

5th March 1935

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume II, 1935

(20th February to 8th March, 1935)



FIRST SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1935



NEW DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1935.

# Legislative Assembly.

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THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT.

*Deputy President :*

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*Panel of Chairmen :*

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MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A.

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*Assistant of the Secretary :*

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

*Marshal :*

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

*Committee on Petitions :*

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MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E., M.L.A.

RAJA SIB VASUDEVA RAJAH, KT., C.I.E., M.L.A.

MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 5th March, 1935.

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

## MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Gurunath Venkatesh Bewoor, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Director General of Posts and Telegraphs):

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### CONSTRUCTION OF AN AERODROME AT CUDDAPAH AND AIR MAIL CRASH IN THE KURNOOL DISTRICT IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

636. \*Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate constructing an aerodrome at Cuddapah in the Madras Presidency, and if so, at what cost?

(b) Has any land been acquired for that purpose, and if so, at what cost?

(c) Do Government propose to make it an emergency landing ground alone or to make it a regular landing place?

(d) Are Government aware of the recent air mail crash in Kurnool district? If so, is it a fact that a woman and a child were the victims of the crash?

(e) Have Government enquired into it, and if so, will they be pleased to place a copy of their results of enquiry on the table of this House?

(f) Do Government propose to give any compensation to the relatives of the deceased?

(g) In view of the recent crash and the mountainous region between Secunderabad and Madras, do Government propose to make arrangements to make Cuddapah a regular and permanent landing ground for aeroplanes flying between Secunderabad and Madras?

The Honourable Sir Frank Moyce: (a) Yes. The estimated cost is Rs. 8,500, inclusive of cost of acquisition of land.

(b) Yes. Rs. 764.

(c) It will be an emergency landing ground, available for use by all types of aircraft.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government have made the necessary investigation and consider the pilot responsible for this regrettable accident in that he failed to take sufficient precautions to ensure that the crowd did not encroach on the

take-off path of the aeroplane. A copy of the report of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Markapur, who was advised by the Assistant Aircraft Inspector in the Directorate of Civil Aviation, is laid on the table of the House. The licence of the pilot is being suspended for a period of one year.

(f) The aeroplane was not the property of Government and the question of compensation by Government does not arise.

(g) The ground will be a permanent landing ground and maintained in a fit condition all the year round.

*Report.*

Aircraft Regulation—Y. T. ADN.

Locality—Ganjivaripulle hamlet of Veerabhadrapuram, Markapur taluk (Kurnool District).

Date—29th January, 1935.

*Accident Investigation.*

Report No. 1.

1. Particulars:

Aircraft type . . . . .	De Havilland—80 A.
Owners . . . . .	Messrs. Tata & Sons.
Address . . . . .	Bombay House, Bruce Street, Bombay.
Name of crew . . . . .	Mr. J. D. Mody.
Duty . . . . .	Pilot.
Licence No. . . . .	121.
Injuries . . . . .	Nil.
Passengers' names . . . . .	Nil.
Injuries . . . . .	Nil.
Passengers' names . . . . .	Nil.
Injuries . . . . .	Nil.
Place of accident . . . . .	In a field (Survey Number 104/2) of Ganjivaripalle, hamlet of Veerabhadrapuram.
Date and time of accident . . . . .	19th January, 1935, at 8 A.M.
Date and time scene of accident first visited.	At 5 A.M. on 20th January, 1935, by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Markapur. At 11 A.M. on 21st January, 1935, by me (Sub-Divisional 1st Class Magistrate, Markapur).

2. Names of witnesses:

1. S. Govindayya, Forest Guard, Ganjivaripalle beat.
2. Mr. Majim Sahib, Range Clerk, Ganjivaripalle.
3. Shaik Dastagir Peeran, Venkatadripalem.
4. Palutla Narayanayya, Ganjivaripalle.
5. Boda Chennamallayya, Venkatadripalem.
6. Boda Chenna Veerayya, Village Magistrate, Venkatadripalem.
7. Mr. E. J. Earle, Assistant Aircraft Inspector to the Government of India, Dum Dum.
8. Mr. P. Dhanarajulu Naidu, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Markapur.

