clear that enlistment in the new Indian artillery is not being confined to Madrassis only. They are being recruited only for one or two batteries.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Then who will constitute the other batteries?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I should like to have notice of that question. I do not remember the exact composition.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member state whether they will be thrown open to other communities?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I have answered that question already.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Will the Honourable Member tell the House how many Indians there are in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There can be no question of having Indians in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. But there is an Indian Army Veterinary Corps which is composed entirely of Indians.

Mr. B. Das: Is it not a fact that the Indian Medical Department of the Army is completely overmanned by Anglo-Indians who undergo no education, and pass no examination?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The Indian Medical Department is composed very largely of Anglo-Indians.

Mr. B. Das: And is the Honourable Member aware that those Anglo-Indians, who are educated in the Calcutta Medical College, have only to go through a course of attendance and that they do not have to pass any examination?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Of course, they do. The Honourable Member knows nothing about the matter.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I should like to have notice of that question.

INDIANS HOLDING THE KING'S COMMISSION IN THE COMBATANT RANKS.

758. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda): (a) Will Government kindly state the number of Indians holding the King's commission in the combatant ranks, who have put in more than 12 years' service?

(b) How many of them, if any, are in permanent command of a company or a squadron?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) 27.

(b) None. But I may explain that the normal period of service required for promotion to such posts is 17 years in the Infantry and several years longer in the Cavalry.

INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AT DEHRA DUN.

759. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda): (a) Will Government kindly state how many commissioned officers are employed in the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun?

(b) How many, if any, of them are Indians?

(c) If none, will Government kindly state why no Indian has been selected for that duty?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). Twelve British King's Commissioned officers and one Indian Viceroy's Commissioned officer.

(c) No Indian King's Commissioned officer with the necessary seniority and qualifications is at present available. The object is to give the cadets as far as possible the same sort of training that they would receive in England and, therefore, to provide them with instructors of the highest possible qualifications.

INDIAN KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS EMPLOYED ON STAFF DUTIES.

760. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda): (a) Will Government kindly state how many, if any, of the Indian King's Commissioned officers are being employed on staff duties?

(b) Do Government propose to enable a sufficient number of Indians to become qualified for staff work by employing them on such duties, thus making them fit to take over similar duties in the proposed Indianised Division?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) There is no Indian King's Commissioned officer at present in permanent staff employ.

(b) Indians holding the King's Commission are given the same opportunity as British officers of qualifying for important staff appointments by passing through the Staff College. I may add that the one Indian officer who qualified for the Staff College at the examination held last year was specially nominated for the College by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, although he would not have obtained a vacancy in the ordinary way. This officer is now at the Staff College and His Excellency hopes that others will follow him in due course.

As stated in the reply to Sirdar Sohan Singh's question No. 765 on the 14th March, 1932, His Excellency is prepared, if necessary, to give extra nominations from time to time to those Indian officers who qualify.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO STATE PRISONER MR. RANBIR SINGH.

761. ***Bhal Parma Nand:** (a) In answer to a question put by me with regard to State Prisoner Mr. Ranbir Singh's allowance, the Honourable the Home Member said on the 5th December, 1932, that the question was under consideration and would be decided shortly. Will Government be pleased to state what is the decision at which they have arrived?

(b) Are Government aware that Mr. Ranbir Singh is not keeping good health in the Sub Jail at Muzaffargarh? If so, do Government propose to shift him to a more suitable and healthy place?

(c) Are Government aware that to a supplementary question, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, the Honourable the Home Member replied on the 5th December, 1932, that Mr. Ranbir Singh's case was being referred to two judges? If so, will the Honourable the Home Member please state what opinion has been obtained from the above judges?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) The allowances sanctioned for the State Prisoner are:

- (i) a daily allowance of Rs. 1-6-0 for diet.
- (ii) a monthly allowance of Rs. 82.

(iii) a sum of Rs. 60 on account of initial expenditure on necessary articles.

(b) No. The latest report received shows that he is in good health.

(c) The case was referred to two judges whose opinion justified the action taken.

DETENTION OF AZAD VIDYA BHUSHAN UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

762. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that Azad Vidya Bhushan, M.A., who has been detained under Regulation III of 1818 has made his representation to Government to the effect that his case be put up before two judges to decide whether his detention under the Regulation is justified?

(b) Is it a fact that Vidya Bhushan has applied to Government to allow him facilities to see his legal adviser to prepare his case to be laid before the said judges?

(c) Is it a fact that Vidya Bhushan has applied to Government for his personal and family allowances and personal requirements?

(d) Is it a fact that he has applied to Government for newspapers and books, etc., to be supplied to him?

(e) If the answers to the above questions be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken by them in the matters referred to above?

(f) Is it a fact that all the facilities allowed to him as an under-trial prisoner have been withdrawn?

(g) Is it a fact that the articles deposited for him are supplied to him after six or seven days?

(h) Is it a fact that jail clothing supplied to him as a 'B' class under-trial prisoner has been taken away from him and no other clothing has been supplied to him as yet?

(i) Is it a fact that he is supplied with 'B' class prisoner's diet?

(j) Are Government aware that he passed the M.A. Examination in Ancient Indian History and Culture and Epigraphy from the Hindu University, Benares, in the First Division and stood first in his University?

(k) Are Government aware that he was a research scholar in Epigraphy and Ancient Indian History and Culture before his arrest?

(l) Is it a fact that he was selected to be the Curator of the Archæological Museum at Muttra just before his arrest?

(m) Are Government aware that he is the eldest male and the only earning member of his family?

(n) Are Government aware that he had his mother, a widowed sister and his younger brother to support?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Yes.

(e) (i). Vidya Bhusan's case is at present being considered by two Sessions Judges. In accordance with the usual practice followed in such cases, he was supplied with a copy of the charges against him, and his representation has been placed before the two Judges with other papers. It is not the practice to permit a State Prisoner to have the assistance of a legal adviser in this connection.

(ii) Enquiries are being made in order to determine what allowances should be sanctioned for the State Prisoner's family. Meanwhile the following allowances have been sanctioned for him :

(a) Daily allowance for food Rs. 1-12-0.

(b) Monthly allowance Rs. 36.

(c) Lump sum for purchase of articles Rs. 60.

Sanction has also been accorded to the supply to him of certain newspapers and periodicals.

(f) He is no longer an undertrial prisoner, and is being treated in accordance with the rules and regulations for the treatment of State Prisoners.

(g) No.

(h) No. He has been allowed to retain this clothing for the present.

(i) He has been receiving milk and fruit in addition to the normal diet of a "B" class prisoner.

(j) and (k). He is an M.A. of Benares University, and was a research student in Ancient History. I have no further details.

(l) I have no information on this point.

(m) and (n). As stated in my reply to part (e), enquiries are being made.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NUMBER OF OVERSEERS AND POSTMEN, ETC., IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

90. Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Will Government be pleased to collect and furnish the following information concerning all the Postal Circles?

1	2	3	4	5
Category.	Number on the 31st January, 1931.	Number on the 31st January, 1933.	Number abolished from 1st February, 1931, to 31st January, 1933.	Number converted from 1st February, 1931, to 31st January, 1933.
(i) Departmental Branch Post Offices.				
(ii) Mail Overseers				
(iii) Overseer-Postmen				
(iv) Head-Postmen				
(v) Reader and Sorting Postmen .				

(b) Is it not a fact that prior to the 31st January, 1931, departmental branch post offices were sanctioned only after it was found that they should be self-supporting?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, have the branch offices, to be shown in column 5 of part (a), ceased to be self-supporting?

(d) Will Government kindly state why the abolition and conversion to be shown in columns 4 and 5 of (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) were carried out, and whether this reduction has not entailed the duties of the retrenched officials on those in the lower categories and if the duties have been assigned to lower grade officials whether this delegation is permissible under the Post Office rules?

(e) Will Government be further pleased to state:

(i) whether the posts of (1) Lower Division Clerks, (2) Branch Postmasters, (3) Mail Overseers, (4) Overseer Postmen, (5) Head Postmen, and (6) Reader and Sorting postmen which, prior to 1931, were, so to say, the prize-appointment for postmen only, have now been left open also to officials in the lower cadres and outside candidates either from the other branches of the Department or from the open market, and (ii) if so, what the cumulative effect of this and of the information to be furnished in columns 4 and 5 of the statement in part (a) has been on the future prospects of postmen, that is to say, how many higher appointments were open to postmen on the 31st January, 1931, and how many of these they had to forego by the 31st January, 1933, on account of abolition and conversion of the posts and also by reason of competition with others outside their cadre?

Sir Thomas Ryan: The points raised by the Honourable Member are being examined and a reply will be placed on the table in due course.

**GRIEVANCES OF THE MUSLIM CLERKS EMPLOYED IN THE LOCO. SHOP
PRODUCTION BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

91. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that ten or eleven Muslim clerks employed in the Loco. Shop Production Branch of the North Western Railway have submitted to the Agent and the Superintendent, Mechanical Workshop, Moghalpura, a memorial of 12 printed pages regarding their grievances?

(b) Have they stated in that memorial that Muslim employees are being punished or dismissed for trifling or supposed mistakes for the simple reason that they are Muslims whereas non-Muslim employees who commit even serious mistakes escape scot free and get undue promotion?

(c) Does the memorial state that non-Muslim clerks resort to fraudulent practices in order to give more piece-work money to workmen in whom they are interested?

(d) Does the memorial state that fraudulent practices of non-Muslim shop production clerks are connived at in the Accounts Office where the latter hold monopoly?

(e) Does the memorial state that appeals of Muslims are given no consideration while every effort is made to save non-Muslims even when they are entangled in serious cases?

(f) Is it a fact that the memorial in support of all the allegations quotes a large number of specific cases from the records?

(g) Is it a fact that no action has been taken on the memorial?

(h) Are Government prepared to institute very early enquiry into these allegations and take suitable action? If not, why not?

Mr. P. B. Rau: Government have no information but I have sent a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent, North Western Railway, for such action as he may deem necessary.

ABSENCE OF MUSLIM PERMANENT JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ACCOUNTS OFFICE AND DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

92. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is not a single Muslim permanent junior accountant in the whole of the North Western Railway Accounts Office and the seven Divisional Accounts Offices on that Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Chief Accounts Officer and Chief Accounts Officer of the North Western Railway and the Deputy Controller of Railway Accounts, in whose hands lay the confirmation of accountants are all non-Muslims belonging to one community?

(c) Is it a fact that the present Chief Accounts Officer has been posted to the North Western Railway only recently?

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

(b) It is a fact that the three posts referred to were held at the time by non-Muslims, but the confirmation of Accountants did not lie in their hands, as it is ordered by the Controller of Railway Accounts. Government strongly repudiate the suggestion contained in this question that any of these officers was swayed by communal considerations in making his recommendations.

(c) Yes.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS.

93. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that when accounts were under the control of the Auditor General, men who had not passed the accountants' examinations were seldom appointed as accountants?

(b) Is it a fact that the rigid rule regarding examination was hitherto used as an excuse for not giving the posts of accountants to Muslims?

(c) Is it a fact that since the separation of accounts from audit, a large number of unqualified men have been appointed and confirmed as accountants and senior accountants in the accounts department?

(d) Is it a fact that a large number of men have been exempted from passing the accountants' examination?

(e) Is it a fact that the relaxation of rules regarding examination has also been made mostly in favour of non-Muslims?

(f) Is it also a fact that a number of Muslim employees who have passed the examination are working as clerks and have not been promoted as accountants?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether appointment as accountants of qualified Muslims in place of unqualified non-Muslims will lead to efficiency or inefficiency?

(h) In the interests of efficiency and in view of the present paucity of Muslims in the Railway Accounts department, are Government prepared to remove or revert unqualified non-Muslims and appoint Muslims, who have passed the examination as accountants? If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) This is probably correct, but a verification of the statement will involve a considerable amount of time and labour.

(b) Certainly not.

(c), (d) and (e). Under the terms and conditions under which the existing subordinate establishments were transferred to the Railway Accounts Department under the Financial Commissioner of Railways and the rules for recruitment thereto, certain persons who were employed in certain ranks and grades on the 1st April, 1929, were eligible for confirmation in the actual rank and grade so held by them without being required to pass any examination, but it was provided that no such employee would be promoted to any higher grade of appointment until he had passed the examination prescribed for such rank or grade. Apart from persons confirmed under these rules, I am informed that there are only four persons who have been exempted from passing the Accountants examination, and of these two are Muslims.

(f) It is a fact that there is a large number of employees, of whom a few are Muslims, who have passed the examination but have, owing to the want of vacancies, to remain as clerks.

(g) Government do not consider that efficiency or inefficiency of a particular member of the staff has anything to do with his religious persuasion.

(h) If the Honourable Member's suggestion is that exemptions from passing examination already granted should be cancelled, Government are not prepared to consider it.

FREQUENT TRANSFERS OF THE MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN THE DEHRA DUN POSTAL DIVISION.

94. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Muslim employees of the Postal Department in the Dehra Dun Division are very frequently transferred from one place to another? If so, will they please state the reasons for it?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the expenditure Government had to incur on account of travelling allowance on such transfers made in the years 1931-1932?

(c) Who is responsible for this expenditure incurred? Are such frequent transfers contrary to the orders for avoiding transfers and what action do Government propose to take to recover this amount from the officer responsible?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (c). Government have no information. The matter is entirely within the competence of the Postmaster-General to whom a copy of the question and of this reply is being sent for such action as he may consider necessary.

UNPAID APPRENTICES WORKING IN THE OFFICE OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

96. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad:** (a) How many unpaid apprentices are at present working in the Railway Board's office and since how long? What assurance has been given to these men?

(b) Will Government please explain the necessity for employing unpaid men? Is it not a fact that that necessity was experienced on account of drastic reduction in the establishment of the Railway Board? Do Government propose to employ these men in order to cope with the work?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend has been misinformed. There are no unpaid apprentices employed in the office of the Railway Board.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE HEAD ASSISTANTS OF THE TELEPHONE REVENUE ACCOUNTING OFFICES.

97. **Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Is it a fact that Telephone is considered as a part of the Engineering Branch of the Telegraph Department and that Telephone Revenue Accounting Work was originally carried on in the Divisional offices of the Engineering Branch?

(b) Is it a fact that thereafter when the Telephone Revenue Accounting offices were centralised in Calcutta and Delhi, these offices were placed under the administrative control of the Directors of Telegraphs (Engineering Circles) and rules to that effect are incorporated in the Manuals of the Department?

(c) Is it a fact that even when these offices were decentralised and attached to the Circle Offices, these Telephone Revenue Accounting Offices were considered as forming part of the Engineering Branch of these Circle Offices?

(d) Is it a fact that Engineering Branch clerks formed the personnel of the clerical establishment of these Telephone Revenue Accounting Offices?

(e) Is it a fact that knowledge of the rules contained in some of the Manuals concerning the Engineering Branch is necessary for the Head Assistants of these Telephone Revenue Accounting Offices and that these Head Assistants were required to be qualified Lower Selection Grade clerks?

(f) Is it a fact that Lower Selection Grade clerks of the Engineering Branch had to pass in certain subjects which included Engineering Manuals which the Lower Selection Grade clerks of the Traffic or the Postal Branch had not to pass through?

(g) If the replies to (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to offer the appointments of the Head Assistants of the Telephone Revenue Accounting Offices to passed Lower Selection Grade clerks of the Engineering Branch? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: The position is still as explained in reply to Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria's identical unstarred question No. 144 as recently as the 30th of September last.

SYSTEM OF PAYMENT FOR TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS.

98. **Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** Referring to answers given to unstarred question No. 275 of Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 29th March, 1932, on the floor of the Assembly:

- (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the amount which was drawn by the Task Work Messengers of Calcutta office under the Bhaga System under the old rules and the amount which they would have been entitled to under the new changes introduced from the 1st March, 1931?
- (b) Referring to answers to (i) thereof, will Government be pleased to quote the authority under which the Audit office passed the salary bills?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to quote the authority under which these salary bills were prepared in the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta?
- (d) Will Government be pleased to state if enquiry for authority was made from the Postmaster-General, Calcutta, and Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta? If so, to what effect?
- (e) (i). Will Government be pleased to state what steps were taken to trace out this authority?
(ii) How many years' records are preserved for such sanctions?
(iii) How many cases have come to the notice of the Government regarding such expenditure of public money (1) without regular authority, (2) authority which was existing but not traceable, (3) do the Government propose to refer the matter to previous Directors General and Postmasters-General of Bengal and Assam Circle and old retired officials of these offices to trace out the authority in this connection? If not, why?
- (f) (i). Will Government be pleased to state what were the service conditions for the Task Work Messengers before 1st March, 1931, (ii) who is the authority in making any change of the conditions regarding pay and allowances, (iii) was any written option given to the existing incumbents under Fundamental Rules to come under changed conditions? If not, why?

Sir Thomas Ryan: The points raised in questions 98 and 99 are being looked into, and a reply will be placed on the table in due course.

SYSTEM OF PAYMENT FOR TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS.

†99. **Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** Referring to answers given to unstarred question No. 274 of Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 29th March, 1932, on the floor of the Assembly regarding triple rate messages:

- (a) Will Government be pleased to state what other procedure is followed in respect of press messages?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 98.

- (b) Are Government prepared to make a sifting enquiry with a view to trace out (i) the original authority under which the triple rate system was introduced in Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, (ii) the reason for making this special arrangement for Calcutta only? If not, why not?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state the approximate savings of the department during the last three months in view of the realisation at triple rate from the public and payment to Task Work Messengers at single rate?
- (d) Will Government please state the average loss of Task Work Messengers per man per month under this new change?

DUTY SYSTEM OF TELEGRAPHISTS AND SIGNAL ROOM CLERKS. 1

100. **Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Is it a fact that the duty system of telegraphists and signal room clerks are regulated according to the recommendations of the Maxwell Committee and accepted by the Government of India in June, 1908?

(b) Is it a fact that the duty chart recommended by the Committee, composed of 22 per cent. of the total signalling staff in the two night sets on the assumption that the system recommended by them provided for preventing accumulation of volume of traffic to be disposed of by night and that the percentage was still more reduceable with the closing of second class offices at 20 hours?

(c) Are Government aware that great discontentment prevails among the signalling staff in larger offices due to the frequency of night duties?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what percentage of staff is at present required to perform night duties and the causes for increase or decrease in the percentage recommended by the Maxwell Committee?

(e) (i). Is it a fact that the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee presided over by Mr. S. P. Varma is conducting enquiries in respect of duty hours of the employees?

(ii) If the answer to (e) (i) be in the affirmative, has the attention of the Committee been drawn by the Government to the decision of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in January, 1933, on the forty hour week? If not, why not?

(f) Is it a fact that the meal relief of the employees in the Telegraph Department is granted for half an hour only when the duty hours exceed six hours?

(g) (i). Is it a fact that the staff has been demanding the extension of the time for meal relief since 1927, and in a Conference held between the then Honourable Member-in-charge of Labour and Industries and the All-India Telegraph Union, in January, 1930, it was agreed that the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs would consult the Postmasters-General to see whether there are any specific cases of hardships?

(ii) If the answer to part (g) (i) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what are the results of the enquiry?

(h) Are Government aware of the fact that in British Post Offices 45 minutes are allowed for meal reliefs? If not, do Government propose to make enquiry as to what is the time for meal reliefs in Continental signal offices? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Although the exact percentage is not readily available, Government have no reason to believe that there has been any increase.

(e) (i) and (ii). Government are not yet in a position to make any statement on the subject.

(f) The fact is substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(g) (i). Yes.

(ii) The enquiry brought to light no specific cases of hardship.

(h) Government have no precise information as to the time allowed for meal reliefs in the British Post Office, nor do Government think it necessary to make enquiries as to the time allowed for such relief in Continental signal offices where the conditions of service are not the same as in India.

SELECTIONS OF ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS FOR CARRIER CURRENT WORK IN THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

101. **Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Bagla:** (a) Is it a fact that the selections of Electrical Supervisors for Carrier Current Work in Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, in 1931 were made by the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief in consultation with the Assistant Electrical Engineer attached to the Calcutta Signal Office after granting interviews to all trained candidates in the system?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government please state how many trained candidates were considered best fitted for such appointments and on what subjects the candidates' qualifications were tested?

(c) Is it a fact that in Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, the selections of officiating Electrical Supervisors for Carrier were made on the recommendations of the Chief Superintendent and no interviews were granted to the trained candidates other than those recommended by him?

(d) Are Government aware that while the departmental authorities upheld the view that interviews were accorded to all, the candidates concerned solemnly declare that they have in possession definite proofs to show that they were not granted interview?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in affirmative, are Government prepared to enquire into the whole affair? If not, why not?

Sir Thomas Ryan: The question is receiving attention and a reply will be placed on the table in due course.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

TWO MUSLIMS SHOT DOWN AT CHITTAGONG BY THE MILITARY.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: (a) Will Government please state whether it is a fact that two Muslims have been shot down at Chittagong by the Military? If so, will Government state the reasons for which that was done?

(b) How long do Government propose to keep the military stationed at Chittagong? Have not all the terrorist absconders been arrested yet?