Place, date and time of inquest (if any) and findings. The plane struck and killed a woman of the village by name Lakshmakka aged 25 years and a boy she had in her arms aged 5 years by name Avulayya. An inquest was held over the dead bodies by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Markapur, at the scene of offence at 8 A.M. on 20th January, 1935.

Finding—Death due to accident.

Investigated by V. Natesa Nayakar.

Designation—Sub-Divisional 1st Class Magistrate, Markapur.

Date—23rd January 1935.

Brief description (particulars of flight, outline of accident, extent of damage, interference with wreckage)—

The pilot after starting from Hyderabad at 6-15 A.M. on 19th January 1935, was flying at a height of 7,000 feet above the clouds for 1½ hours before he saw a break in the clouds. So breaking clouds he landed in a field near Ganjivaripalle village hamlet of Veerabhadrapuram to ascertain where he was. On learning where he was he turned round and started his take off run and while still on the ground, he knocked down dead a woman and a boy as mentioned against the heading "inquest" and carried on about 25 yards and struck a hedge about eight feet high with the right wing, swung round through 180 degrees and crashed facing the direction from which he came.

Extent of Damage—

1. Propellor bent over at tips—One tip chipped off—Unserviceable.
2. Both Engine cowling—nose cowling—Unserviceable.
3. Both Radius rods—Unserviceable.
4. Compression legs—Unserviceable.
5. Axles—Unserviceable.
6. One tyre burst—wheels appear to be serviceable.
7. Engine appears serviceable on external inspection—Bocker covers—Unserviceable.
8. Exhaust manifold and tail pipe—Unserviceable.
9. Fuselage complete structure—Unserviceable.
10. Seats and certain components in Control box—O. K. and Instrument O. K.
11. Elevators—Unserviceable.
12. Rudder—Bottom rib damaged—Can be repaired.
13. Fin and tail plane appear to be serviceable.
14. Star-board wing—Unserviceable.
15. V. Struts appear to be O. K.
16. S. Port wing Aileron—Unserviceable resting on the ground and does not show any damage—would require complete stripping to establish this.
17. Petrol tanks and pipe lines—O. K.

Interference with wreckage—

There was no interference with the wreckage, the villagers were merely looking on until the police came and took charge of the crashed plane. Immediately police men were posted to guard the plane and marks left on the field.

3. Facts established—From consideration of the evidence, the following facts are regarded as established :

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (a) Weather and light                              | The day was cloudy at the time.  |
| (b) Relevant matter picked up away from wreckage.  | Nil.   |
| (c) Marks on the ground, condition of ground, etc. | It was loose earth in the field from which he took off as it was ploughed up and left waste.   |
| (d) Position of wreckage                           | Crashed plane was lying with its head towards South East (s.e.) facing the direction from which it took off. 56 feet from the west of the field in which the plane landed. |



- (e) Evidence . . . . .
1. The statements of five eye-witnesses.
  2. The statement of pilot, Mr. Mody.
  3. The wheel tracks found on the scene of offence.
  4. The damaged condition of the bushes on the hedge towards the west of the field.
  5. The position of the wreckage.
  6. The statement of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Markapur, the 1st Police Officer, who inspected the scene of offence.
4. Opinion . . . . . As to the cause of the accident.