(c) What arrangements do Government propose to make to bring the military to book, if the occasion was unjustifiable? What money and other compensations are these victims entitled to receive?

(d) On whose information were the alleged searches made in the locality? What punishment do Government propose to inflict on the giver of this false news?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The report I have received on this very unfortunate incident from the Government of Bengal is to the following effect. Information had been received that certain absconders (of whom several are still at large) were in the neighbourhood and a military patrol, with a police officer, was sent out on the night of the 7th instant to patrol the river bank and examine all persons moving by night in order to effect the arrest of the terrorists. Two men were seen to alight from a boat, and, on being challenged, immediately started to run, though a warning had been published by beat of drum in the locality telling people to halt when challenged. The patrol pursued them through a village calling on them to halt, but the men continued to run and, when they reached an open field, beyond the village, the patrol fired seven shots at the men who were still running. Both were killed. The District Magistrate reports that the failure of the men to halt was very suspicious in view of the warning that had been issued and of the fact that on the previous night on the opposite bank of the river two youths had escaped through a military cordon and though pursued had disappeared. The patrols on this side of the river had special orders to watch for terrorists and absconders trying to cross from the other side. I understand that the Commissioner has recommended the payment of compensation and that the recommendation is before the Bengal Government. I need hardly add that the Government of India very greatly regret the occurrence.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: May I know, through the medium of which language the patrol challenged those unfortunate villagers who have met with death?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am afraid, I cannot answer that question, but I think there is no doubt from the report received that the men possibly in panic were running away, but they must have known that they were called upon to stop. I do not think there is any doubt on that point.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Are Government aware that these villagers do not know any other language except Bengali, even though they are Mussalmans. They do not know English or Hindustani, the language which may be known to these military people and, therefore, is it not a fact that challenging in such cases is quite meaningless?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am informed that lectures had been given to the leading villagers, and we must presume that these lectures were in their own language asking them to co-operate and, in the particular village, where the incident took place, a special warning as to the necessity of halting at once when challenged had been published by beat of drum

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Who were the men who delivered these lectures to the villagers?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I imagine, the local officials.

Sir Abdulla-al-Mámún Suhrawardy: Is it not a fact that Chittagonian Bengali is very difficult even for the local people to understand?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I can hardly believe that the local officials are not acquainted with the language of the people.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: What was the substance of the speeches delivered to the villagers? In what language was it that these people were challenged?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: It must have been delivered in their own language and they were warned of the danger and asked to co-operate in every way with the police and the military.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Will the Honourable Member take it from me, that the words used are generally "Who goes there" and they are pronounced in such a way that it cannot be understood by anybody, even by Englishmen, and do Government realise that, by challenging these illiterate villagers in this way, they are only making people liable to be shot any time and every time.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: This is a most unfortunate incident, but I am told that this was the first time that Muhammadans who had been challenged had failed to halt and, in fact, on that very night, shortly before the incident occurred, another batch of three men had been seen and, on being challenged, they immediately stopped and brought their boat to the bank and, after being inspected by the patrol, they were allowed to proceed. My only point is that the system has been working until this unfortunate incident took place.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju: Without recourse to firing, was it not possible for the officers to capture them?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I am afraid, I cannot answer. They did pursue through the village and then, later on, they opened fire.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the number of policemen and the number of patrol who were pursuing?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: There was one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, a lance-naik and three riflemen.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the distance travelled by these pursuers before the firing was resorted to?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: That I cannot say. The report merely says, that they pursued them through a village calling on them to halt, but that the men continued to run, and when they reached an open field beyond the village, the patrol fired seven shots at the men who were still running, and that both were killed.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know, what part of the body bore the marks of the shooting?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: That, I am afraid, I cannot say off-hand.

Sardar Sant Singh: Was it not a necessary part of the investigation to find out as to whether they were fired at from the front or from the back?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The District Magistrate has held an inquiry and that has been forwarded to the Government of Bengal.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Are there no instructions that when these police officers are compelled to fire in such cases, they should shoot in such a way that they may not kill the people, but merely maim or disable them? Were not any such instructions issued to these men?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I should suppose that such instructions have been given; but I hope the House will bear it in mind that this took place at night and that the men and the pursuers were themselves running and that it may be a little difficult in all those circumstances to aim with any regard to precision.

Sardar Sant Singh: Does the investigation show as to what part of the body was injured by these shots?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I have no doubt, Sir, that it does.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it not part of the investigation to find out whether firing was unnecessarily resorted to or not and in order to discover that, would it not be an essential factor to find out what part of the body was injured actually?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I think it was reported that they were shot through the back. I think so.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Honourable Member himself did not draw the inference from the account read out to us from the Government of Bengal that these two nervous villagers really took this patrol for dacoits and that probably they were just running away for their lives? This is the inference which I at any rate drew, considering especially the fact that the patrol shouted out to them in a language which they did not understand and, therefore, did not answer.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: It is quite possible, Sir. The whole thing appears to have been a most tragic mistake.

Sir Abdulla-al-Mámún Suhrawardy: Did they not mistake the patrol for terrorists or were they themselves mistaken for terrorists?

Mr. S. C. Mitra: On how many occasions was the warning notified by beat of drum that people were to halt? Was it on more than one occasion? Was the warning really explained to the people? Or the illiterate villagers were expected to understand the cry "Who comes there"?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I have no information about that, but I understand that very special operations have been in progress for some little time in this part of the country and, therefore, I think it is reasonable to suppose that the villagers were acquainted with the fact that these operations were going on.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, in view of the fact that this method of putting down terrorism involves great risk to the lives of countless innocent Indians, whether they would consider the advisability of stopping this method?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I would ask the Honourable Member to remember that in the same locality, only two or three weeks before, the troops were able, at considerable risk to themselves and under fire, to secure the arrest of the most notorious absconder in the Chittagong case?

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Is it any part of the Government's case that these two people tried to attack in any way the Police patrol or there was any other sufficient cause for firing?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No. I have made that quite clear.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: And even then they thought it fit to try to kill them outright?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No. They were trying to stop them.

Mr. H. P. Mody: In view of this deplorable incident, do not Government consider that the necessity has arisen for revising the instructions to the effect that people who do not offer any resistance should not be fired upon?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: It is certainly desirable to back up the matter with the Government of Bengal and the military authorities and see whether the present instructions require to be revised. (Hear, hear.)

Sardar Sant Singh: Has any action been taken or is proposed to be taken against those who have fired upon these unfortunate people and thus committed a very rash and negligent act?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: No, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know if any action has been taken against the informer on whose information the patrols went out on this shooting expedition, resulting in the death of two innocent persons?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: It is not a question of anybody having given false information. There was no doubt whatever that there were terrorists and absconders in that neighbourhood, and somewhat elaborate operations were in progress to try to secure them.

Mr. B. Das: Is it under contemplation also to give some special reward to this patrol which shot at these two innocent victims?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I think that is a very unworthy question, Sir. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: May I ask whether the Government contemplate giving some kind of compensation to the families of these two unfortunate dead?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: Yes, Sir. As I said in my original answer, the Commissioner, I understand, has recommended compensation and the matter is under the consideration of the Government of Bengal at the present moment.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Is not the Honourable the Home Member aware that there are special rules of the Government of Bengal as regards shooting on such occasions, namely, that the shooting should be aimed at the legs and not on the upper and vital parts of the body, and may I ask if, on account of such rules being infringed in some places, any steps should not be taken against these people who were at least grossly careless?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: As I have explained, it is difficult at night and when running to be sure of the accuracy of the aim.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the House to understand that the Government, in order to put down terrorism in Bengal, want to terrorise the people at large and control the freedom of movement of even those persons who are quite innocent?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The Honourable Member need understand nothing of the sort.

Mr. C. C. Biswas: Have the Government of India received any information from the Local Government as to who were the persons who were examined? Were the statements of any persons other than police officers taken?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The District Magistrate held an inquiry and took the evidence of various villagers

U Kyaw Myint: I was wondering, Sir, whether there was a Curfew Order, or anything savouring of martial law, in the locality, to prevent people moving about at night?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: I have no definite information on that point, but, as the House will remember, the special legislation passed by the Local Government some months ago gives them the power to issue regulations of that kind and I should think it is probable that a regulation of that kind was in force.

Mr. B. Das: How can the Honourable Member reconcile the view that the two innocent victims were moving about at night and how can the villagers be asked by the District Magistrate to give any evidence on the point? Were they near about them at the time of the accident?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: As I said, these two men were running through the village with the patrol in pursuit.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: In view of the fundamental principle of law that it is better to have 100 guilty persons escape punishment than that one innocent man should be punished, will the Government now consider the desirability of withdrawing the whole military force at Chittagong?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: The military forces there are performing a most important function; but, as I have already said, we shall take up with the Government of Bengal and the military authorities the question of the possible revision of the instructions.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: May I know whether the Government are in a position to give any damages to the villagers?

(No answer.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

TWO MUSLIMS SHOT DOWN AT CHITTAGONG BY THE MILITARY.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur (South Madras: Muham madan): Sir, when I first looked into the question of my Honourable friend, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, I thought there would be no necessity for me to move this adjournment motion in case a satisfactory reply was given 12 NOON. by the Honourable the Home Member. But now I find that, although some of the replies were fairly satisfactory, others were not,—I may say they were evasive. So I want the permission of the House to move my adjournment motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): I have received notice from Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur that he proposes to ask for leave to move the adjournment of the business of the Assembly to discuss a matter of definite and urgent public importance, namely:

“To discuss that two Muslims were shot dead by the Military near Chittagong suspecting them as terrorists.”

I have now to inquire whether any Honourable Member has any objection to this motion.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig (Home Member): Sir, I would merely point out that I have, for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, been answering questions on this subject this morning,—that I have given all the information in my possession to the House, that I have expressed the regret of Government and their intention of considering whether the present instructions require to be revised. And I would suggest that there is really no further purpose to be served by the motion which my Honourable friend has proposed.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): No formal objection has been taken by the Honourable the Home Member to the motion but he probably appeals to the Honourable the Mover of the motion to consider whether, in view of the statement he has made, he would still like to move his motion for adjournment. The Chair would like to know from Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur what he has to say.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur: Sir, in as much as the Home Member has expressed regret on behalf of Government and in as much as he has promised some compensation to the families of these people,—which I hope will be reasonable—and also in view of the fact that the instructions would be revised, I do not propose to move this motion.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table (i) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 689 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 7th March, 1932, and (ii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 25 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 26th January, 1932.

PERMANENT LOCATION OF THE SECRETARIAT IN NEW DELHI.

*689. (a) Rs. 2,70,000 per annum on the assumption that all residences are occupied during the summer months.

(b) Rs. 1,05,000.

(c) A net saving is probable though against savings in some directions must be set greater expenditure in others.

(d) The decision of Government in regard to the permanent location of the Secretariat in Delhi is indicated on page 23 of the Summary of the results of retrenchment operations in Civil Expenditure and in Military Estimates, copies of which were circulated to Members of the Legislative Assembly in March, 1932. The new water supply scheme is likely to be completed in about two years' time.

PROPORTION OF EUROPEAN TO INDIAN OFFICERS RETRENCHED IN CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS.
*25.

Departments.	All-India Services.		Central Service, Class I.		Central Service, Class II.	
	Europeans.	Indians.	Europeans.	Indians.	Europeans.	Indians.
Legislative Deptt. . . . .	..	..	..	..	2	1
Legislative Assembly Deptt. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Military Finance . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	4
Commerce Deptt. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
E., H. & L. Deptt.	1	1	14	5	7	25
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Railway Deptt. . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..
Army Deptt. . . . .	..	..	3	3	..	..
Finance Deptt. . . . .	..	..	16	6	6	17
F. & P. Deptt. . . . .	..	..	..	2	2	11
Home Deptt. . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	2
I. & L. Deptt.	1	..	17	8	14	32
Total	2	1	51	26	31	92

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred question No. 418 asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 21st February, 1933.

LICENSING OF NEW LIQUOR SHOPS IN NEW DELHI.

*413. (a) Government have now seen the note published in the "*National Call*" of the 25th January, 1933. No new liquor shops are to be licensed in New Delhi. There are at present 10 licenses in New Delhi. Of these, six are for foreign liquor 'on' consumption, three for foreign liquor 'off' consumption and one for country liquor 'off' consumption.

(b) In view of the answer to (a), this question does not arise.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I lay on the table (i) the information promised in reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of starred question No. 255 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 8th February, 1933: and (ii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 1508 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 29th November, 1932.

QUANTITY OF BELTING PURCHASED BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT AND BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

*255. (a) and (b). The Indian Stores Department has purchased 2,00,467 running feet of belting during the last five years, of which 13,913 running feet were of Indian manufacture.

(c) Five firms have been registered by the Indian Stores Department as manufacturers of belting in India.

QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI FOR THE INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

*1508. (a) Yes, but the scheme was subsequently modified, with the consent of the Standing Finance Committee, to one of expenditure amounting to Rs. 3,25,000.

(b) Yes, as subsequently modified.

(c) 1,076 of the inferior staff including daftries and record sorters have been provided with residential accommodation which is 65 per cent. of the total staff employed. As to the daftries and record sorters, information concerning whom is particularly desired, 130 have been provided with residential accommodation which is 40 per cent. of their numbers.

(d) There is no proposal at present to provide more residential accommodation, and I am unable to commit Government to any further expenditure in this connection at the present time.

(e) As regards the first part, the provision made has been fully utilized, as explained in the reply to parts (a) and (b) above. As to the second part, Government have received no complaints, and I may mention for the Honourable Member's information that an inferior servant unless he holds a temporary appointment and is locally recruited is given an allowance of Rs. 1-8-0 a month if he is not allowed a Government quarter.

Mr. A. G. Olow (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1022 and 1023, asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 29th September, 1932.

REFUSAL BY THE CENTRAL PROVINCES GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT MEDICAL MEN TO JOIN THE INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

*1022. Enquiries made show that no Local Government has issued orders prohibiting Government medical officers from joining the Indian Medical Association. One Government medical officer in Bombay who enquired if the Surgeon General had any objection to Government medical officers becoming members of the Association was informed that as rule 2(i) of the rules of the Association was in conflict with rule 23(2) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, Government servants might not become members.

INDIAN AND BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

*1023. Government have obtained a copy of the rules of the Indian Medical Association, which show that any person possessing medical qualifications registrable in India is eligible for membership.

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

- (i) the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 917—924, and unstarred question No. 188, asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra, on the 7th and 14th November, 1932, respectively;
- (ii) the information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 17—27, asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra, on the 5th September, 1932; and
- (iii) the information promised in reply to parts (a) and (c) of starred question No. 285 and part (c) of starred question No. 338, asked by Messrs. S. C. Mitra and Gaya Prasad Singh, on the 8th and 20th February, 1933, respectively.

APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH EX-APPRENTICES AS WARD KEEPERS, ETC., ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

*917. (a) Some of the ex-apprentices (Mechanical) of the East Indian Railway Workshop, Lillooah, are qualified for the posts of Wardkeepers and Assistant Wardkeepers. Four ex-apprentices have been taken in the Stores Department, one European, one Anglo-Indian and two Indians.

(b) The question is under reference with the Agent.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) The posts of Wardkeepers and Assistant Wardkeepers in the Stores Department are not in the direct avenue of employment for Mechanical Apprentices. If suitable men are not available for promotion in the Stores Department to fill such vacancies, suitable candidates may be taken from other Departments including the ex-apprentices mechanical.

APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICES OF THE LILLOOAH WORKSHOPS.

*918. (a) The number of vacancies in the Mechanic's grade which occurred in Lucknow and Tatanagar Workshops since 1930 are as follows :

Lucknow Loco. Shops	23
Lucknow Carriage and Wagon Shops	5
Tatanagar Workshops	2
	30

Of these 30, only 2 vacancies, one at Lucknow and the other at Tatanagar, were filled by ex-apprentices of Lillooah Works one by an Anglo-Indian and the other a European. The remainder were filled by Railway employees, apprentices, ex-apprentices or others available from Lucknow or Jamalpur Workshops

(b) I am informed that the European ex-apprentice in question had special experience and training for the post to which he was appointed at Tatanagar and was the best man available at the time the appointment was made.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A waiting list of all ex-apprentices is now prepared and copies are sent to Chief Engineer, Chief Operating Superintendent, Controller of Stores and all Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineers and Works Managers.

WAITING LIST OF MECHANICAL APPRENTICES TRAINED AT THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP, LILLOOAH.

*919. The total number of Mechanical Apprentices who completed their training since 1930 is 24. A list is laid on the table.

List of apprentices who have completed their indentures since 1930 and who have had to be discharged as there were no vacancies.

W. J. Bell, C. Keys, T. A. H. Cahoon, S. C. Ganguly, J. N. Mukerjee, P. N. Dutt, T. C. Ghose, B. D. Mukerji, S. N. Chatterji, A. K. Banerji, I. K. Das, N. C. Chatterjee, V. J. B. Cullen, D. C. Williamson, A. C. Roychoudhury, A. N. Mitra, B. K. Chatterjee, R. K. Chatterjee, T. C. Jackson, K. L. Mitra, M. R. Hume, M. K. Mukerji, S. C. Ganguly, and S. K. Bose.

APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICES IN THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF THE LILLOOAH WORKSHOPS.

*920. (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) At the time of formation of Production Department, which is a temporary branch, suitable mechanics were transferred to that side and such staff had no previous training in that department.

(d) The reason for selecting an ex-apprentice of 1931, in preference to an ex-apprentice of 1930 was that the latter on completion of his apprenticeship was offered a post by the Controller of Inspection, Calcutta Circle, Indian Stores Department, which he accepted and ex-apprentice selected was the most suitable candidate available, when the vacancy occurred.

(e) Does not arise

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICES IN THE
LILLOOAH WORKSHOPS.**

*921. (a) Yes on electrical work.

(b) and (c). I am informed two Mechanics were appointed in Millwright and Forge and Smithy Shops, but it is not correct that they had only a few months' training. One of them joined the service in 1924 and being a fully trained Millwright was posted to the Millwright shop in 1925. The other served for five years before being posted as a Mechanic.

(d) Does not arise.

**MECHANICAL APPRENTICES IN THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF THE LILLOOAH
WORKSHOPS.**

*922. (a) The total number of the apprentices is 14. A list of names is laid on the table.

(b) As it is considered that apprentices should be acquainted with Planning and Progress methods they are now given six months' training in this section as and when opportunity occurs.

(c) No, because it is considered that apprentices benefit by the training received in the Production Section.

Name.	Period of Training.	Tech. School results.	Remarks.
P. Dutta . . .	July, 1929 to Feby., 1930 .	50%	} Worked in Production and Progress Section.
B. K. Chatterjee .	May, 1930 to Jany., 1931 .	44%	
N. C. Nandi . . .	May, 1930 to Feby., 1931 .	45%	
H. C. Banerjee .	Octr., 1931 to April 1932 .	48%	
P. B. Gupta . . .	Octr., 1931 to April, 1932 .	(Sick for final examination.)	
D. G. Hogan . . .	Octr., 1931 to April, 1932 .	63%	
S. C. Ganguly . .	Feby., 1931 to July, 1932 .	48%	
G. Allnutt . . .	Octr., 1931 to Feby., 1932 .	84%	
R. A. Bawen . . .	Feby., 1932 to April, 1932 .	47%	
S. K. Bose . . .	Feby., 1932 to July, 1932 .	50%	
T. Ghosh . . .	July, 1929 to Feby., 1930 .	82%	
E. Asquith . . .	Aug., 1929 to Feby., 1930 .	30%	
T. Cahoon . . .	Feby., 1929 to Aug., 1929 .	48%	
T. Gibbons . . .	Sept., 1930 to Jany., 1931 .	(Sick for final examination.)	

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICES IN THE LILLOOAH WORKSHOPS.

*923. (a) I am informed no fresh appointment of two Anglo-Indians has been made.

(b) Does not arise.

*924. A statement giving the required information in respect of the years 1930 and 1931 is placed below.

Statement showing the names of mechanics, chargemen and draftsmen appointed since January 1930, in the Lillooah Carriage and Wagon Workshops.

Name.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Starting salary.	Technical Education.	Remarks.
Ram Charan Singh	Mechanic	1-3-30	Rs. 60	Trained in the Wood Working Institute, Bareilly.	} Kiln Operators.
Prem Singh	Do.	24-5-30	70	} Trained in the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.	
Gurdit Singh	Do.	24-5-30	70		
N. C. Chatterjee	Do.	1-8-30	60	Undergone 5 years training as Apprentice Mechanic and technically trained in the Technical School, Jamalpur.	
D. P. Saksena	Do.	1-8-30	290	..	Transferred from Forest Department as Kiln Seasoning Supervisor.
U. N. Gupta	Draftsman.	1-2-30	200	Benares University Engineering College City & Guilds Mech. Engr. Designing and Automobile Engineering.	Appointed against a vacancy for a draftsman in Gr. 250-1930 in the Production section.

Statement showing the names of mechanics, chargemen and draftsmen appointed since January, 1930, in the Lillooah Carriage and Wagon Workshops—contd.

Name.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Starting salary.	Technical Education.	Remarks.
			Rs.		
N. C. Nandi	Mechanic	16-2-31	90	Undergone 5 years training as Apprentice Mechanic and technically trained in the Technical School, Jamalpur.	Appointed in Production and Progress Section.
R. Sim	Do.	3-3-31	90	Do.	Heat Treatment Section.
W. Smith	Do.	1-3-31	90	Do.	Do.
S. N. Ojha	Do.	1-7-31	150	Undergone 5 years training as apprentice Mechs. and technically trained in the Tech. School, Jamalpur.	Transferred from Jamalpur in Machine Tool Reconditioning Section.
<i>Jamalpur Loco. Workshops.</i>					
M. M. Pereira	Mechanic (Welder Charge-man).	20-4-31	90	Undergone 2 years training in the Jamalpur Works.	
S. Chiodetti	Mechanic (Welder Charge-man) Temporary.	1-4-32	90	Do.	
A. W. Jones	Do.	1-5-32	90	Do.	
H. L. Kelly	Charge-man.	16-3-30	150	Undergone 5 years training as Apprentice Mechanics and Technically trained in the Technical School, Jamalpur.	
N. W. Harrison	Do.	29-4-30	130	Do.	
D. Mandal	Do.	20-5-30	110	Do.	
P. Peterson*	Do.	1-8-30	170	Do.	*Completed his apprenticeship in 1924 and was reappointed.
E. C. Alexander	Do.	29-9-30	110	Do.	
M. N. Pandey	Do.	2-1-31	110	Do.	
B. Prasad	Do.	1-2-31	110	Do.	

Statement showing the names of mechanics, chargemen and draftsmen appointed since January, 1930, in the Lillooh Carriage and Wagon Workshops.—concl'd.

Name.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Starting salary.	Technical Education.	Remarks.
R. Harding	Charge-man.	1-4-31	Rs. 130	Undergone 5 years' training as Apprentice Mechanics and technically trained in the Technical School, Jamalpur.	
D. D. Chatterjee	Do.	16-4-31	130	Do.	
Shaikh Md. Jalil	Do.	18-7-31	110	Do.	
A. C. Mukerjee	Do.	21-9-31	130	Do.	
S. K. Bhattacharjee	Do.	1-2-32	130	Do.	
D. N. Prasad	Do.	24-4-32	110	Do.	
K. C. Banerjee	Do.	30-5-32	130	Do.	
J. H. Brookes	Do.	23-6-32	210	Do.	Completed his apprenticeship in 1918 and was reappointed on Rs. 210 p. m. as a temporary hand on probation for 6 months.
O. H. Kelly	Do.	18-7-32	110	Do.	
T. E. Stewart	Drafts-man.	10-5-30	202	Do.	During the latter part of his apprenticeship he was trained as a draftsman and on completion of his apprenticeship he was appointed as a temporary Draftsman on Rs. 202 in the Grade of Rs. 250—12—310.
S. K. Banerjee	Do.	28-5-31	170	Do.	Appointed in the vacancy of a post of Draftsman on Grade Rs. 170—10—230.
A. B. Halder	Drafts-man (temporary).	8-6-31	170	Do.	Appointed in the vacancy of a post of Draftsman on Grade Rs. 170—10—230. (Officiating.)
S. C. Ghose	Do.	23-5-32	110	Do.	(Officiating.)

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGE OF EX-APPRENTICES APPOINTED IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT LILLOOAH.

188. The percentage is as follows :

Europeans	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30.8
Anglo-Indians	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30.8
Indians	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	38.4

VACANCY OF A MECHANIC IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT LILLOOAH.

17. (a), (b) and (c). A vacancy occurred in the 'M' shop (Carriage and Building) in the East Indian Railway Workshops at Lillooah due to the retirement of Mr. Ahad Bux. Owing to the curtailment of the construction programme, this post was not required to be filled and no arrangements have been made to fill the vacancy.

(d) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

18. (a) Messrs. Sim and Smith had special training in heat treatment.

Mr. Nandy had special training in Production and Progress.

Mr. Ojha had special training in Machine tool reconditioning.

(b) Messrs. Sim and Smith have been posted to the Heat Treatment Section. Their starting pay was Rs. 90 in each case.

Mr. Nandy has been posted to the Production and Progress Section. His starting pay was Rs. 90 per mensem.

Mr. Ojha has been posted to the Machine Tool Reconditioning Section. His starting pay was Rs. 150.

APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

19. The information required by the Honourable Member is given in the attached statement.

Statement shewing names of Apprentice Mechanics who completed their training at Lillooah C. and W. Workshops in 1930.

Name.	Date of admission.	Name of shop or section trained at	Period of training.	Percentage of marks obtained in Final Technical School Examination.
E. Asquith	10-2-25	Forge and Smithy . Machine and Fitting Drawing Office (Jig and Tool)	10-2-25 to 2-8-27 . 2-8-27 to 6-8-29. 6-8-29 to 9-2-30.	30%
W. J. Ball	3-2-25	Machine and Fitting	3-2-25 to 4-2-30	41%
C. Keys	10-2-25	Machine and Fitting Millwright . Drawing Office .	10-2-25 to 9-8-28 . 10-8-28 to 9-2-29. 10-2-29 to 8-2-30 .	36% (Failed in one subject.)

Statement shewing names of Apprentice Mechanics who completed their training at Lillooah C. and W. Workshops in 1930—contd.

Name.	Date of admission.	Name of shop or section trained at.	Period of training.	Percentage of marks obtained in Final Technical School Examination.
T. Cahoon	19-9-25	Machine and Fitting Underframe . Production Section Drawing Office (Jig and Tool) .	19-9-25 to 19-8-28 . 20-8-28 to 20-2-29. 21-2-29 to 20-8-29. 21-8-29 to 18-9-30.	48%
J. N. Chatterjee.	10-2-25	Carr. Repairing . Machine and Fitting Millwright . Train Lighting . Wagon Repairing .	10-2-25 to 30-11-25 . 1-12-25 to 30-9-26. 1-10-26 to 19-8-28. 20-8-28 to 8-9-29. 9-9-29 to 9-2-30.	58%
P. N. Dutt	9-2-25	Carr. Building . Train Lighting . Forge and Smithy . Machine and Fitting	9-2-25 to 11-4-26 . 12-4-26 to 14-9-27. 15-9-27 to 2-9-28. 3-9-28 to 8-2-30.	50%
T. C. Ghose	10-2-25	Wagon Repairing . Millwright . Drawing Office . Machine and Fitting Drawing Office (Jig and Tool) .	10-2-25 to 2-3-26 . 3-3-26 to 20-2-27. 21-2-27 to 31-8-28. 1-9-28 to 30-6-29. 1-7-29 to 9-2-30.	82%
S. C. Ganguly	18-8-25	Train Lighting . Machine and Fitting Carr. Building	18-8-25 to 20-3-27 . 21-3-27 to 3-3-30. 4-3-30 to 21-8-30.	48%
B. Mukherjee	11-2-25	Forge and Smithy . Machine and Fitting Millwright . Underframe .	11-2-25 to 30-11-25 . 1-12-25 to 9-11-27. 10-11-27 to 28-4-29. 29-4-29 to 10-2-30.	74%
S. N. Chatterjee	11-2-25	Carr. Building . Train Lighting . Saw Mill .	11-2-25 to 19-8-28 . 20-8-28 to 12-1-30. 13-1-30 to 11-2-30.	44%
A. K. Banerjee	9-2-25	Underframe . Machine and Fitting Millwright .	16-2-25 to 27-2-28 . 28-2-28 to 1-9-29. 2-9-29 to 15-2-30.	57%
I. K. Dass	5-3-25	Underframe . Machine and Fitting Forge and Smithy . Millwright . Drawing Office .	6-3-25 to 2-3-26 . 3-3-26 to 28-2-28. 1-3-28 to 22-4-29. 23-4-29 to 1-11-29. 2-11-29 to 5-3-30.	43%
N. C. Chatterjee	11-2-25	Carr. Building . Train Lighting . Saw Mill .	11-2-25 to 19-8-28 . 20-8-28 to 12-1-30. 13-1-30 to 11-2-30.	57%

Statement showing names of Apprentice Mechanics who completed their training at Lillooah C. and W. Workshops in 1931.

Name.	Date of admission.	Name of shop or section trained at.	Period of training.	Percentage of marks obtained in Final Technical School Examination.
R. Sim	8-2-26	Drawing Office Machine and Fitting Jamalpur Heat Treatment training	2-2-26 to 20-3-27 21-3-27 to 17-11-29. 18-11-29 to 29-11-30.	52%
W. Smith	26-2-26	Machine and Fitting Jamalpur Heat Treatment training	1-3-26 to 17-11-29 18-11-29 to 29-11-30.	31%
H. Platts	7-1-26	Carriage Building Saw Mill Carriage Building Saw Mill	7-1-26 to 24-1-27 25-1-27 to 12-12-27. 13-12-27 to 21-9-30. 22-9-30 to 6-1-31.	36%
T. Gibbons	15-1-26	Forge and Smithy Machine and Fitting Millwright Drawing Office	15-1-26 to 20-3-27 21-3-27 to 10-2-28. 11-2-28 to 7-9-30. 8-9-30 to 15-1-31.	Sick.
V. Cullen	15-2-26	Millwright	15-2-26 to 21-2-31	31% (Failed in one subject.)
D. C. Williamson	1-2-26	Wheel Shop Machine and Fitting Millwright Drawing Office	1-2-26 to 14-7-26 15-7-26 to 12-7-29. 13-7-29 to 13-4-30. 14-4-30 to 2-2-31.	43%
N. C. Nundy	16-2-26	Carriage Building Forge and Smithy Millwright Production Section.	16-2-26 to 19-12-28. 20-12-28 to 7-12-29. 9-12-29 to 30-4-30. 30-4-30 to	42%
A. C. Roy Chowdhury.	11-3-29	Machine and Fitting Millwright	11-3-29 to 26-1-30 27-1-30 to 20-5-31.	54%
A. N. Mitra	1-2-26	Saw Mill Carriage Building Wheel Shop Millwright Production Section. Millwright Wagon Repairing	1-2-26 to 13-3-27 14-3-27 to 19-8-28. 20-8-28 to 30-4-29. 1-5-29 to 30-4-30. 1-5-30 to 15-6-30. 15-6-30 to 29-10-30. 30-10-30 to 2-2-31.	62%
B. K. Chatterjee	1-2-26	Carriage Building Saw Mill Carriage Repairing Millwright Production Section	1-2-26 to 31-3-27 1-4-27 to 31-1-28. 1-2-28 to 9-6-29. 10-6-29 to 30-4-30. 1-5-30 to 31-1-31.	44%
H. K. Chatterjee	1-2-26	Carriage Building Millwright	1-2-26 to 5-5-27 6-5-27 to 2-2-31.	68%

APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

20. (a) The Government of India are now informed by the Agent, East Indian Railway, that Mr. Platts was not discharged immediately after the completion of his apprenticeship but as his services were required in connection with the Stores Department re-organisation, and as he ~~could not~~ be re-transferred to that Department immediately, he was given for a short period a temporary post in the Carriage Body Painting Shop for which he was specially qualified. Mr. Platts did not do so well at the Jamalpur Technical School as some of the 1931 apprentices, but he did exceedingly well in the workshops. Difficulty had been experienced in getting apprentices to take training in Carriage Body Construction. Mr. Platts, however, spent the whole of his apprenticeship in the Body Construction side of the Workshops and as a vacancy existed and additional supervisor was required in the Carriage Body Paint Shop he was selected to temporarily fill the vacancy, for which he was considered better qualified than his contemporaries.

(b) The reasons for the retention of Mr. Platts in the temporary vacancy have been explained in the reply to part (a) of this question. Government do not consider that any further enquiry is called for.

(c) Yes.

(d) Mr. Platts was recommended by the Officer in Charge of the Workshops and he was considered to be the more suitable man for the post than others.

(e) Government are informed that the best man was selected irrespective of nationality.

(f) The reply is in the negative.

(g) Two Indian ex-apprentices have been recently engaged in the Stores Department, and as far as vacancies occur, they stand just as good a chance of being employed as Europeans or Anglo-Indians.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE TRAINING OF CERTAIN APPRENTICES AT JAMALPORE.

21. I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Mr. A. N. Dutt's question No. 1313 on the 6th November, 1931.

APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES.

22. (a) and (b). The answers are in the affirmative.

(c) No. The two men referred to, did not work throughout the strikes. They were employed on Howrah Division for only a portion of that period and were returned to the Lillooah Shops on account of unsatisfactory working and irregular attendance.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The officer who was deputed to make the selection considered this man the best all round.

(f) There is no outside recruitment at the present moment but the claims of the Indian ex-apprentices will be considered as vacancies arise.

(g) The question does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES.

23. (a) and (d). Government regret they are unable to lay on the table copies of these orders which are purely departmental documents.

(b) So far as the Mechanical Workshops are concerned the claims of ex-apprentice Mechanics whose names are maintained in the waiting list are considered when vacancies occur. On the Operating side too, when vacancies occur selection will be made from the list of ex-apprentices of Lillooah Workshops having due regard to the claims of apprentices who are still under training under the old system on the Divisions and have no opportunity of gaining employment in the workshops as well as from retrenched employees. The men selected will be informed.

(c) The names of the ex-apprentices were sent by the Agent, East Indian Railway to all his Divisional Superintendents.

APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES.

24. (a) Twenty.
 (b) One.
 (c) One Anglo-Indian.

APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES.

25. The attention of the Agent has been drawn to this suggestion.

APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION IN THE LILLOOAH RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

26. Particulars of training and experience of Messrs. A. M. Martin, Foreman and J. Smith, Assistant Foreman, Saw Mill, are as follows :

Mr. A. M. Martin, Foreman, Saw Mill.

General Education . Manchester Grammar School, England.
 Technical „ . Attended evening classes at Manchester College of Technology for 3 years. Attended evening classes at Openshaw College of Technology for 1 year.

Holds a 1st class Final Certificate of the City and Guilds Institute, London, for Carriage and Wagon design.

Was an apprentice in the Carriage and Wagon Shops of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway for 5 years.

With Messrs. Leyland Motors on Motor Bus designs for 3½ months.

General C. & W. Foreman with the Bikaner Railway for 4½ years, during which time he was responsible for the working of the Saw Mill, Carriage Body Shop, Carriage Fitting, Trimming and Painting. Acted as Assistant Loco. and Carriage and Wagon Superintendent for eight months.

Mr. J. Smith, Assistant Foreman, Saw Mill.

General Education . Council House, Birmingham, England, St. Thomas School, Howrah.
 Technical „ . Attended St. Thomas evening Technical School —was awarded a prize for proficiency.

Served one year with Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co.

Apprentice in the C. & W. Shops, E. I. Railway for 4½ years.

On completion of his apprenticeship in 1903 was appointed as a Mechanic in the Saw Mill where he has been since with the exception of the 4 years he worked in the Carriage Repair Shop. Was promoted to Assistant Foreman of the Saw Mill during 1920.

APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION IN THE LILLOOAH RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

27. (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The particulars required by the Honourable Member are given below :

Mr. A. Lamb.

General Education . Council School, London.

Apprenticed with Messrs. Francis & Co., Engineers, London, for 4 years.

Joined Reid & Co., Boiler & Sanitary Engineers, for about 4 years.

Joined the Army in 1907 and was transferred to the Mechanical Transport in 1914 and served in this Section throughout the War. Demobilised in 1919.

Went into business on his own account as a Motor Engineer.

Joined the East Indian Railway in 1924 as a Train Examiner on Rs. 180 and was transferred from Train Examining Staff to the Mechanical in 1925 on Grade Rs. 160—15—220.

Promoted to Grade Rs. 230—20—270 in 1926.

Mr. G. D'Ocata.

General Education . B. N. Ry. School, Kharagpur.
 Technical ,, . Lillooah Technical School for 3 years.

Joined East Indian Railway as Unbound Apprentice in 1920 and was transferred to the Train Examining Staff in 1923.

Was re-transferred to Shop Staff as a Mechanic in 1925 on Rs. 90 per mensem and is now in grade Rs. 160—15—220.

Mr. T. F. Alderson.

General Education . Council School, Buckinghamshire, England.
 Technical ,, . Technical College, Wolverton Evening classes for 6 years.

Served 7 years apprenticeship with the London North Western Railway in their Carriage and Wagon Workshops at Wolverton

Joined the London and General Omnibus & Co., as a Coach Builder for 1 year.

Joined Brush Electrical Engineering Works, Loughborough, as Coach Builder for 9 months.

Joined Southern Railway as Coach Builder for 18 months.

Joined G. I. P. Ry. as Coach Builder Chargeman on Grade Rs. 360—425 for 2½ years.

Transferred to E. I. Railway, as Assistant Foreman, Carriage Building Shop, on Rs. 425 in Grade Rs. 425—25—475 in October 1928 which post he still holds.

Mr. E. Watson.

General Education . St. Joseph's College, Nainital.
 Technical ,, . Attended B., B. and C. I. Ry. Technical Evening classes for 5 years. Was awarded several prizes for technical subjects.

Served as an apprentice C. & W. Shops, B., B. & C. I. Ry. Metre Gauge Section for 5 years.

During 1915 joined the Volunteer Machine Gun Co. and was sent to East Africa from where he returned in 1917. He was given a commission in I. A. R. O. and was posted with the 54th Company, Sappers and Miners. Was demobilised in 1919.

Joined the Tata Hydro-Electric Group, Bombay, in 1919 as an Erecting Engineer on a commencing salary of Rs. 450 per mensem and was receiving Rs. 900 during 1928 on completion of the construction work.

Was appointed Senior Bridge Foreman on the Doubling of the Allahabad-Jumna Bridge East Indian Railway, on Rs. 500 per mensem from April to August, 1928.

Appointed Assistant Foreman, Millwright Shop, Lillooah, on Rs. 450 from August, 1928.

Since November, 1931, has been acting as Planning and Progress Superintendent on Rs. 575 per mensem.

Mr. H. K. Lowe.

General Education . Maidstone States School, Tasmania for 6 years. St. George's, Mussoorie—1 year. Boys High School, Allahabad for 1 year.
 Technical ,, . Took a course with the International Correspondence School, London, for Building and Construction for about 3 years.

Apprenticed with Messrs. Wilson Bros., Proprietary, Ltd., Builders and Contractors, Tasmania, for 5 years.

Served with Messrs. Cartwright, Ltd., Cabinet Makers, for 6 months.

Served with Messrs. Harris Bros., General Shop Fitters, Melbourne, for about 2 months.

On return to India opened business on own account as Furniture and Cabinet Manufacturer for 1 year.

Joined East Indian Railway in 1927 on Rs. 160 per mensem. Present rate of pay Rs. 270 monthly.

Mr. S. F. Moslem.

General Education . St. Xavier's College, Calcutta.

Technical ,, . Calcutta Technical School for 3 years.

Served apprenticeship with Messrs. McLeod & Co., for 5 years.

Joined E. I. R. in 1928 as Assistant Feed and Speed Chargeman on Rs. 110—130 which post he at present holds and is drawing Rs. 150 monthly.

Mr. M. Shallcross.

General Education . Oak Grove School, Mussoorie.

Technical ,, . Calcutta Technical Evening School for 5 years.

Served as apprentice for 5 years with the Power House, Lillooah, with the Electrical Department.

Served 2 years with the Electrical Department, E. I. Ry. as a Chargeman on Rs. 125.

Served with British Indian Steam Navigation Co. as an Electrician on Rs. 125 for 6 months.

Appointed as a Mechanic in Train Lighting Shop for 5 years in Grade 160—15—220 from 19th January, 1925.

Transferred to the Saw Mill, Lillooah, during 1929 on same grade which post he at present holds. Present pay Rs. 220 per mensem.

PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY IN THE STATESMAN.

*285. (a) The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, reports as follows :

Owing to financial stringency all Eastern Bengal Railway advertisements are now mainly restricted to newspapers with which they have contract arrangements, and out of these newspapers changes in Time Tables are published in the *Statesman* and the *Star of India*. In exceptional circumstances advertisements are, however, occasionally published in approved non-contract newspapers. Abstracts of the changes of timings of important train services in the six-monthly Time Tables are, also, sent to almost all the important papers for free publication.

PUBLICATION OF RAILWAY ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE STATESMAN.

Part (c) of questions Nos. *285 and *338. The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows.

The principal bathing day of the recent *Magh Mela* at Allahabad was advertised in the contract space of the *Statesman* for the information of Indian Merchants and potential pilgrims of the upper class. No other *mela* has been advertised in this manner. The *mela* was, however, advertised in the *Surya* of Benares, the *Leader*, the *Bharat* and the *Pioneer* of Allahabad. No preference was shown towards the *Statesman*. As a general principle, vernacular papers are used for advertising *mela* notices.

CASES IN WHICH THE LOWEST TENDERS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I lay on the table a statement furnished by the High Commissioner for India showing the cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India during the half-year ending the 31st December, 1932.

High Commissioner for India,
India Store Department.

Statement for half-year ending 31st December, 1932.