The Aircraft Assistant Inspector, deputed by the Director of Civil Aviation, Simla, is of opinion, that the pilot (Mr. J. D. Mody) by an error of judgment did not estimate correctly the take off run which was (in his opinion) insufficient in view of the adverse condition of the ground to enable him to unstick and clear the bushes five feet high in his line of take off (*vide* detailed statement attached). The evidence of eye-witnesses also discloses that the pilot did not take precautions to the extent to which it was necessary to keep off the crowd at a sufficient distance away from the course of the plane until he actually took off from ground. He no doubt asked the crowd in the first instance to move aside to make room for his plane but he failed to inform the crowd that after going farther east of the field he would come back and take off from about the place where from he started. The pilot himself admits that he did not tell the crowd about this. Naturally the crowd (200 to 250) was under the impression that the pilot was going away towards the East once for all, but unfortunately the pilot took them by surprise by returning at a very high speed raising a huge dust right through and this resulted in the death of two persons. The witnesses say that the dust raised was so enormous that they were not able to see the plane coming back except that they heard the noise and felt that the plane went past them. One witness (Forest guard) says that the plane went past him within a range of six feet and two other witnesses were also with him at that point. From the evidence of witness Palutla Narayana it is clear that there were a number of persons standing with him at a distance of 20 yards from the place where the two persons were knocked down dead. Even the pilot admits that the crowd spread out on either side but did not actually recede to the farthest end of the field on the North and South. All these clearly show that the pilot did not take the required precautions to gain for him a clear ground for a take-off and he was extremely negligent of his duties in this respect with the result that he knocked down two persons dead.

Signature of the Investigating Officer.

(Sd.) V. NATESA NAYAKAR,

*Sub-Divisional 1st Class Magistrate, Markapur.*

*The opinion of the Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Dum Dum, giving a descriptive account of the accident.*

J. D. Mody, the pilot of the machine V. T. ADN, having lost his way due to bad weather conditions, landed in a field near the village of Ganjivaripalle. He landed in a direction giving the longest run getting his wind direction namely approx. West to East according to his own statement from the movement of leaves on trees before taking off. This he later verified by kicking up the dust and noticing the direction it was blown. He estimated the wind—strength between 5-10 miles an hour. He admits in his statement that he was eight to nine miles West off his course due to drift caused by an easterly wind. I interviewed villagers through the help of the Deputy Collector who state that the seasonal wind is East to West and that it was blowing from East to West on that day (day of accident). I have found myself that the wind on three successive days was blowing from an Easterly direction. It is possible that in view of the unusual weather condition prevailing on that day and the proximity of hills there may have been a Westerly ground wind.

The point of wind direction is, however, debatable.

2. The pilot (J. D. Mody) after ascertaining his position asked the crowd which he estimated between 200-250 people to stand clear. According to witnesses some moved to the sides. Others remained where they were being under the impression when he taxied down to the east side of the field that he had gone away and was not returning. Considerable dust was raised some of the witnesses maintaining that they could not see the machine when it taxied down to the eastern side of the field and some did not see it approach in its take off run due to the dust. The pilot however maintains that he could see clearly and that he had a clear run between the crowd which had gathered near the North and South hedges within the field. The pilot appears to have started his take off run at point 87 feet from the East boundary of the field heading his machine for the South-West corner of the field which would normally have given him the longest take off run. For some reason about half way down the field he veered slightly to the right making straight for the set of scattered bushes about five feet high. On examination he could not explain this curved take off run. At about eight yards from these bushes he felt a bump presumably the point at which he struck the woman and child. On feeling this first bump, he realised that he could not take off in the remaining distance before he struck the bushes. He states that he throttled down and applied rudder. He also admits that the machine soared into the air at this point. In my opinion on throttling down and realising his predicament he panicked and pulled the stick back sending the machine which had considerable speed (almost flying speed) soaring into the air. His next bump was when he struck a bush eight feet on the West boundary of the field 25 yards ahead with his-right wing tip, when he was still in the air, causing the machine to skid round, on this tip, which struck the ground again in its forward motion completely swinging the machine round causing the under-carriage to collapse and the machine then skided on the bottom side of the fuselage finally coming to rest in this position tilted over to port with its port wing tip touching the ground.