No cases in which tenders for stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

ELECTION OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the financial year 1933-34, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, last year, on a similar motion, I drew the attention of the Assembly to a few fundamental points. I do it again, and for two reasons. Last year the Honourable the Finance Member was not present when this question was discussed on the floor of the House, and the Honourable Sir George Rainy, who was in charge of this motion, could not really answer all the points that were raised. The second reason is that the powers of the Standing Finance Committee, which were really very meagre, have been further curtailed. Sir, the Standing Finance Committee was created as a result of the recommendations made by the authors of the Montagu-Chelmsford report; and this question was formally moved by Sir Malcolm Hailey in the form of a Resolution. I may be permitted in this connection to read two sentences from his speech. He said:

"I propose, therefore, that for the future the Standing Finance Committee, if it is accepted by the House, should have that material placed in their hands some short time before the Budget and should deal with it on behalf of the House."

I have been a member of the Standing Finance Committee, and I can certify that all the materials about expenditure embodied in "demands" were never placed before the Committee, even one minute in advance before they were supplied to the House. Then he continued:

"I think, as time goes on, it will be found that the Committee will take up a very much wider scope of work on behalf of the Assembly than I have laid down today."

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

Sir, when we discussed this question last year, a few very important points were put forward before the House but none of these things were answered from the Government Benches. Mr. Thampan last year pointed out that the members of the Standing Finance Committee should be elected by the elected Members of the Assembly. Sir Hari Singh Gour emphasised many important points on that occasion and Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh advocated the device of a suitable method to make the Standing Finance Committee more effective. Mr. Sitaramaraju called this Finance Committee really a pocket edition of the Assembly and he said that as is the Assembly ineffective, so is the Standing Finance Committee. Mr. Joshi, on that occasion, said that the only question was whether the Opposition should be allowed some share in framing the financial proposals of the Government of India. These were the points which we raised on the floor of the House last year, and, I am afraid, that the position of the Finance Committee today has not improved. But, if it has changed, it has changed in the negative direction. The function of the Standing Finance Committee, as contemplated by the Honourable (now His Excellency) Sir Malcolm Hailey, was to scrutinise the main Budget prior to its discussion by the House. From this it is really implied that the whole volume of the demands should be laid before the Finance Committee and we should be permitted to consider the expenditure as a whole; that is, not only certain items which may be brought forward here and there in a scrappy manner, but we should have an opportunity to consider the Budget as a whole, and then and then alone we would be in a position to say how far the taxes would be necessary. But here this opportunity is not given to the Finance Committee. Many motions were guillotined on Friday last, without giving an opportunity for scrutiny either to the Legislative Assembly or, as Mr. Raju said, to its pocket edition.

In the year 1922, or a year later, when the Standing Finance Committee was created, the Assembly insisted upon and laid down financial principles and they said that this Standing Finance Committee was to sanction the allotments out of the lump sum granted to the various Departments. This particular thing was never done. This question of allotments from the lump sum was never laid before the Finance Committee, at least during the last three years that I have been connected with it. The second thing was to suggest retrenchment and economy in expenditure. This was really one of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee, but no proposals for retrenchment were ever laid before the Committee.

About eighteen months ago, when the Government were faced with financial trouble, they created a Special Retrenchment Committee with Sub-Committees, but the Standing Finance Department was left out, and was deprived of its legitimate function. The third function of the Standing Finance Committee is to scrutinise all proposals for unavoidable expenditure. Mark the word all, because I am going to discuss this thing just now. Expenditure of minor importance are placed before the Standing Finance Committee, but bigger expenses which affect the general expenditure of the Government of India are concealed from the Standing Finance Committee, and were not laid before this body. The Department has got a rule that there is no need of sanctioning all expenses which are within the power of the various Departments or any subordinate authority. The Departments have got a right to appoint any person on a salary—I do not

remember exactly what the amount is—but probably it is Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. The Departments have power to appoint for a period of two years any person whose salary may be Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 2,500, and the sanction for these posts need not be obtained from the Standing Finance Committee at all. There is also the lump sum grant by which a Department is authorised to undertake an expenditure amounting to about Rs. 20,000. I think the Honourable the Finance Member will say on the floor of the House whether these facts, which I am now stating here today, are not correct. Now, if these big undertakings are taken by the Department without any reference to the Standing Finance Committee, I do not see any use of that Committee. The number of items of expenditure that come before the Standing Finance Committee is much less than it used to be some years ago, and the things, for which sanction had been given by the Standing Finance Committee about two years ago, are being taken by the Departments themselves, and the sanction of the Standing Finance Committee is not considered to be necessary. The result is that the entire Budget of 1933-34 was disposed of by the Finance Committee in two days sittings of about 2½ hours each. Now, this method of disposing of the whole of the Budget in two sittings, without any particulars of items of expenditure of sufficient importance being discussed, is, I think, not very healthy.

The next point I would take into consideration is the question of loan. No doubt the question of loan is a question of policy, but we are responsible for the payment of interest, and it is an item of expenditure. Before the loans are incurred, it is desirable that the Standing Finance Committee ought to be consulted. Otherwise we should not be called upon to pay interests on loans which have been incurred by the Government of India. Therefore this is an important item which ought to have been laid before the Standing Finance Committee.

The next point is the control of the Standing Finance Committee. The control of the Standing Finance Committee is not so tight as it is in the United Kingdom. The Honourable the Finance Member would probably know the amount of control which the Treasury has over all the departments of expenditure in the British Government. They have also got an expert in each Department in the Treasury who fully scrutinizes the expenditure in that direction. Now, this question of control is pending at the present moment in the Finance Department, and I would, therefore, appeal to the Finance Department, through this House and through you, Sir, that this Standing Finance Committee, if it exists at all, ought to function properly as was contemplated in 1922, *i.e.*, all the questions of expenditure should be laid before it, all loans, if we are required to pay the interests on them, and the appropriation of funds should not be allowed without the permission of the Standing Finance Committee; and no new appointments should be made even for a temporary period or for a small period without the matter being discussed fully by the Standing Finance Committee. As we are now on the eve of Constitutional Reforms, probably the power of the Assembly would very much be changed, and I would request the Honourable the Finance Member just to take the Standing Finance Committee more and more into his confidence, so that we may give substantial assistance from the point of view of the tax-payers, and I appeal to my Honourable friend that this Committee should not be made to exist only as a debating club where we talk and go home afterwards. Sir, these are the observations that I have to make.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, referred to what I said last year on this question. I wish to make my position clear. What I said last year was this that, so far as the responsibility for the framing of the Budget is concerned, it must be taken by the Government themselves, and the Assembly, through its Committee, should not take any responsibility for it. I hold that if a Committee of the House becomes responsible for the framing of the Budget, the power of the Legislature for criticising the Budget is to that extent weakened. Government should take the responsibility for framing the Budget and the Non-Official Members, who really form the Opposition, should not take upon themselves any responsibility for the framing of the Budget, but they should make it their business to criticise the Budget as introduced in the Legislature. The Standing Finance Committee was originally formed, so far as I remember, for the purpose of scrutinising new items of expenditure and nothing more. To that proposal I have no objection, but if it is intended that a Committee of the House should be formed to go into the whole of the Budget and that that Committee should give a sort of approval to the Budget introduced by the Government, then, I think, Mr. Deputy President, it is a wrong method of proceeding.

What I would suggest, in order that the House should have a greater control over the finances of this country, is this. In the first place, the House must organize itself properly. That is the only method of effectively criticising the Government's Budget. If we are not organized, then certainly there will be waste of time and our criticisms will not be effective. Secondly, I also hold that the days given for the discussion of the Budget are really too few. The number of days for the discussion of the Budget must be increased and there should be proper organization. I think if we have these two things, there will be greater criticism of the Budget of the Government and the criticism will be more effective.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have been a member of the Standing Finance Committee, continuously since 1924, and I would like to say a word or two in addition to the observations that have been placed before the House by the previous speakers. Sir, I quite admit that the object for which this Finance Committee was established in the year 1921 is not being fulfilled by the sort of work which we are called upon to do. My Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has quoted the speech of Sir Malcolm Hailey who was at that time the Finance Member. I will not read out what he has already said, but I will just draw pointed attention of the Government only to one little passage in which Sir Malcolm Hailey said:

"I propose, therefore, that for the future the Standing Finance Committee, if it is accepted by the House, should have that material placed in their hands some short time before the Budget and should deal with it on behalf of the House."

From the latter portion of this sentence, I understand that the question of considering the Budget should also have been assigned to the Standing Finance Committee before it is actually placed before the House. If that is so, I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin, that we are not permitted to see the Budget as a complete picture in itself. Proposals from different Departments of the Government of India come to us, bit by bit, and, in the absence of any other material to the contrary, we have

to take most of these things on trust. If a proposal comes from a certain Department saying that some urgent piece of work is necessary in a certain place, we certainly have no course open to us to find out whether it is really as urgent as it is pointed out. Of course I quite admit that the Department might be bringing forward only those proposals which they consider to be absolutely necessary. But the members of the Committee have no independent means of finding out whether those proposals are so urgent or not. I will just give an example. The question of our expenditure on the Andaman Islands has for so many years been looming large in the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee, and we have been persistently calling for reports showing the whole economic and financial commitments in the Andaman Islands; but, in spite of our repeated reminders, which are on record, no complete picture has been shown to us, and I think my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will agree with me that only the other day we showed our dissatisfaction by reiterating our demand that the whole picture should be placed before us and all the work in connection with the different Departments, so far as the Andaman Islands is concerned, should be co-ordinated and consolidated into one report.

There is only one more point which I should like to say in this connection, and it is this: that the proposals of the different Departments do not come to us quite sufficiently in advance of the time at which the meeting is called. Sometimes it happens that we receive the papers in the night when the meeting is called for the next day, and even when the House is sitting, and we are engaged in other work connected with the Assembly; so we do not get sufficient time to study the papers thoroughly. I submit, this is a procedure which can be rectified by the Finance Department or by the other Departments concerned; but so far as the more fundamental objection to the present procedure of the Standing Finance Committee is concerned, that is, that the Budget as a whole should be placed at their disposal for scrutiny and consideration by the Standing Finance Committee before its presentation in the Assembly, that is a question on which I am not competent to give an opinion myself. I do not know myself the practice that obtains in the House of Commons or elsewhere; but judging from the statement that has been made by Sir Malcolm Hailey in this House, to which reference has been made, I think, that if that was the intention of the Government, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will admit that that intention is not being carried out in actual practice. The reports and the records of the Standing Finance Committee in former years were rather meagre and scrappy; but through the efforts of some Honourable Members and readily approved of by the Honourable the Finance Member himself, we are having very full reports of those items which have been coming up for disposal by the Standing Finance Committee; but the purpose, to which my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, referred, is certainly one which ought to be kept in view, and the scope of the Committee should be enlarged, so that the Committee, as the representative of the Assembly, should be in a position to discharge their duties more effectively and to better purpose in the interests of the country than they have been permitted to do.

Mr. S. O. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan Rural): Sir, I was never a member of the Standing Finance Committee; but I have always read very carefully its proceedings. I entirely

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

disagree with my friend, Mr. Joshi, about the function of the opposition in this House as compared with the official opposition in the British Parliament. Mr. Joshi thinks that we should follow their example; but, really, the functions are quite different. The official opposition in the British Parliament expect that if they can prove by their criticism that the Government's proposals are not sound, they have some expectation to do it for themselves; but here in this House, with an irremovable and an irresponsible Treasury Bench, all that we can expect to do is to influence their decision. There is no chance for the opposition to initiate their programme at any stage of the Budget. So, I think, the Honourable Mr. Joshi made a fundamental mistake in advising the House that we should copy the British example. I think there is an "Estimates Committee" of the British House of Commons and before the Budget is laid before the Parliament, the Committee goes through the Budget in detail, I think, more or less with the purpose of influencing the decision of the Government. It is well known that once Government make up their mind in India, it is very difficult, even when they are convinced that they are doing something very very wrong, to dislodge them from that position. So, if there is any chance to influence them, it is before they form their opinion in an earlier stage in a Committee like the Standing Finance Committee. So I think that, instead of merely copying British institutions, not having the substance of real power in the hands of the Non-Official Members, it is far better that the Standing Finance Committee should get some chance before the Budget figures are finally accepted by the Government to influence their decision.

I further see that the Standing Finance Committee did not always get a full picture of any demands that are made about any new grants. It has been found that generally the official representatives before the Committee come and press on the Committee that there are certain urgent demands for fresh grants, and then the Standing Finance Committee is certainly placed in a very awkward position. They cannot either refuse when the responsible officers of the Government demand it, neither on the other hand, are they conversant with all the details of past transactions of which the proposals form a mere part. So it is very difficult to get the whole picture and to take the responsibility, either of accepting or refusing the grant. So, usually, they are forced to accept the proposals, because they feel that it is unfair to deny grants without having any responsibility for the same. For all these considerations, I think, as has been suggested by my friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, and so ably supported by my friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, who are very old members of the Standing Finance Committee, that the Standing Finance Committee should have greater opportunities to get a better and fuller picture of the demands that are made of them, and that before the Budget Session they should have a full chance to go through new items in the coming Budget. With these words, I conclude my remarks.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, I do not agree with what has fallen from my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, when he says that the Standing Finance Committee is not placed in possession of the full facts of cases which are put up before them. I have been on the Standing Finance Committee now for two years, and although, I must

say, two years ago I was not at all satisfied with the way in which cases were put up,—the Honourable the Finance Member will probably remember that I made the point almost at the first meeting of the Standing Finance Committee at which I was present,—that cases were put up in a very indifferent form they were put up in a far too verbose condition and we had enormous masses of stuff which we could not go through. But all that has been changed. The cases now are put up in a very concise form, all references to cases that have been previously discussed are attached, and I do not think that there is any member of the Standing Finance Committee who will say, if he reads the papers,—I repeat,—if he reads the papers, that he has any difficulty in understanding the cases which are put up before the Standing Finance Committee.

I should like to endorse what my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, said in regard to circulation of papers. I must say that I do think we get these papers sent to us with very short time to study them, but explanations are put before us by the Finance Department which are not always acceptable. In many cases we think that the Department could certainly have put up the cases earlier; in some instances cases could have been put up to us in Simla which were not put up to us till we came to Delhi. Such delay should be rectified.

With regard to what my friend, Mr. Joshi, said, I do think there should be some re-arrangement about the discussion of the Budget in this House. It is perfectly absurd that the Standing Finance Committee having been as it is at present constituted, and functioning as it does at present, we should not be able to have a better form of discussion than the one we finished last week, in which, I think, 85 out of 99 grants were guillotined. Amongst the guillotined grants, there were some of most vital importance, and no one has had an opportunity to make any remarks or to give any opinion on them at all. There is something very wrong both with regard to the Railway Budget discussion and the General Budget discussion, because, not having any Committee beforehand, whatever you call it, the Estimates Committee or the Ways and Means Committee, there is absolutely no chance given to this House to discuss all the individual demands for grants, and I think that is not right, and this should be rectified before we come to the next Budget for 1934-35. But with regard to the question as to what the Standing Finance Committee should discuss, I am afraid I am not competent to say what it should do. I do not know the actual method by which the House of Commons discusses Estimates and Demands. I understand that they go into Committee, called the Ways and Means Committee, and discuss estimates beforehand, but I do think, and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will be able to give us some assurance on that subject, that we certainly should have an opportunity, in some form or another, to discuss the demands for grants before the Budget is actually placed on the table of this House.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I wish to make only one point. In the matter of preparing these estimates, there is much to be desired. If these estimates are prepared with greater accuracy, there would be no need for innumerable supplementary grants that are brought before this House from time to time. Another difficulty is, when we sit in this Committee, we have to

[Mr. B. Sitaramaraju.]

do more or less the work of the Public Accounts Committee by way of a *post mortem* examination. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will take a note of our views and see that the estimates are prepared with as much accuracy as possible so as to avoid coming up here with supplementary grants as far as possible.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, as a new Member of the Standing Finance Committee, I do not wish to say much about the procedure. But there is only one point on which I wish to speak and it is this, that if the whole Budget is laid before the Standing Finance Committee for discussion knowing well as we all do that the way in which Members ask for information for their satisfaction, I think the Committee will not be able to get through all the demands even in two years. If the Government wish to satisfy the Members of the Standing Finance Committee fully, then there is no hope of placing the Budget before the Assembly here. Because the Standing Finance Committee will not be able to get through all the demands in the Budget even in two years. So, I say, there is no need of placing the whole Budget before the Committee, and only the urgent demands should be placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

Generally, the questions that are put up before us are not very complicated and need not take days and weeks for consideration, but it is seldom that we do not get sufficient time to go through the material supplied to us. I think what my friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, has said is right, that sometimes we get the material a night before the meeting, but if we are given all the literature a few days before, it will help us considerably.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Madras City: Non-Muhamadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President, not having been a Member of the Standing Finance Committee, and not having had the advantage of knowing the procedure followed there, I tried to look at this question purely from the constitutional point of view.

Sir, reference has been made to the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. The purpose and the scope of the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons has not been, I am afraid, correctly appreciated. The Estimates Committee was the result of a suggestion that was first accepted in 1912 in the House of Commons. It is a new Committee that has come into existence within the past few years, and during the war years it is well known that it did not function. It was suspended. Now, the purpose of the Estimates Committee in the House of Commons is explained by a very recent author on the procedure of the House of Commons. Its order of reference is as follows:

“To suggest a form in which the estimates shall be presented for examination and to report what, if any, economies consistent with the policy implied in these estimates may be effected therein.”

Now, there are two fundamental positions which concern the Estimates Committee. First of all, the form in which the estimates are to be presented, and therein comes the whole question my friend, Mr. Morgan, raised about the possibility of this House exercising sufficient control at the voting stage on the various demands. This is the first Legislature,

Sir, where I find that no time is fixed for any demands separately. It was only by convention and by the agreement arrived at among various Leaders of Parties that we were able to discuss particular demands at any particular time. If that agreement was not forthcoming, perhaps on the very first demand we might have occupied all the five days that had been allotted for the discussion of grants. I agree that in a Budget of over 100 crores, and a volume extending to 100 pages, it is certainly not fair to expect us to dispose that of, or, even a comparatively good portion of it to be disposed of in the course of five days

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): In the Provinces they give 12 days.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Three days for general discussion and nine days for voting of grants

Mr. F. E. James: No; 12 days are allotted for the voting of grants.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Madras has a very much smaller Budget of about 18 crores, Bombay too has a much smaller Budget, and it is not fair to expect us to go through the whole Budget and dispose of it in five days. I think it is high time that this House made its protest against the shortness of time allowed. In the House of Commons, 20 days is the minimum allowed. I hope the Standing Finance Committee will bring prominently to the notice of the Finance Member and, through him, to the notice of His Excellency the Viceroy that two very necessary reforms should be carried out: first is the extension of time for the voting of demands so that at least 30 or 40 demands out of the 80 or 90 demands may be disposed of by this House, and, secondly, as a sort of individual guillotining of the various demands instead of putting a final guillotine on all the demands that have not been disposed of.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, who is a very good student of financial matters, says that attention has been drawn to that question. If so, I can only express my disappointment and the disappointment of the House that no steps have been taken in that direction. Again, I understood Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad to say that the Finance Committee should have an opportunity of discussing the economies that have been carried out in the various Departments. That, Sir, is specifically within the powers of the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. They are precluded from discussing policy, but they are certainly entitled to discuss what economies can be made in the demands. I should like to make a distinction in the Budget Estimates that come up. There are, what are called, standing sanctions, that is to say, items of expenditure which are repeated from year to year and on which no fresh or new decision is required in any particular year. Then there are items of new expenditure which are brought forward generally before these Committees. I understood the procedure at least in the Provincial Legislatures to be that new items of expenditure are put before the Committee and then, at the final stage, a certain conspectus of the whole Budget is presented to the Finance Committee, and it is, at that stage, that if any economies can be thought of, they can be suggested within the policy accepted by the Government. I should like to make this perfectly clear, because I thought, during the course of discussion, there was some amount of confusion. It is impossible for any Finance Committee to go into the question of a

[Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

Finance Bill. The proposals in that direction must originate from the Government. They cannot take anybody into their confidence at that stage. It is clear that the Finance Bill must come as a shock to the House on the 28th February, when the Finance Member makes his Budget Speech. So also with reference to loan operations, it is perfectly clear that nobody can be taken into confidence about the prospects of a loan being floated or about the necessity for a loan. These are two things in which no member of the Standing Finance Committee or the Committee as a whole will claim that they should be taken into confidence. But I do think with reference to economies within the policy which is being pursued by the Government that the Finance Committee should be taken more into confidence.

Particularly this year and last year we had a number of Retrenchment Committees working and, as the proposals of the Retrenchment Committees had to be examined by the Government and final decisions had to be arrived at, it was quite open to the Government and, I think, it would have been fairer to the Finance Committee if Government had taken the Finance Committee into their confidence before final decisions were arrived at on those Retrenchment Committees' proposals; at any rate I suggest where the Government were not able to see eye to eye with the Retrenchment Committees' proposals and were not in a position to accept them, it would have been well from their own point of view, and they might have avoided a great deal of criticism on the floor of the House, if they had explained to the Finance Committee why and for what reasons they were not in a position to accept either *in toto* or to a very considerable extent the suggestions that were made by the various Retrenchment Committees. That, Sir, is the position that I feel confident in putting forward with reference to the Standing Finance Committee of this House.

I think that there is a great deal of justification for one complaint also that has been made by the members of the Standing Finance Committee. I have myself gone through the proceedings of the Finance Committee. It is perfectly clear that, on some occasions at least, notice given to them is so short that no Member, even if it be Mr. Morgan, with his tremendous capacity, can study the reports that are placed before him and do justice to the proposals that come up. Supposing a series of papers are put up before me in the evening and I am asked to attend a meeting of the Standing Finance Committee at 11 o'clock next morning and give my opinion, we have not got the advantage of being administrators in charge of these Departments so that we can pick up the point at a moment's notice and place our views before the Committee. We do want references, we do want to go into the Library and study these questions. Therefore, I think that the members of the Standing Finance Committee have a just grievance that very important questions are sometimes rushed through and inadequate notice is given to them. I am not making a complaint against the Finance Member with reference to these matters. I do not think the Finance Committee members either want to make a complaint against the Finance Member directly, but they are bringing forward these things, which perhaps they have done in the Finance Committee also,—they are bringing forward these things openly on the floor of this House, so that their colleagues may know exactly where they stand and how far they have been able to discharge their functions. This is the proper time—when

the House is called upon to elect members of the Standing Finance Committee, when the members of the Committee do sometimes get severe criticism from the Members of the Assembly as they did on the Railway Finance Committee—that my friends should make their position clear and place before the House the exact limitations under which they have to work. It is in that spirit that I have been making these remarks, and I understand it is the same spirit in which Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad made his remarks also, and I trust that the Finance Member will be in a position, if not today, at least at some future time, to give consideration to the suggestions that have been made.

Mr. R. S. Sarma (Nominated Non-Official): I crave your indulgence to reply to one point which Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad has made and which has not been replied to, namely, the suggestion that the election to the Standing Finance Committee should be confined to Elected Members and that Nominated Members should not be allowed to vote. Sir, I want to say this, that so long as the Nominated Members form a part of this House, I do not know why and how they could be excluded from exercising their right. With regard to the other insinuation to which I attach more importance, namely, that the Nominated Members are toadies and do not bring to bear an independent judgment upon matters that come before the Committee, let me say that the Nominated Members on the Standing Finance Committee have taken a more independent attitude than many Elected Members. And, if you call us toadies, I may state that no repressive legislation, no measure which is considered reactionary, can be passed through this House only with the support of the officials, the European Group or the Nominated Members alone without the help of at least a dozen elected toady Members of this House, and my contention is that the privileges that are extended to elected toadies ought not to be denied to nominated toadies, granting that they are toadies.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member is making an imputation himself. I did not say anything of the kind. I only quoted Mr. Thampan.

Mr. K. P. Thampan (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I ventured to make a few suggestions last year in connection with the constitution of the Standing Finance Committee and I do not wish to repeat here what I said then. I wish, however, to say a few words in regard to one of the points made by my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar. He said that it would not be possible to refer the Finance Bill to the Standing Finance Committee. I do want that the Finance Bill, after being introduced in the Assembly, should be considered by the Standing Finance Committee.

Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is another matter. I was not referring to it.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: Of course, not exactly that. What I am suggesting is that it should be subjected to very careful examination by the Standing Finance Committee, so that they might give a lead to the other Members of the House in regard to the vital issues involved in it. It is a serious responsibility that we are discharging here, particularly with regard to new taxation proposals, and if the Standing Finance Committee will give

[Mr. K. P. Thampan.]

us a lead, it will help us to concentrate the discussion on those points. I, therefore, suggest that hereafter the Finance Bill should be referred to the Standing Finance Committee after its introduction in the Assembly.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur (North Madras: Muhammadan): While I fully endorse whatever has fallen from Honourable Members, who have just spoken, barring Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, I cannot but express the hope that the Finance Member will take into consideration the fact that we are very much handicapped by the way in which certain items are entirely excluded from our scrutiny and that we are not in a position to express ourselves on the way in which economies can be effected. As regards the statement made by a certain Honourable Member just now that the way in which cases are put up before us is not very satisfactory, I beg to differ. I fully endorse every word of my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, and I appeal to the Finance Member to take a more rational view of the position. It has oftentimes struck me that the matters which should come up before the Standing Finance Committee are being contracted rather than expanded during the last two years, and this points to the fact that the Government of India want to hand over to the next Federal Legislature a legacy which would be free from every embarrassment and complication. It looks as if the Government of India want to ease matters as far as possible, so that when the Finance Member hands over his portfolio to the next Finance Minister, matters may go on as smoothly as possible in the next Federal Government. With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative): I had the good fortune of associating myself in the Standing Finance Committee in the last two years, and I would like to place before the House what little experience I had in the Standing Finance Committee. I must congratulate the Finance Member on the fact that when papers are placed before the Standing Finance Committee, it is no doubt true that he often agrees with the elected Members of the Assembly, but, at the same time, I must point out to him that the time at our disposal is very short. My friend, Mr. Mudaliar, does not probably know that it is only a day previous that the papers are sent to us. Sometimes a peon comes to us at 12 at night, knocks at the door and hands over a bundle of papers marked urgent for the meeting next day. Another complaint I should like to make is this. It is really high time that powers of the Standing Finance Committee are expanded. Although it is no doubt true that the new Constitutional Changes are about to come in the near future, still the Honourable the Finance Member should prepare the ground for people to study these questions more carefully.

Another thing is this. Last time, in the Simla Session, Sir Alan Parsons was there, and, before the proposals actually came up, he gave us an idea of what the financial position was. That enables us to decide as to how we should approach the several proposals that come before us. No such thing is done by the Finance Member. If, before the proposals are discussed, he gives us some idea as to what the financial position is, that will place the Standing Finance Committee in a position to judge of the merits or otherwise of the several proposals that are brought forward.

Then, the question, as to what relief should be given to the tax-payer and to the service people, is never placed before the Standing Finance Committee. None of the Members of the Standing Finance Committee are taken into confidence as to what action Government should take and what should appeal to the House. For instance, this time when the question of the partial restoration of cut in pay was decided upon, the Finance Member never approached the members of the Standing Finance Committee as to whether it should be done or should not be done. If he had approached us, we would have given him a scheme which would have given satisfaction to people all round, the tax-payers as well as the service people, but the Finance Member never thought us worthy of that confidence; but, I may assure him, that the confidence will be fully justified. I welcome the suggestions that have been made, and I would strongly appeal to the Finance Member to give them his favourable consideration.

Mr. N. R. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): (The Honourable Member spoke in the vernacular, a translation of which will appear in a later issue of these debates as an Appendix.)

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: In many respects I very much welcome the discussion that has taken place this morning. I welcome it as being myself a very keen member of the Standing Finance Committee who has on many occasions felt that the work done in the Standing Finance Committee is not properly appreciated by this House. I also welcome it as a Finance Member who has always felt that the interest of the representatives of the public in the expenditure which the Government ask them to vote is one of the greatest helps which he can receive in keeping down that expenditure. Therefore, I greatly welcome any interest shown by the House in the procedure and in the way in which they can discuss the expenditure proposals which are put before them every year. I may say that I have already, in the course of the discussions which have taken place this year, appreciated a change in the manner in which the House deals with them.

Sir, I do not wish to make a controversial speech by way of a reply to the criticism that has been made by the Opposition Parties of the Government; at the same time, I think it is fair to point out that if this House complains that they do not have sufficient time to discuss the Grants on their merits, it very often is the fault of the Honourable Members themselves. Sir, if I look back on the early days of Budget discussions—with which I made a favourable comparison just now as to what has taken place this year,—I recall long days spent on the floor of the House on the discussion of purely constitutional issues on the vote for the allowances of the Members of the Executive Council, and other days spent on other matters, all important, no doubt, but wholly irrelevant to any discussion on the Demands for Grants. This year, Sir, I think the House has devoted quite an unusual percentage of the time available during the five days' discussion on Grants to actual discussions on expenditure. But I would remind my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi—who is one of the chief critics of Government in this respect and who has just asked for more time—that he had a whole half day allotted to him and that, in the course of that half day, he did not, I think, make a single illuminating remark as to Government's expenditure; the only proposal which he put forward was one which would have involved a

[Sir George Schuster.]

substantial increase in the money that we were asking the House to vote. Sir, I make these remarks not in any controversial spirit, but because I feel that if we are to get down to serious discussion of Government expenditure, we cannot achieve success unless the Honourable Members opposite play up. They must help us in achieving such an objective.

Now, there have been various points raised in the course of this discussion. There have been particular criticisms and complaints about the way in which the Standing Finance Committee's business is conducted and there has been a very wide issue raised by my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad. Before I deal with the other points, I would like to say that my Honourable friend has taken me considerably by surprise in this matter. No doubt I ought to have anticipated that questions of this kind would have been raised, because something of the kind was raised last year, but unfortunately I was indisposed and unable to attend the House when this motion came up last year; and, therefore, although I read the report of what had been said, it did not make the same impression on my mind, as it would have, if I had been present. I do think, my Honourable friend, who is in close touch with me and who attends all the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee, might have raised these questions in the course of our discussions in that Committee. My Honourable friend cannot, I think, complain that I am averse to discussing any question which is raised or that I restrict the Standing Finance Committee in the course of its discussions. I think it would have been very valuable if he had brought these matters up and thus enabled us in the Standing Finance Committee to have some preliminary exploration of the ground before it was discussed on the floor of this House.

Now, as regards the points of detail, I have not very much to say. I know that it often happens that papers do not get into the hands of members of the Standing Finance Committee with as long a notice, as they themselves would desire, for a study of those papers. But, I am sure, they realize the difficulty that we have in dealing with Departments in getting them to put up papers in good time. I am very glad that they have raised a criticism this time, because it will help the Finance Department in addressing very strong communications to the other Departments. But there is one thing I would say, namely, that I cannot remember a single occasion on which if the Committee asked for more time to consider a particular proposal, or for fuller information, I have not agreed to a postponement of the consideration to a later meeting. I am sure that all members of the Committee who are present today will bear me out in this. I quite agree with a great deal that has been said to the effect that the Standing Finance Committee, which only has the opportunity of scrutinising isolated proposals for expenditure, cannot by virtue of exercising that function, exercise a general control over the expenditure policy of the Government. Nevertheless by scrutinising these isolated proposals, they can exercise a very important influence. The proposals which come before them are all proposals for new services, and those proposals sometimes are unimportant, but very often are extremely important. Now, to follow out the practical side of this business, I would like to call the attention of the House to one particular case which very well illustrates the point I want to make. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, who is the oldest member, I believe, of the Standing Finance Committee, and who certainly has been a member of it ever since I came to India, will remember that, at one of their very earliest meetings at which I

presided, the whole question of the Government's policy as regards civil aviation came up. He will remember then that I said to the Committee: "Here is the first item of an important new branch of policy. You must realize that this is not the end. This is only the first step and if you agree with this policy, you will be definitely embarking on something which is going to commit the Government to a very substantial expenditure". I think the Committee fully appreciated that, and that was an example of a start being made in a new branch of expenditure which came before the public representatives from the outset. Now, as a sequel to that, on every occasion when the demands for grants came up, I said to the members of the Standing Finance Committee: "this is a matter on which the representatives of the public should express their opinion. It is going to cost the Government a great deal of money in the long run and it should be debated on the floor of the House". I suggested it to them that they should arrange with their Parties that that particular grant should be selected under the convention for discussion of grants on the floor of the House. But no advantage was taken of those suggestions. Honourable Members preferred to take the opportunity of the discussion of the grants in order to raise matters of general policy, and thus an opportunity was lost of discussing what has been one of the most important new decisions as regards finance which has been taken during the five years when I have been here. Now, I commend that short story to the attention of Honourable Members opposite, because it does illustrate what their opportunities have been and how, if full advantage has not been taken of those opportunities, the fault really does not lie with Government, but lies with the Honourable Members themselves.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has raised the whole issue as to whether the Standing Finance Committee performs sufficiently valuable functions now. He referred back to the original statement made by Sir Malcolm Hailey when he announced Government's intention to set up a Standing Finance Committee. I do not think that I need take the time of the House now with any detailed account of past history in this matter. I would only remind my Honourable friend that after that general statement of policy, when the Committee was re-appointed in 1922, the Assembly asked for a clearer definition of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee, and then a much more detailed statement was made. It was then found that there were considerable difficulties in providing for the exercise of those functions and a memorandum was prepared on the functions and procedure of the Standing Finance Committee which has always been reproduced on the pamphlet which is issued from time to time on the matter. So that the House knows very well how the present procedure has arisen; and I would only like to say that, as far as I am concerned, I found this procedure in force when I came to this country at the end of 1928, and certainly I do not think the Standing Finance Committee can suggest that in the course of my period as Chairman of it those functions have been restricted or that it has not been encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity to go into matters of public expenditure. Whether that is the best procedure or not, or whether something better than that can be devised, is quite another question. I think it is quite possible that something in the nature of an Estimates Committee, which could every year scrutinise the way in which Government was carrying out its policy and investigate whether that policy could not be carried out in cheaper ways, might be very useful. But it will require the very careful attention of those

[Sir George Schuster.]

Honourable Members who sit upon it, and there we are up against this great difficulty of finding adequate time, and the difficulty also of the size of India,—a difficulty which means that we have to get members together from all over India some time before the Session. All these matters do constitute much greater difficulties in India than exist in England; and if there is to be an Estimates Committee which is to perform any useful function, then its success depends on its being possible to find a number of public-spirited men with requisite qualifications who will be prepared to make themselves more or less professional members of that Committee. If there are such public-spirited men, I think the public interest will benefit considerably from their activities. But, Sir, as a practical question, what ought we really to do now? It is a little curious that criticism of a procedure which was a direct result of the reforms of ten years ago should now come up practically in the last year of that period. Is it really worth while to alter the procedure and try to set up something different now? I put that to Honourable Members: I want to know what they think about it. It might be that it would be useful even now to try and get something new going so as to gain experience in advance which would be useful under the new Constitution. It certainly is a point on which I would not give a definite negative without considering the matter, but, of course, it is also a point on which I can certainly make no positive pronouncement without time for careful consideration and for consultation with my colleagues. But if the House seriously desires to consider some change in the procedure, then, I suggest, that the various Parties should talk to their representatives on the Standing Finance Committee, and, if the Standing Finance Committee desires to have a special meeting to discuss the matter, I shall have the greatest possible pleasure in arranging that. I warn them that I think there will be very great difficulties in providing anything that will be very useful, but I am quite prepared to go into the matter and consider what can be done.

That, Sir, is all that I need say at the moment. I would only like to say, before I sit down, that I resent,—and I am sure my Honourable friend will not mind my saying so,—I resent his suggestion that the Standing Finance Committee's work is not useful work. I can assure him that it has been of the greatest possible use to me as Finance Member and I hope, Sir, that he does not really believe what he himself said. I prefer to believe that he merely said it, in the heat of the moment, and as an advocate arguing a particular case in the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the financial year 1933-34, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

ELECTION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

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

"That the non-official Members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, four members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts in place of Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. B. Das, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury and Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, who will retire in accordance with sub-rule (4) of the same rule."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): I may inform Honourable Members that nominations for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee and the Committee on Public Accounts will be received in the Assembly Office up to 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 15th March, and the elections, if necessary, for both the Committees will take place in this Chamber on Monday, the 20th March, 1933. The elections will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

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

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

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

"That the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary certain duties leviable under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, further to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, and further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

[Sir George Schuster.]

Sir, it is not customary for the Finance Member in making the motion that the Finance Bill should be taken into consideration to make any lengthy speech, and it is certainly not my intention to do so now, because if there was one point on which all who publicly commented on my Budget speech were agreed—friends and critics alike—it was that it was of an inordinate length, and, therefore, I do not want to take the time of the House with any further general explanation of the position. But there is just one point on which I wish to say a few words to the House and that is this.

Honourable Members will have received, I believe, with their papers on Saturday a summary table reviewing the position as regards retrenchment effected. I had this statement prepared or rather printed at the last moment in order to go, as far as I possibly could, to meet the wish which had been expressed by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Independent Party. He is not in his place just now, but I trust his colleagues who are members of that party will call his attention to what I wish now to state. This particular statement I put forward with some hesitation and with a certain amount of apology, because the figures have not been exactly reconciled in every case, and Honourable Members may be able to point out one or two figures where there are discrepancies between what is said here and what has been said in other places. This really represents a statement compiled from returns which were submitted to Government by Departments at the end of December. They have been, so far as possible, reconciled, but I want to explain to the House that the compilation of a table of this kind and the checking of every figure involves an enormous amount of work. Last year I made a special point of preparing a table of this kind and the figures were exactly reconciled with all Departments, but that was possible, because we had two officers who were practically whole time on special duty—two very highly paid officers. They spent their whole time, occupied nearly two months in checking these figures, in going round all Departments, reconciling their statements and ensuring that everything was correct. Well, that I reckon was costing the Government something like Rs. 10,000 a month for two months. Now, this year we have had no special officers for that purpose, whereas, last year, Mr. Brayne and Mr. Nixon were both engaged upon it, and there have been further difficulties owing to the fact that the Budget Officer unfortunately went down with fever a week before the Budget. Simultaneously with that, all the Departments find very great difficulty in compiling the statements that we want, because they themselves, as a result of retrenchment, have cut down their staff considerably. Therefore, this table can only be submitted with reservations, and, as I have explained, I would not really have put it forward except that I was anxious to go as far as possible to meet the wishes expressed by Sir Abdur Rahim, and I would ask Honourable Members to regard it as a statement which may be useful to them in raising questions, but which I do not claim to be exactly accurate in every respect. On the other hand, I think I can fairly say that there are no important errors in it. Apart from that I have also been discussing with departments the possibility of giving any further information that may be required. A very full note has been printed and will be circulated today giving a review of the position as regards the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I think Honourable Members will find that valuable. Another

note giving the figures in greater detail as regards the Foreign and Political Department will, I hope, be ready for distribution tomorrow; and I have also a very full note prepared by the Auditor General analysing what has been done in the Audit Department under heads of Audit and Separation of Accounts from Audit, which, I think, Honourable Members also will find interesting and which will be distributed shortly. I trust, therefore, that Honourable Members will find these figures useful, but in the main of course I take my stand on the general position revealed in my Budget speech, that in fact there has been, on all heads taken as a whole on balance, a substantial reduction in expenditure. That, Sir, is all that I need say at the moment. I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary certain duties leviable under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, further to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, and further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member, in the closing remarks of his Budget speech, said he would leave to the new Government of India a house well stored and buttressed against all the storms which it may encounter. As my friend, the Finance Member, is thinking of the new Government that will come to occupy the Treasury Benches there, we on this side are thinking of those who will replace us two years hence and we are seriously thinking whether the present position, which the Honourable the Finance Member pictures, is the correct position, and whether that position could not be bettered now and also for our successors. I could not picture to myself a sound financial position for India without thinking that there has been no reduction in the Army expenditure. It is true that the different Retrenchment Committees have tinkered with retrenchment: so also the Army Retrenchment Committee have tinkered the Army Budget and 2½ crores were reduced. But the Federal Finance Committee, that inquired into the finances of India in 1932, drew up a report and based their whole recommendations taking the Army expenditure at 47 crores per annum. One or two of those, who represented India at the last Round Table Conference, represented the case of the defence cost for India properly at that Conference. But I find from the published document of the last Round Table Conference that these representatives somehow got cold feet. I find at the end of that Report there is a note from Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar, jointly signed, asking the representatives of the British Government to include in the instrument of instructions in the new Government of India Act certain terms for the defence of India. It is to be found at page 198. They narrate it under (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e); and then they suddenly remember that the cost of defence for India should be reduced and then they suggest in (f):

"We strongly urge that a Committee should be appointed consisting of British and Indian experts for further exploring all avenues for the reduction of military expenditure to a level as near as possible to that existing before the War."

[Mr. B. Das.]

I am surprised that such a statement occurs in the note that was jointly signed by Mr. Jayakar and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru; because, if I recollect aright, the first Round Table Conference appointed a defence committee, and also it was in the cognisance of these two friends of mine that the Military Charges Tribunal was at the time sitting in London, discussing how the question of the heavy military burden should be settled between Britain and India; and for these two gentlemen again to ask—I do not know whom they asked—perhaps the British Government—for the appointment of another Committee—suggests that they did not realise the importance of the issue; and I do not know whether the deliberations of the Federal Finance Committee or even of the Financial Safeguards Committee would prove to be of any advantage to India when they did not fix at all the cost of defence for India. One ray of hope I find in another page in a speech of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas. I find this point has been stressed a little more in line with what political India thinks and what this House has so often expressed. I refer to page 103 where, in a speech that he delivered while discussing defence, Sir Purshotamdas says :

"I have only to refer you, Sir, to the very excellent report of Sir Walter Layton, which is contained in the Simon Commission Report. A perusal of paragraph 248 of that Report will assure any one that there is no justification left for our military expenditure being at the figure which it is at today, namely, 47 crores, *plus* another five crores. I am convinced that India needs substantial reduction in this expenditure without delay, and if those reductions are not yet forthcoming, India will begin to feel that after all the remarks made by Sir Walter Layton are remarks which His Majesty's Government is not prepared to consider favourably."