3. *Opinion as to the cause of the accident to V.T.ADN at Ganjivaripalle.*

That the pilot (M. J. Mody) by an error of judgment did not estimate correctly the take-off run (which in my opinion was insufficient in view of the adverse condition of the ground) to enable him to unstick and clear the bushes five feet long in his line to take off. In addition to this it appears from the statements of witnesses that he had not impressed sufficiently on the crowd the necessity of leaving the way clear for his take off run, thus further impairing his chances of getting off, which resulted in his striking a woman and child.

(Sd.) E. J. EARLE,—29-1-35.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are Government aware of the fact that in their latest communiqué the Government of Madras have admitted the fact that there is serious dearth of the supply of fodder in the ceded Districts?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Is the Honourable Member referring to the growth of grass on this landing ground? (Laughter.)

APPLICABILITY OF THE REVISED SCALES OF PAY TO CERTAIN SUBORDINATES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

637. **\*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that orders regarding the enforcement of the revised scales of pay for subordinates appointed on the North Western Railway after the 15th July, 1931, but before the introduction of the new scales of pay were circulated in the Agent's letter No. 561-E./67 of the 17th September, 1934?

(b) Is there certain staff who were temporarily appointed on the North Western Railway after the 15th July, 1931, but before the date of introduction of the new scales of pay, i.e., the 1st August, 1934, by a letter of appointment in which the Railway agreed to pay them a specific scale of pay and did not provide for a revision thereof?

(c) Is it also a fact that no specific warning was given to the staff mentioned in part (b) any time subsequently, not even at the time of the filling of the agreement form WW. 87 (revised)?

(d) Is it a fact that the form WW. 87 (revised) provides for revision of leave rules if proposed to be introduced at any time later and that no mention is made about the revision of the scales of pay?

(e) Is it also a fact that there is certain staff who were temporarily appointed before the 15th July, 1931, under similar conditions mentioned in parts (b), (c) and (d)?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that such staff mentioned in part (e) has been given the benefit of the old scales of pay, while the staff mentioned in part (b) have been placed in new scales?

(g) If the reply to parts (b) to (f) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reason for the different policy towards similar staff appointed under similar conditions?

(h) Is it a fact that there is certain staff who were appointed after the 15th July, 1931, but before the introduction of the new scales of pay, but were distinguished from the first, inasmuch as the former were specifically warned at the time of their appointment that they would be brought under the revised scales of pay?

(i) If the reply to part (h) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether the staff referred to in part (b) have been brought under the new scales of pay and thus have been bracketed with those who were given a definite warning to the effect that they shall be brought under the new scales of pay contrary to the intentions and instructions of the Railway Board, as expressed in exception (a), paragraph 1 of the letter mentioned in part (a) above?

(j) If the reply to parts (h) and (i) be in the affirmative, what is the reason for Government's reducing the salaries of the staff mentioned in part (b) without a definite warning?

(k) Do Government propose to issue clear instructions to the Agent, North Western Railway, to allow such staff, as was not warned at the time of the appointment that they shall be brought under the new scales of pay, the benefit of the old scales of pay? If so when? If not, why not?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** As I explained in my reply to question No. 489, asked by Mr. Fakir Chand on the 28rd February, 1935, Government will make inquiries and see whether any further instructions are necessary.

#### PROTECTION TO THE SILK INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

**638. \*Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the leading article entitled "Menace to Indian Silk Industry" in the *National Call*, of the 12th February, 1935;
- (b) whether the facts stated therein are correct; and
- (c) whether Government have any proposals to give immediate protection to the silk industry in India?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The statistical information in the article is substantially correct.

(c) Representations have recently been received from certain concerned interests and these are under examination.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** When were these representations received?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré:** I cannot tell my Honourable friend the exact date, but they were received within comparatively recent times.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** When do the Government hope to come to a conclusion on this matter, in view of the very serious nature of the menace to the silk industry in India?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré:** As soon as they have completed their examination.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** How long will it take?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré:** I cannot tell my Honourable friend.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will it be in time to save the silk industry, or after it has been destroyed?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré:** Let us hope that it will be in time, as my Honourable friend describes it, to save the industry.