This is very admirable sentiment, but I cannot understand, at the end of the last Round Table Conference, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and my old leader, who was a member of this House, Mr. Jayakar, asking in sentimental tones if His Majesty's Government would appoint a Committee to go into the cost of defence. If my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, wants to bequeath a well stored and well filled cupboard for the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, my friend must see his way and he must do it before he leaves the shores of this country, that the cost of the defence of India is reduced even to the extent as indicated by Sir Walter Layton, though not as demanded by men from this side,

Sir, what a great tragedy is going to happen in India? There has been a cry from Bengal, as well as from other provinces, simultaneously with the new provincial constitution, to give them financial relief. I understand my friend, Mr. S. C. Mitra's province has been promised two crores, but why bent about the bush? Let us face the matter squarely. Let the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which will shortly meet, decide the whole issue—the financial burden of India. I know there are certain Members of this House who very much aspire to go to that Committee, whether as ornaments or as useful Members, I do not know. My own experience is that assessors have no value in a Committee; in any case, if they go, before they take part in talking silly-sally over fundamental rules or on little points of procedure as to how the new Legislature should be composed, how many Members should there be and so forth, let them face the main problem, *what will be the real financial burden to the tax-payer, whether the cost of military defence could be reduced, and so on.* I scanned over every line of the speech of the Lord Chancellor and also of the speech of Sir Samuel

Hoare, and I did not find any ray of hope that the British Government intend to reduce the cost of defence of India. If there is not going to be any reduction in the cost of the defence, the new Constitution, whatever it might be, will be unworkable, and I do hope that some of the Honourable Members, who are Members of the Round Table Conference and who will take part in this debate, will give us some indication as to what their own idea is from the inside information they possess, whether, before the new Government of India Bill is introduced in the House of Commons, definite steps would be taken to reduce the cost of defence of India. I occasionally hear of inside information. Something may come out from some of the Members who had the privilege to attend the Round Table Conference, but Mr. Ghuznavi is not here.

Now, Sir, that is the main problem before India now and if I am allowed to give here my own opinion,—I have expressed it elsewhere,—I think India's present cost of defence can safely be limited to Rs. 30 crores, and the Rs. 17 crores that will be released will go to afford relief to the provinces who will feel that a real new India is coming and provinces can develop their nation-building departments.

The next point I desire to discuss is the debt position of India. Some of us pointed out that no provision ought to have been made this year for the reduction of debt or avoidance of debt. I am grateful to my friend, the Finance Member, for the two speeches which he subsequently made and for explaining to us his attitude. I concede to him all the improvements he has made in the finances of the Government of India, but I say he has made only that improvement in the budgetary position of the Government of India, and he has made little improvement in the public finances of India. My friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, was very much elated that the Government scrips had gone up, and so were perhaps all those investors whose ancestors had invested their savings in Government securities, because they would be getting something more, but my point is, has the country as a whole, have the masses any reason to be elated at the financial position created by the Government of India today? I do concede the difficulties also which my friend pointed out that the Railways are not yielding much today. Sir, the stable situation which he painted in his original speech was a glowing side of the picture, but there are dark sides to the picture as well. My friend himself thinks too, that there are dark sides to the picture and we on this side feel that there is no glowing side to the picture, but it is all dark, dark and nothing but dark. What is America doing today? America today is facing a crisis which England faced two years ago. America has put a ban on the export of gold, she has placed a ban on the activities of the banks. You should do the same here. What is your financial policy today? Why not follow the same wise policy which free and independent sovereign countries are adopting? Why is it not the correct policy for India? I do not think the justification which my friend made for the flight of gold can really be justified at all. Why does not America allow the flight of gold? Why is America going to inflate her currency and does not America desire to increase her export thereby? My friend, I know, situated as he is, cannot give the correct picture to this House. He cannot, because we know how his predecessors were under the thumb of the Bank of England, how they were under the thumb of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, and so my friend must be. I

[Mr. B. Das.]

do not know what cablegrams pass between the British Government and the Government of India, nor do I know what is passing between Mr. Montague Norman, the Governor of the Bank of England, and my friend, the Finance Member. But the *Morning Post* published with big headlines the fact that India's export of gold was 100 crores and that thereby India saved the British Empire from financial crisis. Yes, India has been sacrificed like the goat to save the British Empire. Is not the flight of gold to the tune of 120 crores the reserve capital of the Indian Nation? Is it not the reserve capital that has gone out of this country? Since I made that speech, I have been enquiring in the town from jewellers and other people what value the ornaments which the distressed middle class bring in into the town even to the jewellers fetch. I understand in gold it is fetching 60 to 70 per cent. and in jewellery it is fetching only 30 per cent. Of course, the Finance Member knows that he is not our national Chancellor of the Exchequer—not the Neville Chamberlain of India. But what did he say? He said that this flight of gold has brought untold wealth to those who sold the gold and they have derived 33 per cent. profit and that excess profit has been invested in postal cash certificates. I do

3 P.M. ask him—he may not have the time nor the money to spare to make that big enquiry which I suggested the other day—I do ask him to make a simple enquiry as to how much poor man's gold has gone to purchase cash certificates. How much of this gold that has come from the poor man is due to starvation, to the rigours of the landholders' demands—and these landholders talked the other day about Bolshevism and so many other things,—how much of it is due to the *lathi* blows of the landholders delivered to the *ryots* worse than the *lathi* blows of the police given to the Congress picketers, how much of this distress gold is due to the sale of gold and silver trinkets which fetched not more than 30 to 40 per cent. of their value, because, Sir, the goldsmith is a wily craftsman and when he sells gold or silver trinkets to the poor villager, like the rupee which the Controller of Currency sells for one rupee with five annas worth of silver in it. The silversmith and the goldsmith have learnt the trick from the Controller of Currency and the silver ornament which they sell to the poorest villager contains only five annas worth of silver, yet the latter pays Rs. 1-5-0 for each *tola* of silver, one rupee for the silver and five annas making charges. For each *tola* of gold ornament the poor villager pays Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 extra over the price of gold for making charges, and though gold sells at Rs. 80 to Rs. 83 per *tola*, the poor villager gets only Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per *tola* of gold. And yet my friend from Bombay, Sir Cowasji Jehangir—I know he is a millionaire, he may be a multi-millionaire, he supported the Finance Member saying that this export of gold has brought a new rejuvenation to India, has brought new chances of life to India and to the masses. One redeeming feature about the thing is that Sir Cowasji Jehangir was alone in that sentiment. The capitalist leader of the Treasury Benches, Sir George Schuster, and the capitalist leader of this side, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. I find, on one point at least they agree. Whether my Honourable friend did understand the exact implications of what he was saying, or whether he, being a great millowner, has to curry favour with the Treasury Benches, I do not know, but he expounded fallacies that day to which no other business man in Bombay would subscribe and which was contrary to that admirable . . .

An Honourable Member: Is he not your Deputy Leader?

Mr. B. Das: We are not analysing leaders, we are analysing facts. That admirable analysis of the export of gold, the Leader of the European Group, my Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, gave—and Sir Leslie Hudson is a capitalist, I believe he is a big industrial magnate. (*Sir Leslie Hudson:* “Not a capitalist.”) That is why your heart is so soft. Sir Leslie Hudson is a business man and a shrewd man at that. He gave an analysis which, to my humiliation and to the humiliation of India, was controverted by one of the industrial magnates of Bombay. I can say this here that no other man, no other industrial magnate in Bombay has agreed with that opinion of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. Sir, I was leading to this. I do hope that my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will ask Sir Thomas Ryan to look into the list of the investors in the postal cash certificates. I do not want myself to see the names of those investors. I want to know whether these are genuine cultivators who forcibly took away the trinkets from their wives’ and daughters’ hands to satisfy the greed of the landholders to meet the rent and other land taxes, or whether these investors were panic-stricken Government servants and other fixed salaried men in private offices and business houses. This analysis can easily be secured and the Honourable Member can give us a reply, province by province, after three days when we intend to close this debate. He will find to his utter amazement that very little has come from those who are supposed to have profited by the sale of gold. Sir, who have profited? The Bombay and Calcutta stock-brokers, the bullion exchange brokers, have profited. I wish to take the mind of the House back to 1918-19 when there was that big gamble in all the stock Exchanges when the share prices went up. My gallant friend, Sir Victor Sassoon, is not here, but the firm of E. D. Sassoons, which had a capital of 3 or 2½ crores, converted their concern into 10 crores and there was the flight of capital from India to outside, and today Sir Victor Sassoon is playing polo and golf with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and has no time to come to India. That is how these big capitalists manipulate and see that the money flows from the poor man to the rich, and if the rich are foreigners like Sir Victor Sassoon, the money goes out of India and never returns. I am not here trying to find fault with my Honourable friend; I am rather giving him many points in his favour. Under the circumstances he has to do it, but I do hope that he will concede us a little sense, that we have got a grain of sense to appreciate the situation. We understand the situation, but to ask us to swallow the pill that the money invested in the postal cash certificates has all come from the *ryots* in the villages from the profit made by these *ryots* on sale of hoarded gold, which nobody else but the millionaire Sir Cowasji Jehangir can swallow, is too big a bait. (*An Honourable Member:* “He has not agreed with that.”) (*Another Honourable Member:* “He is not present.”) I think that completes what I have to say on the export of gold.

Now, I shall analyse the debt position of the Government of India and I would invite the attention of the House whether the position there is really as happy as it is depicted by the Honourable the Finance Member. I would ask my friends to turn to pages 48 and 49 of the Explanatory Memorandum where the figures for the productive and non-

[Mr. B. Das.]

productive debt are given. How is it that in spite of a provision of a sinking fund and attempts to reduce debts, the non-productive debt is on the ascendency. I find that in 1923 it was 203·9 crores, in 1925, 196 crores. It went down to 181 in 1927 and to 172 in 1928. On the 31st March, 1929, it was 170, on the 31st March, 1930, 177·40, 196 crores on the 31st March, 1931, 218 crores in 1932 and today it is Rs. 206 crores. In spite of the fact that my friend is boasting that he is going to leave sound finance for his successor and also a well stored house, even the non-productive debt is increasing. It has increased by nearly 30 crores from 1929. How am I or the country to think that the Honourable Member has created sound financial position for himself or his successor?

Then, my friend, Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar, raised the question of the conversion of our sterling debts. We have got some of these scrips in the British War Loan too. When England converted nearly 2,000 million sterling from 5 per cent. to 3½ per cent., why did not my friend send them to England to have them converted? My friend said that he has not forgotten it. I want a definite answer from my friend as to whether the British Government prevented him from going to the London market when the British Government converted their own loans. Then I would ask my friend whether he tried to reduce the size of the non-productive debt. Some of these are really money which ought not to be borne by the Government of India.

I find under the Political Department there is an item of quit rent for the lease of the province of Berar, paid to the Nizam's Government and I find also my friend, Mr. Jog, issuing statements that Berar is going to be a province. Why should the Government of India pay this 25 lakhs to the Government of the Nizam? Why should not the Government of Berar pay this? That will reduce our expenditure.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Are not the revenues of Berar included in the revenues of the Central Provinces?

Mr. B. Das: I would refer my Honourable friend to page 599, Demand No. 76.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: Where does the revenue go? To the Berars?

Mr. B. Das: The Government of India pay the piper and my friend, Mr. Jog, enjoys the benefit of sound administration and wise freedom. I find that my friend is still giving loans to the Indian States and Indian landholders. Some of these are at very low rates of interest. My friend knows it well whether some of these loans can really be paid back. I was surprised to hear in London that the Nawab of Bahawalpur has been given a remission of two crores of rupees over his irrigation debts. I do not know whether that is true, but if it is true, we are borrowing money in order to give presents to the Indian States and I do not know whether that particular State will come into the Federation of India even. There

are loans advanced at low rate of interest to the zamindars. I do not know why it should be done. I do not like to quote, but it is given on pages 852 and 843 of the Demands for Grants. I know that Government will give us a day for discussing the White Paper. Even if we discussed it the whole day, we cannot go into every aspect of the financial issue. My friend has already read the White Paper, at least the financial safeguards and the troubles that his successor will inherit in future. My friend has told us how he is trying to reduce our financial burden. If my friend is giving this present of two crores to the Bahawalpur Darbar, why not a crore to me? Why should not Orissa get a subvention like the North-West Frontier Province? These are aspects which we have to discuss. I am sorry that we do not go into this item by item. I can show you dozens of items that ought not to have been provided for.

My friend wants to maintain sound financial position. I want to know if he has yet devised a machinery whereby loans to Provincial Governments are to be advanced. In the Round Table report I find no scheme enunciated by which the future Chancellor of the Exchequer will control the extravagance of the Provincial Governments and it is too well known, Sir, that the Provincial Governments have launched wild schemes which weighs down the credit of India. I shall just cite the Bombay Development Scheme, the Punjab Mandi Hydro Electric Scheme which has been so much praised in the papers recently. Then there is the Sukker Barrage Scheme, the Sutlej Valley Scheme and there are other similar schemes in the United Provinces and in Madras. At present my Honourable friend has no machinery to control the actions of the Provincial Governments and to limit their extravagance nor can he devise rules by which similar action on the part of Provincial Governments can be checked in future.

The other day my friend, Mr. Thampan, pointed out to the Honourable the Finance Member that the debentures of the land mortgage banks in Madras have not yet been recognized by the Government of India and thereby the benefits of the banks are limited. Now, if one of the most solvent provinces—rather the most solvent province in India, which happens to be Madras,—I wish it were Orissa!—if that province cannot get that credit from my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, why, I ask, should the Indian States, over which this House has no control, in fact nor even the Government of India have much control, should get loans from the Government of India and thereby create a difficult financial situation for the Government and the people? I hope that is a point which my Honourable friend will bear in mind and will arrange to have that considered when the Government of India Bill comes to be drafted.

Sir, I would just like to point out certain items of expenditure, particularly in the Political Department, which to my mind are of a purely provincial character. If certain land has been handed over to British India compensation paid to Indian Princes should devolve on the Province which enjoys the benefit of that property and, on that account, the Government of India should not pay certain compensation; that compensation must come from that particular province. I have jotted down a number of similar cases. Under Demand No. 66, there is an item of compensation paid to Scindia. Then there is an item of compensation, paid to Raja Mahendra Man Singh, of Rs. 24,100; and there are similar other items there. I think it is time these were reviewed. I find at one place the

[Mr. B. Das.]

Political Department gives money to Afghan refugees—and there was an item which rose from Rs. 80,000 in 1931-32 to Rs. 94,000 in 1932-33 and to Rs. 1,07,800 in 1933-34. I do not know how my Honourable friend draws up his Budget, and how he expects the inflow of more refugees from Kabul; anyway, this is an item which I cannot understand and there must be some limit set. Then I find that the Nepal Government gets Rs. 10 lakhs under one sub-head and the next item curiously states 'for other expenses Rs. 9 lakhs'. Sir, in the appropriation account of 1930-31, we found an item of Rs. 10 lakhs paid to the Amir of Afghanistan two years ago, and today again the same item comes to Rs. 9,84,000 and shown as "for other expenses". Sir, I do not mind the Political Department making big presents to their protected Princes, but is it fair that it should incur extravagant expenditure and would this make up for the sound financial position of the Government of India? Sir, my friend may be satisfied, but I am not satisfied.

So, Sir, I have already indicated to my friend certain lines of economy and the largest economy will come of course from the military side. I have also indicated, not only this year, but for the last three years, how he can raise revenue by equalising the excise duty and the import duty on kerosene. Of course this protection they received and continue to receive, because the oil people have got the protection fever from my Bombay friends. There is no necessity for this at all, and there would accrue an additional income of Rs. 1,25,00,000 which would give him, if he so desired, the immediate chance to reduce taxation even this year; and, Sir, my friend must bear in mind that this year the taxation must be reduced. I believe my friend is quite aware that there is a hue and cry that there is too much dumping from Japan, calling for anti-dumping legislation against Japanese goods. Nearly two months ago, I would not have subscribed to such a policy, but today I am wholeheartedly for putting on a heavy tariff on Japan. Now, that may bring in to my Honourable friend a crore or two crores, but I am wholeheartedly for putting high tariff on Japanese goods. Japan, Sir, is a blot on human civilization, and Japan is not only a menace to India politically, but she is proving too dangerous and menacing to India's industrial development.

Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I thank the Honourable the Finance Member for the able and exhaustive survey of the financial position. But, I regret that in his whole speech he has not given consolation to poorer classes who inhabit this country. During the days of depression, it is essential that the taxes should be lowered and large works should be started to find employments for poorer classes. Here we find just the reverse. Sir, taxes have been raised and the surcharge of 25 per cent imposed last year has not yet been removed. This is no consolation to poorer classes. The poor man does not know whether the credit of my friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, has been raised in the markets of London and New York. He is simply concerned how he can live more comfortably and economically in his own village or town and this he can do only if the burdens of taxes are lightened and work provided to reduce unemployment.

My esteemed friend, the Finance Member, in his speech said that the Government have acquired out of a total of 127 a sum of 93 crores. This money has not been spent for lightening the burden of taxation. I thought

that he should have at least forgone the taxes on the income between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 the victims of which are only the poor and ignorant people of India. The amount of revenue which the Government derive from these taxes is very small. The increase in the income-tax as given in the Explanatory Memorandum is only 21 lakhs. Last year at an expenditure of four lakhs, he gave only 17 lakhs by giving a strong resentment to a very large number of people and by depriving men of small ornaments from the necessities of life. May I venture to ask, Sir, can he not give a contribution of this small sum of 17 lakhs out of his receipt of 93 crores which he himself admits that he has acquired? Sir, I may say, a person, who has gained 93 crores from unexpected quarters, can certainly afford to forgo an income of 17 lakhs. I say unexpected, because it is the good luck and not the skill of any person that this money has been obtained. I would like that my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, should be pleased to mention in his final reply of the relief he has given to the poor people out of his profit of 93 crores. What taxes he is prepared to forgo in order to give this relief?

We, the elected Members, suggested on the last occasion of the Finance Bill that the income-tax level should not be lowered and that the price of postcards and stamps should not be raised. The Legislative Assembly accepted this suggestion, but these cuts were restored by certification. At that time neither the Assembly nor the Executive Council could foresee the unexpected income of Rs. 93 crores. But this amount has now been obtained and it is not too much for me to suggest that, according to the wishes of the majority of the Assembly, the income-tax level should not be lowered, that is, persons whose income is between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 should not be asked to pay income-tax and that the price of postcards should be lowered from nine pies to six pies. Sir, as regards the lowering of the minimum limit of taxable income from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 1,000, I feel it my duty to declare on the floor of this House that much discontent is prevailing in the country as the result of this scheme since it has been introduced, because the taxation of income to the amount of Rs. 1,000 is causing great hardship to people of moderate means everywhere in India. Sir, they generally do not and cannot keep accounts and so it is not easy for them to prove to the satisfaction of Income-tax officers that they are not liable to the tax. They are absolutely at the mercy of the Income-tax Department. Can it be expected that a man earning about Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 a day, such as the cart owners, *tongawallas*, *pan* and *bidi* sellers, ice and soda stall-keepers, watch repairers and other small shop-keepers and commission agents, will keep regular accounts to show what the income exactly is? In the absence of proper account books, on receipt of the reports of the subordinates or for the good show with empty boxes exhibited by small shop-keepers the Income-tax Officers are quite justified to make any estimate of their income. The income-tax being a direct tax is itself unpopular, but the change in lowering the minimum limit is no doubt felt very much by those affected and as they cannot prove their exemption plea satisfactorily, they are the worst victims in this direction. If the public could not get this benefit, then it matters little to them whether 93 crores is or is not gained. This money is mostly obtained from poorer classes. The major portion of it is what is called the "distress" gold and it is right to demand that a portion of this "distress" gold should be spent in removing the distress of the poor people.

The second point which I should like to know is whether the Finance Member can contribute any portion of this unexpected income of 93 crores.

[Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin.]

towards helping the industries. The South African Government, as my esteemed friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, pointed out, a few days back, has given one and a half million sterling to restore the dying industries of the country. Will it not be possible, Sir, for the Honourable the Finance Member of the Government of India to set apart two crores of rupees out of 9½ crores to improve the dying industries of this country? We all know that the tea is badly hit and a paltry sum of one crore would restore this tea to its old position of prosperity. If the Government do not help them in such matters, may I ask, Mr. Deputy President, what is the Government for? Is it only to pass Ordinances and to interfere in the religious affairs of the Mussalmans? This, I say, because the Government opposed a very simple motion for the circulation of my Bill which was supported by all the Muslim Members who spoke on the motion and which was no doubt a harmless motion. The Government should help the dying industries of this country without further delay. They should also help in raising the price level of agricultural products.

The next question is the question of cut. I welcome the restoration of cuts, but I do not like the piecemeal action. The Government adopted two measures for economy in 1931. One a surcharge of 25 per cent on all taxes, and the other, the emergency cut of 10 per cent, and I would like that both these emergency measures should now be removed. The surcharge should be withdrawn and the cuts should be restored. If saving is to be effected, it should be effected by revising the Lee concessions which were awarded at a time when the price level was very high and the then salaries were not sufficient to attract persons from England. The position has now changed. A large number of Indians are now being recruited to fill up the posts which at one time were reserved for the Europeans, and also the price level has fallen to the level of pre-war days. I say, Sir, that it is, therefore, desirable that the salaries which we gave before the war should now be given in these days. We had a good deal of talk about "contract". Was the Lee concessions made a part of the contract at the time of the appointment of the officers recruited before 1924? If the Lee concessions could be given after their appointment, why can they not be removed now when the circumstances have changed? I could not calculate the amount of saving by withdrawing these concessions, but I would request my esteemed friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, to make these calculations and enlighten the House. But, I am certain that these concessions would be able to restore the entire 10 per cent cut to the entire services.

May I invite the attention of my Honourable friend, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, with regard to the general complaint of Indian traders for the increase from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 being registration fee for abbreviated telegraphic addresses? It is absolutely idle for the Government to draw a comparison for this purpose between India and the United Kingdom unless comparison of volume of business in this country and the United Kingdom is made and a proportionate charge is fixed. Every one knows that the Indian commercial community is passing through a time of unprecedented financial depression and that it is not the time to increase charges which are bound to decrease revenue. If the Government can see the matter from a business point of view, I hope they will be well advised to have the charge reduced to Rs. 10 which will attract the attention of those who have abstained till now to have their addresses registered and thus the

Government can get more money from this agency without extra expense in running the Department. Sir, I am raising this point not only for my personal advantage, because, since the rate was raised, I decided not to continue my address registered which was used to be registered for the last 30 or 40 years, and this I have done to discourage Government's wrong policy. I have been prompted to draw your attention, simply because I have been receiving numerous representations from my own constituency, the seven cities of the United Provinces.

Sir, the next point which I would like to take up is what was mentioned the other day by several speakers, that the rupee at present is a token coin. Its value in silver is between six and seven annas. It is really a note, printed, not on a paper, but on silver; therefore it is desirable that there should be a rupee currency reserve similar to the paper currency reserve, because both are token coins, and the measures adopted by the Finance Member in placing one token coin as a reserve for another is a kind of reasoning in circle. I, therefore, urge that a rupee currency reserve should be established and that bullion in gold or silver should be set apart. I also like to find reasons why on this occasion the gold reserve was not increased. In reply to certain questions, the Finance Member said that there had been no increase in gold reserve. When India has sold gold worth 107 crores during the last 15 months, why a portion of it was not purchased to increase the gold reserve?

The next thing which I also like to press is that the gold reserve of every kind should remain in India and not in England.

I also like to refer the grievances of Muslims in the Services. We have been pressing, year after year, and we have been hearing vague promises also, year after year, from the Honourable Members of the Government of India. We have exhausted our patience and we are now beginning to feel that the Government pay no attention, simply because we are not following the methods which alone can direct their attention.

[At this stage, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair which was occupied by Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

I am not pressing it from the communalist point of view, nor I want to lower the efficiency of the services. The efficiency should be maintained at all costs and the standard of recruitment should be raised as high as possible. Mussalmans never demanded that the efficiency should be lowered, but what they resent is that, after fixing the high standard, the Muslims should be left out simply because they have not obtained a still higher imaginary standard. I take a concrete example. Suppose the standard of recruitment for a service is matric and it is expected that this person would be able to carry on the work of that particular job: then the Muslim matric should not be excluded on the ground that he is not a B.A. or LL.B. When matric is fixed as a qualification for a service, the degrees of B.A. and LL.B. should not be considered to be a better qualification. Frequently it has been observed that a graduate is suited for some kind of work and a matric is suited for a different kind of job and a non-matric is suited for some other employment. It will not be adding to the efficiency of the service if M.A.'s and LL.B.'s are recruited for jobs intended for persons who can simply read and write. I am, therefore, Sir, pressing the Muslim claims not with a view to lowering the efficiency, but from a broader point of view. Every

[Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin.]

Indian in this House claims that Indians should be recruited for services. What is the reason for demanding Indianisation? I see only one answer and that is that we want loaves and fishes for our own people. Now, I use the same argument for reserving certain shares for the Muslims. Indianisation should mean Indianisation with equal opportunities to all, and not monopoly of a certain section. On the floor of this House it has repeatedly been said that the Muslims should be given equal opportunities, but those opportunities are not of equal value. The Muslims no doubt can apply for any post, but their applications are not returned. They are given equal opportunities, but the Selecting Authorities select non-Muslims and hence, though the Muslims enjoy equal opportunities, unfortunately these opportunities are not of equivalent value. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that they should see that the minorities not only enjoy equal privileges, but that these privileges should be of equal value.

Sir, today I press the point of reservation of seats for Muslims for an entirely different reason. I am a great believer in Hindu-Muslim Unity, I strongly feel that the harmonious relations could be established if the vexatious points were all removed. The most vexatious point that we have seen in questions on the floor of the House is the Services. My Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar, the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party, the other day suggested a method which is the method by means of which harmonious relations can be obtained and I may also point out that in the long run these suggestions would pay better to the Hindu community than the clamouring criticisms of my learned friend, the Deputy Leader of the Nationalist Party, and I, therefore, end by suggesting that in the interests of efficiency, peace and justice, the seats for the Muslims should be fixed without lowering the qualification required for recruitment of each class of Service. I also wish to draw the attention of the Government to another important matter which concerns Muslim women in India. The fact is this, that, according to Muslim law, there are several cases relating to conjugal rights and divorce in which the said law cannot take its proper course unless the judge or *kazi* is a Muslim. For instance, if a man becomes unable to discharge the duties of a husband towards his wife, on account of insanity, loss of limb, leprosy or any other such mishap, in that case, she is fully entitled to apply to a Court for legal separation. But the Muslim law strictly enjoins that the judicial officer or *kazi*, appointed by the Government, for deciding such cases should be a Muslim, otherwise the legal separation in the eyes of the Muslim law will be considered invalid. I think I must place before you, Sir, one more illustration for the consideration of the House in general and the Government in particular, when a man leaves his house without information to his wife. He remains absent from home for several years. No news of him are heard. His wife has no other means of livelihood and cannot re-marry any other man until a legal separation is effected, which can in no way be carried out, unless the judge is a Muslim. So, in the absence of any such judge, what will be the consequences? She appeals to a Court of which the judge is a non-Muslim and he, in the usual way, effects the legal separation. Now, if she, becoming satisfied with this decision, marries another man, this second marriage will be an invalid one in the eyes of her religion, and thus she will be leading an immoral life. If she is not satisfied with the decision of that Court, she does not marry on grounds of religious prohibitions. How is she then to lead her

life? How is she to provide for her young children? Sir, the poor little creatures fall one by one from her lap as innocent victims to starvation. She herself either welcomes mad temptations or gradually consumes to death. May I ask, Sir, is it not a picture worth pitying? Is it not the duty of a good Government to safeguard the interest of the weaker sex to whom refined culture and civilised manners of our own days demand reverence? Sir, I wanted to move a Resolution on the subject and was waiting to get a chance in the ballot for the last several years, but unfortunately I could not get a proper place till today and I have taken this opportunity to say a few words on the question. Now, the only remedy to do away with this evil is that the Government may be pleased to issue instructions either to appoint *sharai kasis* to decide cases relating to restoration of conjugal rights, dissolution of marriages, and divorces in which only Muslims may be the parties, or that, in the alternative, such cases be tried by such Muslim judicial officers who may be well versed in Islamic law. Sir, it is a simple thing to do and I hope the Government will realize their responsibility to take necessary action in the matter and thus will help the helpless class to alleviate their endless troubles and miseries in this direction. In conclusion, let me inform the House that this is not a new demand, but we were trying for it since a very long time. In 1917, on the occasion of the visit of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India just before the introduction of the Montford Reform Scheme, a deputation of leading Ulemas and prominent Muslims—attending upon him in this Capital City under the leadership of Maulana Hafiz Mohamad Ahmad Marhoom Mohtamim Darul Oloom Deobund—put forth in an item of their address a proposal to the same effect. No doubt it is a discouraging thought that it has not received the least attention on the part of the Government as yet. My demand is very modest, Sir, and only executive orders from the Government can serve my purpose. My Honourable and esteemed friend, Sir Harry Haig, has already declared on behalf of the Government, only a fortnight ago, that it is the duty of the Government to alleviate “human suffering” and to “promote the welfare of the race” and that the question which “affects the lives and welfare of all the people as human beings” receives the prompt attention by the Government. I, therefore, have every hope that no delay will now occur to take necessary steps in this direction.

Another important item upon which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the question of prohibition of liquor in this country. I had a chance of moving a Resolution in the year 1925 on the subject which was carried by an overwhelming majority, but, I am sorry to say, it has been treated by the Government as a dead letter. May I ask, Sir, it is not the right moment to undertake this reform? Is it not a thing which will help us to get peace and happiness in this and in the world to come? Sir, is it not a fact that irrespective of their religious and political differences, all the sections of Indians are in favour of this reform? Then, why the Government do not undertake to introduce a Bill on the subject to carry out the wishes of the elected Indians in this House. “Where there is a will, there is a way.”

The last item I wish to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, is with regard to the very unsympathetic administration of the Cantonments in India, both from the point of view of the people and the house-owners of the Cantonments. This Honourable house

[Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin.]

is no doubt aware that there is a large class of house-owners in Cantonments who have invested enormous amounts in house property constructed for the residence of Military officers at the express desire and request of the Military authorities in the past. Time there was, when the Military authorities, anxious to have suitable houses for the residence of Military officers in Cantonments, gave all sorts of assistance in the grant of free-sites to the people to induce them to invest their money in building residential houses in the Cantonments. In the spirit of loyal co-operation and help of the Military authorities, people built a large number of houses in the Cantonments on sites granted to them either free of rent or on lease on very nominal rents. The Military authorities thus appreciated this response of the people and gave them all facilities in the matter of the realisation of rents and in the protection of their interests in property.

Sir, all this is changed now. The time-honoured and century old rights in house property, I regret to say, Sir, are being snatched away in a manner which is hardly compatible with justice and the spirit that led to the springing up of this property all over the Cantonments in India. The Government have now tightened their meshes in case of old grants and even in case of privately-owned lands which is the case in several Cantonments that were originally small and were extended in subsequent years by inclusion of privately-owned areas. I think the Government are in various shapes pressing house-owners to acknowledge Government ownership of land. That such a demand should be made after long, peaceful and undisturbed possession of land under houses which have changed hands several times since the original construction and in case of many of which it is now impossible to trace the original owner is nothing short of a campaign of harassment to house-owners. I may say, Sir, that the Government take their stand on the presumption that all land in Cantonments belongs to the Government without coming forward to prove with documentary evidence as to when the land was acquired, how it was acquired and what compensation was paid. According to my information, Sir, cases have been instituted against private house-owners in several Cantonments resulting in great harassment and losses to them and I cannot understand what is to be gained by proceedings of this character. Free grant of land was the invariable custom in the past and, if land is held without any lease and without payment of any rent, it is as good as privately-owned land, and for the Government to think of withdrawing this concession which was freely given at the time when the Government wanted the people to invest money in the construction of houses for military officers, is hardly fair and reconcilable to the opt-professed policy of the Government for the preservation of interests of house-owners in the Cantonments.

But the withdrawal of this long-enjoyed right is not all that forms the grievances of the house-owners in these days. Their woes are many and varied. In many Cantonments, houses are lying vacant, for the Government have constructed their own quarters for military officers. To induce people to construct bungalows for military officers in the beginning and then to make those houses unproductive of rent by constructing Government quarters for the officers is a line of action hardly defensible. In several Cantonments, Sir, where privately-owned houses are still in demand, the Government have embarked on a campaign of resumption by force. In

the Nowshera Cantonment, four bungalows have recently been resumed and taken possession of by force. I say, Sir, by force, because the procedure adopted was that the owner was served with a notice that the Government intended to resume the land and to take possession of the property standing thereon after a month. On the expiry of that period, the Military Lands Officer entered the bungalows and declared that those bungalows had passed into the possession of the Government. Now, Sir, can you imagine a more arbitrary and a more indefensible method of resumption than this? If the Government think that they have a right to do so, the proper course for the Government was to establish their right of resumption in a Court of law and to institute a civil suit of ejectment so that the relative claims of the house-owner and the Government in the land should have been determined by the Judicial Court. It is not only this, Sir, that the Government have taken possession of these houses illegally at the point of bayonet, but the Government have not paid a single pie as compensation for the building standing on the land said to have been resumed. In the notice of resumption, it was proposed to pay some very nominal amounts, but the owner refused to take those amounts making it clear that the Government had no right to resume the land. The Government resorted to the method which, I submit, Sir, does not bring credit to the Government. Sir, it is evident that when a military officer of the Government enters a property with a view to taking possession of it, the house owner cannot resist such a move and, if he does that, he is liable to prosecution for obstruction of a Government servant while performing his duty. This method of seizing property has caused consternation amongst the house owners in the Cantonments and, for this reason, Sir, you know very well that in the last Session of the All-India Cantonments Conference held at Lahore, a unanimous and strong protest was recorded against this method of destroying house owners' rights and interests in property in the Cantonments.

Sir, house owners' woes in these days are numerous. At every step there is some denial of old rights in the land and some untenable demand made on behalf of the Government. If a house remains unoccupied for several years as a residential building and the house owner thinks of converting it into a business shop just to make it yield some income, he is asked by the Government to execute a lease for the site on the plea that there is a change of purpose in the building. If a house owner wants to put up additional buildings on the open space he has in his possession, the Government step in with a demand of rent on the plea that additional buildings are sought to be built though there is no municipal objection to the building thereon. Even in the case of leased land, where a part of it is not built upon, demand for additional rent is made if a building is sought to be built on the vacant space though the rent is being paid for the whole land leased from the very beginning.

All these, Sir, are the recently invented methods of harassing house owners and of impairing their valued rights in house property, in utter forgetfulness of the fact that the owners of the Houses are those very persons who came forward at the request of the Government in good old days to invest their money in building houses for military officers.

Then, Sir, there are some very funny and mischievous sections in the House Accommodation Act. Under the provisions of that Act, the Officer Commanding the station, when wishing to appropriate a house, fixes the rent for it and also determines the amount and extent of repairs to be

[Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin.]

done to it. It is a matter of common experience that the rent fixed by him in most cases is inadequate and the repairs demanded are in almost all cases of prohibitive character. Now, Sir, before 1930, if the house owner did not agree to the rent offered or to the repairs demanded, it was the Government that was to go to a Court of law to establish the reasonableness of the amount and the extent of repairs required and the amount of rent offered. All this was quietly changed by an amending Act of 1930 and the position today is that if the house owner does not accept the rent offered, it is he who is to go to the Court and to initiate judicial proceedings to establish that the rent offered is low and the repairs demanded are excessive. I have reason to believe, Sir, that there have been several cases in the past where notices of appropriation of houses were given, with low rents and demands of heavy repairs and the house owners had to go to the Court of law and then the notices were withdrawn, but no compensation was paid to him for the loss and worry suffered by him in making a reference to the Court. I submit, Sir, that the position I have explained according to my information is most abnormal indeed. I may say, Sir, that the Government are in the position of a tenant and if the house-owner does not agree to the rent offered and the latter has a right to appropriate the house, it is for the tenant to go to the Court to establish that the rent offered and the repairs demanded are not unreasonable. The reverse of this is the position since 1930; it has caused great trouble and harassment to the house owners and the columns of the *Cantonment Advocate* are full of cases where a widow, who happened to be the owner of a single house, the rent of which is the only source of her livelihood, has been harassed by notices of appropriation in which ridiculously low rents have been offered and very heavy repairs demanded. This is a situation on which no right thinking person can compliment the Government.

Then, again, Sir, in this very Act the house owner is bound to hand over the house in a state of reasonable repair to be determined by an officer of the Military Engineering Services at the time the house is given on lease. One of the conditions of the lease is that the house will be handed back to the lessor in a similar state of repair. When express remedy is provided in the Act for the Government to put the house in a state of repair at the time of the sanction of the lease, there should be a corresponding remedy to ensure the fact that the house is handed back to the owner in that very state on the expiry of the lease.

Sir, I need not dilate on the disabilities and troubles of the house owners in these days. These are multiplying, as the activities of the Land Department created by the Government are growing. The Government seem to be trying to squeeze out every drop of blood from the house owner, by demands for enhancement of rent for the land, by offer of low rents in case of appropriation, by demand of crushing repairs to suit the fancies of the military officers at the time of appropriation and by other like methods.

But if the house owners are faring so badly on account of the oppressive character of land administration, the people in general in the Cantonments are faring no better.

Then Sir, there is no limit to the misuse of section 289 of the Cantonments Act, which deals with the removal and exclusion of Cantonment residents from Cantonments. Though I have no sympathy with the civil

disobedience movement and I am a staunch supporter for law and order. I feel it my duty to say that, I understand, in the year 1930, this section was ruthlessly applied without legal enquiry in case of persons who were supposed to have closed their shops on any particular day either in sympathy with the so-called national movement or for fear of Congress leaders, or for certain domestic reason or they simply attended any public meeting without taking any active part therein. I have reason to believe, Sir, that a number of respectable and law abiding people, believing in co-operation with the Government, were either expelled from certain Cantonments or were served with notices of expulsion, or at least their firearms with licences were ordered to be deposited in the Police *Chowki* which naturally turned some of them to become non-co-operators for obvious reasons and I think it was a wrong policy to adopt such measures without making a thorough investigation in each case.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the representation of Cantonments in the Assembly where the Cantonment law is framed and where the grievances of the Cantonment people can be discussed. At present small groups of Cantonments are included in large City Constituencies in which the Cantonment group forms a negligible part and has consequently no determining force with regard to the course of elections. The result is that there is very little chance under the present system of a Cantonment resident being returned to the Assembly. Lucky chances there may be and myself standing here may be taken to be the product of that chance. What the Cantonment people desire is that in view of their being governed by a special law and in consideration of their having interests of special character in Cantonments they should have special and extra representation in the Assembly. They would be satisfied even if two additional seats by nomination are granted to them in the Assembly.

Then, Sir, there is the question of taxation in the Cantonments. There is hardly a Cantonment where the burden of taxation is not felt and where the incidence of taxation is not much greater than what it is in the neighbouring city. The people are groaning under the burden of taxation, for, partly owing to the reduction of the garrison, and partly due to the economic depression, business in Cantonment has dwindled and is steadily dwindling and the tax-paying capacity of the people has consequently been much affected. It is time therefore, that the Government should appoint a Special Committee to go through the whole question of taxation and to put it on an equitable basis.

But the more crying need than this is the overhauling of the Cantonments Act. This Act was drafted in a great hurry in 1923; 4 P.M. it was admitted by the then Army Secretary and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that the Act was a hasty product and had numerous defects. The working of the Act during the last eight years has revealed serious defects. The political conditions around us have since then changed very fast and it is very necessary, Sir, that the Government should go through the whole Act and bring its provisions on a line with an up-to-date municipal administration with due regard to the circumstances arising out of the stationing of the troops in those areas.

Before I conclude, Sir, I think I should refer to the great wrong done to the Cantonment people by refusing them a seat on the R. T. C. People possessing highest qualifications downwards to the Urdu knowing class and representing almost all the constituencies and interests were no doubt sent

[Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin.]

to England, but Government could find not a single suitable man to send to R. T. C. to represent the Cantonment interest generally and house owners and traders interests particularly. I think a population of a million people has thus been ignored in this matter altogether, because they were governed by a law that was in some of its sections of a semi martial character and their interests in land and Cantonment property were of special and enormous character. Sir, many constitutional changes were required to be made before the Cantonment administration was brought on truly democratic lines, I may be pardoned, Sir, if I say that the people outside the Cantonments were not fully acquainted with the special disabilities of the Cantonment people. There were cogent reasons to convince the Government, but I am sorry all went unheeded. Sir, it was surely not impossible to find one man in the Cantonment who could usefully help in the making of the future Constitution of India and who could at the same time represent the special need and claims of the Cantonment people. Am I to understand, Sir, that such is the fate of those who believe in "Co-operation" with the Government? If not, will the Government consider the desirability to nominate some one to the Joint Parliamentary Committee which is going to meet this year? Sir, we take the Government into our confidence, but we find Government do not take us into their confidence. May I ask my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches, are they doing justice to us? Are they doing justice to the forces which want moderation to prevail in this country? Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House any more and conclude my speech by saying "To do a thing right today, means less trouble tomorrow".

Bhai Parma Nand (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, some days ago, I put certain questions to the Finance Member. I asked what was the total amount of income from income-tax and super-tax realised from the various communities in the Punjab. The Finance Member thought that that question could not be answered and that it was not practicable to ascertain the amount according to realisation from various communities. Another question that I asked was, what was the total number of assesseees of various communities in the Punjab. Even after some supplementary questions, the Finance Member did not answer us and left us to draw our own inferences in the matter just as we liked. My point in putting those questions was that in the Punjab the people who pay the major portion of the income-tax and super-tax were the Hindus and that it was that community that had been treated by His Majesty's Government and the Government of India with the grossest injustice and unfairness. Therefore, I take this opportunity to ventilate our grievances before the Government and to show that injustice was done to the Hindus and the Sikhs in the Communal Award that was given by the Prime Minister.

I rise to make a protest against the Communal Award by His Majesty's Government in so far as it concerns the Hindus of the Punjab. I would be failing in my duty if I do not convey to this House and to the Government that the Hindus of the Punjab feel greatly perturbed and dissatisfied with the treatment meted out to them during the last two years. Indeed the feeling of dissatisfaction and discontent is so universal and so intense that I find it difficult to express it in words. It is very well indicated by the Hindu and Sikh members' united decision from taking any part in the proceedings of the Punjab Legislative Council.

This Communal Award is a great constitutional wrong and a serious political blunder. But before I take up this discussion, I wish to point out two things. In the first place, I have to draw the attention of this Honourable House to the general cry that has been raised to protect and safeguard the minorities in the future Constitution of India. This fact is entirely ignored that the Hindus of the Punjab are in a minority in the province and, on account of the peculiar position and close proximity of the Punjab to independent Muslim neighbours, they are subject to the risk and dangers in a much greater degree than the Muslim minority in any other province of India. The Government, however, instead of keeping this point in view, have confused this Hindu minority with Hindu majority of other provinces and have, from the very beginning of the constitutional investigations, given them what is commonly called a step-motherly treatment. The Punjab Hindus made a protest in the First Round Table Conference, because they were given only one representative while the Muslims had four. Again, at the time of the Second Round Table Conference, when additions were made, more representatives were given to them who had already got more. Then came the Communal Award which, in a way, marks the culmination of their trouble, as by this the Hindus of the Punjab, instead of being given any weightage, have got less than they deserved on population basis.

The second thing is that the Punjab Hindus, having full consciousness of their weaknesses and one-sided attitude of the Government, took a practical view of the situation and, instead of following abstract political theories, decided on co-operation with the Statutory Commission not minding the odium they shall have to incur with the public and the press. In 1926, the Hindu Sabha contested the Council election with the Congress and defeated the Congress almost at every point. This attitude of the Punjab Hindus was particularly noted by the Simon Commission:

"From the Third Council."

Referring to the Punjab Council, they say:

"The Swarajists had practically disappeared, the Nationalist,—Unionist Party contained a reduced number of Hindus and became almost entirely Muhammadan. The main body of the Hindus organised themselves into a party principally representative of urban interests and in clear touch with the Government than any other previous Hindu group. . . The Punjab Legislature has not attempted at any time to bring administration to a standstill and has on occasions shown itself ready to risk unpopularity both in support of the Government on matters affecting law and order and imposing taxation. It has shown itself more interested in practical affairs than in the political abstractions."

In return for this co-operation, they have got the Communal Award.

I wish to turn now to the constitutional aspect of the Award. In tracing its origin, we go back to the time of the Lucknow Pact. That was a time when there was a good-will between the communities, and Hindu-Muslim tension was practically non-existent. It was then that the Congress and the Muslim League entered into a Pact, though admitting separate electorates as a part of the Constitution of the country. The question arises, why has this Communal settlement been discarded and who is responsible for re-opening the question? We do not know; at least we have no definite evidence on this point. It may be said that the Congress politicians wanted to do away with the system of separate electorates. Even if that be so, that system still remains and neither the Muslims nor the Government ever thought of its removal. Thus there seems to be no

[Bhai Parma Nand.]

reason why the communal proportions should have been reshuffled at all. However, what we know definitely is the demands of the Muslim leaders in presenting the 14 points to the country including separate electorate as one.

I say that the Muslim claims were unreasonable even going to the length of absurdity and, to make this position clear, I shall have to depend not on my own individual opinion, but on a quite impartial and responsible evidence. In the first place, if the Lucknow Pact was to be discarded and we had to settle about the rights of the minorities, the only reasonable course was to adopt and follow the rules that had been laid down by the Minorities Committee of the League of Nations, of which India was a member, for the settlement of the rights of the minorities in the country. It is a pity that this offer frequently made on the part of the Hindus was never considered seriously by the other parties.

Let us now turn to the Montagu-Chelmsford Report which says:

"We conclude unhesitatingly that the history of self-Government among the nations who developed it and spread it throughout the world is decisively against the admission by the State of any divided allegiance against the State's arranging its members in any way which encourages them to think of themselves primarily as citizens of any smaller unit than itself . . . The communal system stereo-types existing relations. We regard any system of communal electorates as a very serious hindrance to the development of the self-governing principle."

In spite of the above clear verdict however, they were constrained to give effect to separate electorates, because of the existence of the Lucknow Pact by which they found themselves bound.

Next we come to the evidence of the two important bodies appointed by the Parliament. The first is the Indian Central Committee which carried on their discussions, with regard to the communal problem, for several months and gave the following decision:

"In provinces in which they are in a minority, Muslims should be given the privilege of having seats reserved for them in a Joint Electorate either on a population basis or on a voting strength whichever may be more favourable to them; and, further, they should be permitted to contest seats in general constituencies beyond the number actually reserved for them. Similarly seats for Hindus and Sikhs in the Punjab and for the Sikhs in other provinces, where their numerical strength entitles them to representation, should be reserved in Joint Electorates either on a population basis or on their voting strength whichever may be more favourable to them and, further, they should be permitted to contest seats in general constituencies beyond the number actually reserved for them."

The other body, that is the Statutory Commission, which visited and toured throughout the country, discussed the Punjab problem and arrived at the following conclusions:

"Our own opinion is that in view of the existing condition and of the weakness of the Muslim minority in six out of the eight provinces, the present scale of weightage in favour of the Muhammadans might properly be retained. Thus the proportion to be allotted to them of the seats filled from the general constituencies (other than the general European constituencies) would be determined as at present."

Turning to the claims of the Muslims and rejecting them totally they add:)

"But a claim has been put forward for a guarantee of Muslim representation which goes further than this. This claim goes to the length of seeking to preserve the full security for the representation now provided for Muslims in those six provinces and at the same time to enlarge in Bengal and the Punjab, the present proportion of seats secured to the community by separate electorates to figures proportionate to their ratio of population. This would give Muhammadans a fixed and unalterable majority

of the general constituency seats in both provinces. We cannot go so far. The continuance of the present scale of weightage in the six provinces could not in the absence of a new general agreement between the communities equitably be combined with so great a departure from the existing allocation in Bengal and the Punjab. It would be unfair that the Muhammadans should retain the very considerable weightage they now enjoy in the six provinces and that there should at the same time be imposed in the face of Hindu and Sikh opposition a definite Muslim majority in the Punjab and Bengal unalterable by any appeal to the electorates.

On the other hand, if by agreement separate electorates were abandoned and if Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus were prepared to seek election through Joint Electorates covering all three communities, we should still be prepared to see this combined with the preservation of the present numerical proportion secured to the Muhammadans by separate electorates in the six other provinces. We make this last suggestion which really involves giving the Muslim community the advantage of a choice between the two courses to follow."

Thus we find that both of these bodies regarded the claims of the Muhammadans quite unreasonable. Then followed the First Round Table Conference in which the Punjab problem was argued on both sides, by the Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims without coming to any settlement and the Prime Minister adjourned and appealed to both the parties to settle the terms without leaving them to be settled by an outside agency. At the same time, we find the Government of India trying to find out a solution in offering their proposals to His Majesty's Government. In their despatch, after describing the views of the Indian Central Committee and the Statutory Commission on the Hindu-Muslim impasse in the Punjab, they express their own view in the following words:

"In the Punjab, the position is singularly complicated owing to the rival claims of the three communities, the Muslims, the Hindus and the Sikhs. The Official Members of the Punjab have worked out a carefully balanced scheme for the new Provincial Council which gives the Muslims a majority of two over the Hindus and Sikhs combined and a proportion of 49 per cent. of the House as a whole (two seats to be allotted to Europeans and one each to Indian Christian and Labour). The scheme satisfied neither the Hindu, nor the Muslim nor the Sikh Members of the Government, but *in our own opinion merits consideration.*"

[At this stage, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty) resumed the Chair.]

Thus we find that the Government of India practically accepting the recommendations of the Punjab Government are definitely opposed to the grant of statutory majority to the Muslims in the Punjab. I want to express, in the words of Sir Hari Singh Gour, what this grant would have really meant. In his memorandum attached to the Indian Central Committee's report, he says:

"If the Muhammadan claim for one moment be conceded, it would raise a storm of opposition in the two provinces of the Punjab and Bengal, since the Muhammadans, being in a fixed immutable majority, safeguarded by statute, there would be no element of democracy left in that the opposition could never hope to turn the majority out and form an alternative government. Freed from this contingency and sheltered by the citadel of religious orthodoxy, the majority might easily become a veritable engine of oppression and misrule against which the combined opposition would be impotent and this is what the All Parties Muslim Conference seriously advocate."

Then followed the Second Round Table Conference to which Mahatma Gandhi was also invited. In his final speech the Prime Minister, referring again to the communal deadlock, as a formidable obstacle, said:

"This Conference has twice essayed, twice it has failed. We shall soon find that our endeavours to proceed with our plans are held up, if you cannot present us with a settlement acceptable to all parties as the foundation upon which to build, in that event His Majesty would be compelled to apply a provisional scheme, for they are determined that even this disability should not be permitted to be a bar to progress."

[Bhai Parma Nand.]

Here, I want to draw attention to the word "provisional". However, the Prime Minister appointed a working committee with His Excellency the Viceroy as its Chairman to make another attempt. It will not be out of place here to mention that during the course of discussions on this problem Sir Geoffrey Corbett brought forth a scheme of separation of the Ambala Division and of creating a new province with the addition of some districts of United Provinces, so as to secure a Muslim majority in the Punjab without having recourse to a method which was constitutionally wrong. Mahatma Gandhi agreed to this solution. It seems, however, that the Hindu and Sikh delegates of the Punjab did not think even worth their while to consider it and I think they missed a great opportunity of coming to a right solution of this knotty problem. It seems they were too sanguine of the reasonableness of their case. His Excellency the Viceroy held meetings of the Consultative Committee which, however, could not reach any settlement and the matter was left as it was. So, according to the statement of the Prime Minister, the Communal Award was announced on August 17. Quite contrary to all their previous recommendations and in contradiction of all constitutional principles and leaving no chance for the different communities in a province ever to come to an agreement, this Award not only gave a statutory majority, but much more than even what the Muslims claimed and asked for. By this Award, the Muhammadans get 86 and the Hindus and Sikhs combined together 75; and if we add the seats of special constituencies, the Muhammadans out of a total of 175 get 92, i.e., 5 more than Hindus, Sikhs, Anglo-Indians and the Europeans combined. Any constitution based on this Award which is neither national nor democratic will be merely a patch-work and is sure to divide the province into religious factions warring against each other. As I said in the beginning, there is a political side of the question as well.

That a complete Muslim domination in the Punjab is not only a source of danger to the Hindu minority and shall involve not only the Punjab, but the whole country into trouble, is evidenced clearly from the warning given by Lord Hardinge in a private letter written on September 2, 1846. Although 87 years have passed since, I think that the warning holds just as good as it was then.

"This entrance (Khyber-Pass) into India."

said Lord Hardinge,

"has always been the high-road taken by every invader. A Hindu Government (referring to the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh) acting as our advance-guard had for thirty years barred this entrance against all invaders. I am satisfied that the Muhammadan population will be generally ready to make common cause against the British power whenever any Afghan or Persian intrigue may afford the opportunity. This restless feeling was felt in the Deccan and to allow a Muhammadan power to occupy the *Doab*s between the Khyber Pass and the Sutlej, would excite and revive Mussalman hopes throughout India. It is not desirable anywhere within our Indian empire, but to permit it again to rear its head on our most vulnerable frontier and in contact with the Mussalmans of Central Asia, would be a perpetual source of anxiety to the Government."

The Hindus of the Punjab can never forget the significance of this warning. In 1919, as there was great unrest in India, there appeared a real danger of Afghan invasion on this country. Again, in 1920 and 1921, at the time of the Khilafat agitation, we know how thousands of Mussalmans from the Punjab and Sind left their homes in India (the *Hijrat*

Movement) to seek fresh homes in the neighbouring Muslim territory. Later on, we know that it was the expulsion of Amir Aman Ullah Khan that caused a bitter anti-British feeling among the Mussalmans and gave birth to the Red Shirt Movement in the Frontier Province. This is the view held by the intelligent section of the Hindus of the Punjab, but we know that the leaders of the Congress do not hold this. In the Second Round Table Conference, Mahatma Gandhi expressed the Congress view in very clear terms :

"The mention of word Mussalman,"

said he,

"brings me to the baffling problem of minority. Believe me that that problem exists here and I repeat what I used to say in India—I have not forgotten those words—that without the problem of minorities being solved, there is no Swaraj for India and no freedom for India. I know that, I realize it, and yet I come here in the hope, of perchance, that I might be able to pull through a solution here . . . I repeat what I have said elsewhere that so long as the wedge in the shape of foreign rule divides community from community and class from class, there will be no real living solution, there will be no living friendship between the communities."

I may be excused if I quote Mr. Macdonald from his speech delivered at the end of the 1st Round Table Conference, because I think it refers very plainly to what Mahatma Gandhi said in the Second Round Table Conference :

"Every one,"

said Mr. Macdonald,

"must honestly admit that situations have arisen like some of the communal difficulties which have put obstacles in our way. Now, I want you to take it from me that the attitude of the British Government in such relations is nothing more than an over-powering desire to leave you to settle your own affairs. We are not pro-Hindu, we are not pro-anything else. If we are animated by anything, it is by the conviction of India herself, India a unity. India feeling behind and below, above and beyond her communal differences, that mystic bond to unity, which the great poets, the great philosophers, and the great religious teachers of India have always felt. Believe me, the British Government has no desire to use your dis-agreements for any ulterior purpose. Quite the opposite. Our own ambition is that being in a sense kith and kindred with you (since history, whether you liked it or whether we liked it, has woven our destinies somehow together), we recognise that unity with you in order to have your way and smooth your path to that much required internal unity among yourselves . . . I am convinced, that our imposed agreement might make your constitution unworkable."

Holding such views as Mahatma Gandhi did, it was quite natural for him to win the Muslim leaders to his side in order to achieve his object. The Government, on the other hand, in spite of the very frank expression of high sentiments by the Prime Minister, could not sit idle and see the Muslims going over to the side of Mahatma Gandhi. Thus began a race of making offers to the Muslim leaders and from what has followed it is quite clear that in this race all principles of equity and justice were set aside. On the one side, Mahatma Gandhi offered blank cheques to the Muslims and, on the other, it seems that the Government silently promised to accede to all that they demanded. The Muslim leaders being placed in a position of such advantage, it could not be expected from them to come to any reasonable terms with the Hindus and, in the absence of any such mutual settlement, the Communal Award was issued and the Hindus of the Punjab and Bengal were made the scape-goat. It is thus that the grossest

[Bhai Parma Nand.]

injustice has been done to the Punjab Hindus and, in the name of fairness and equity, I appeal to the Treasury Benches to come and intervene and help to set aside this Communal Award and do justice to the Punjab Hindus, because they are the backbone and the greatest taxpayers of that province.

With these words, I oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill.

Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammedan Urban): Sir, it has caused me not a little surprise to find that notwithstanding his admitted loss of the purchasing power of the people, notwithstanding his admitted prevailing depression of the Indian trade, in spite of his admitted appalling poverty of the Indian masses and in the face of his admitted surplus, the Honourable the Finance Member has still thought it fit to continue intact the "super" taxation of 1931 and 1932. Sir, evidently he has forgotten to keep in view the observations and assurances that he made, either in the course of his introductory speech to the Supplementary Finance Bill of 1931, or in meeting the criticisms of the Honourable Members of this House, who had had occasion to discuss the several proposals of fresh taxation that he then brought forward. I say this, because I believe that if he had tried to be consistent to himself, he would have thought it worthwhile to take away, at least, the 25 per cent. additional duty on machinery, raw cotton and chemicals, the odious additional duty on salt, the unconscientious tax on small incomes and the equally iniquitous 25 per cent. surcharge thereon, and most certainly the heartless increase in postage rates on letters and post cards. "The question of financial stringency," to quote Sir George Rainy—"the need of revenue tax", to quote Sir George Schuster himself—exists no longer now. Budget has been balanced and has left a satisfactory margin too. The indigenous additional duty on salt, instead of stimulating in any way the indigenous production, has served only to create a monopoly for the Aden source, besides pressing unnaturally heavily upon the slender resources of the people, who can hardly make their both ends meet. There has been an outcry against that duty from the several Salt Associations as well as from the Governments of the three Eastern provinces.

The additional duty on machinery and mill-work, which was vehemently opposed at the time it was laid on the ground that it would affect the expansion of industries of a manufacturingly backward country and also inasmuch as it contravened all sound commercial policy, has now resulted in actual fall in quantities, whatever explanation may now be afforded for the decrease. The duty on chemicals and dyes has not come up to expectations either, although it has materially affected the expansion of some of our nascent industries. The duty on cotton, which was really a tax on raw material, was imposed in face of the recommendations of the Indian Fiscal Commission and the Taxation Inquiry Committee that taxes on raw materials required for local manufactures should be wholly discouraged, because it proved a sort of handicap to a growing Indian industry. The lowering of the income-tax limit and the 25 per cent. surcharge thereon, although they have fetched a good income, have meant extreme misery to a large class of people, who can hardly bear the burden. The additional increase of postal rates on letters and postcards can hardly be allowed to continue without disgrace to this House and with self-consistency of the Honourable the Finance Member. It has also been demonstrated beyond doubt that the continuance of those additional postage rates as also the increased rates have been financially unsound.

In the present somewhat better financial situation, it was up to the Honourable the Finance Member to scratch at least some of those unpopular duties, replacing them by some other duties, such as, excise duty on the protected industries, and also by exploring other avenues, such as export duty on hides, bones, manures, etc., and by imposing heavier import duty on foreign cotton goods. Sir, I need hardly repeat that for the last three years industry and commerce have been steadily languishing, and in most cases, perishing altogether. The Honourable the Finance Member has had the frankness to admit how "terrible" the decline has been. But, Sir, it is rather grim humour on his part when he says that the impression that he has gained from a study of what has been happening "during these last two years of terribly difficult times" is one of "admiration and wonder at the way in which India and her people have adjusted themselves to the emergency". I say "grim humour", because Sir George Schuster hardly appreciates what that enviable "adjustment" means really in actual practice. It means that nearly everybody has had his salary or wages cut, in most cases very severely. It means that thousands of well-paid men with families about them have lost their jobs entirely. It means that tens of thousands of middle class men in minor appointments have been retrenched and are now being maintained with difficulty by private and public charity. It means that scores of thousands of the manual labourers with their wives and children have been ruthlessly thrown on the roads and way-sides to exist or starve as local conditions allow. It means that everybody, including the well-to-do, are working at a loss, are losing both their capital and substance and are gradually heading for breakdown and collapse.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has lectured to us very often "to have an atmosphere of reality rather than of sentiment" in financial questions affecting the whole country. May I most respectfully ask him whether—after all that he has said and done and is going to do in the matter of restoration of the cut in salaries of the Services—he has not played to sentiment outright bidding adieu to reality altogether? He would really have realised the "reality", if he had, along with that proposal of restoration of the cut, thought of the other iniquitous taxes and duties that are virtually sitting like an incubus on the masses.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member leads us to a not very safe conclusion, when he asserts that the recent rise in the Government securities betokens better finances of the people. Sir, nothing can be further from the reality if he really thinks so. Trade and commerce no longer affording any lucrative return and other investments having proved slippery, all that the people have had to be invested in Government Securities, and hence this plethoric rise. We must not forget that, even during the most prosperous days of the finances of our country, that is to say, even after the Great War, the value of Government Securities scarcely mounted so high.

Sir, the signs are evident that the Honourable the Finance Member really knows what has been happening and that he has a distinct sense of what is coming ahead. So, although he says: "if the present low levels as regards both prices and world demand for agricultural products were to become stabilised, very serious problems would have to be faced, and it would be necessary for those responsible for governing India to take stock again of the whole position", it is curious that he still sticks to a sort of Micawber-like faith in something turning up for the better. But

[Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria.]

the people of India expect their government to take *action* and not indulge in *pious hopes* any more. The whole position needs to be re-studied immediately if that has not been done already. A definite policy has to be laid down for raising prices and for increasing the demands of the peoples of India and of other countries for India's products. The Government can easily do this, if they would take courage in both hands and disentangle themselves from their hopelessly unsound connections with the prevalent paper currency of the West and resolve upon India's welfare by resorting to the silver standard, and I fully believe, if that is done, India will rise to such heights of prosperity as she did in the second half of the last century.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1933.