**Mr. B. Das:** Will Government exercise the power they have taken under the Indian Tariff Act as it was amended through the Steel Protection Act, 1934, or will they go again to the Tariff Board or come to this House for any further protection?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré:** I cannot commit myself to anything. I do not know what action will be found necessary after the examination of the facts.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** May I, Sir, put these questions on behalf of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member been authorised to do so by the Honourable Member (Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad)?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Sir, I was myself going to give notice of this question, but as Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad gave notice of it, I did not do it. May I put this question on his behalf?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can put the question.

CONTRACTORS AT RAILWAY STATIONS IN THE DINAPORE AND HOWRAH DIVISIONS.

639. \***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (on behalf of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad):  
(a) Are Government aware that the Divisional Superintendents of Dinapore

and Howrah have removed all the petty contractors from all stations in their divisions?

(b) Are Government aware that the contracts for all these stations have been given to four persons who are subletting contracts to different persons?

(c) Is not this principle contrary to the assurances given by Government in the Central Advisory Committee and at other places?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) On the Howrah Division there is one contract for stations Bandel to Ruaiya, Burdwan to Jamalpur, including the Barharwa Bandel Loop and branches. Vendors at other stations on that Division have not been removed. On the Dinapore Division the introduction of the area contract system has resulted in the displacement of petty vendors.

(b) On the Dinapore Division four contractors have been appointed; one of them has a contract for stations on the Howrah Division to which I have just referred. The Agent, East Indian Railway, states that he is not aware of any contracts having been sub-let.

(c) I am not quite sure what assurances my Honourable friend refers to.

**Mr. Lalchand Navarai:** Does the agreement prohibit them from subletting it?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** The general principle of these contracts is that they should not be sub-let.

**Bandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitya:** As a matter of fact, these contracts are sub-let?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** I have been informed by the Agent of the East Indian Railway that he is not aware of any such contract.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable Member inquire into this matter?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** I have inquired.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask, Sir, whether the Agent inquired whether these contracts are sub-let or not?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** The Agent has told me that he is not aware of any such contracts.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Did he inquire?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** He must have inquired before he gave me the reply.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Did the Honourable Member ask the Agent whether he had made the inquiry?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** It does not seem necessary at all, but if the Honourable Member wants to make assurance doubly sure, I shall do so.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** In a matter like this, will not Government undertake to make independent inquiries?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** Government see no reason to do so.

**Sir Oowasji Jehangir:** Will the Honourable Member state why he is not prepared to make further inquiries when he is asked a supplementary question which clearly doubts the correctness of his original answer?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** I am not prepared to make an independent inquiry but I have already told my Honourable friend that I was quite prepared to ask the Agent whether he himself made the inquiry before giving the assurance that he was not aware of any contracts being sub-let. What my Honourable friend, Maulvi Shafi Daudi, wants is an independent inquiry apart from the Agent. Government are not prepared to do that

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Why are Government not prepared to do that?

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

CONTRACTORS AT RAILWAY STATIONS IN THE DINAPORE AND HOWRAH DIVISIONS.

640. \***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (on behalf of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad): (a) Are Government aware that the rates of petty contractors at Railway Stations in the Dinapore and Howrah Divisions were fixed by the advice of the District Magistrate and those rates were the same as market rates of the town?

(b) Are Government aware that the rates now fixed by the Railway authorities are much higher than the market rates?

(c) Are Government aware that at Gaya station, the market rate of *puries* is six annas a seer and the rate sanctioned by the Railway Administration is eight annas per seer, which is 33 per cent. higher than the market rate; in case of milk the market rate is two annas a seer and the station rate is four annas a seer, i.e., an increase of cent. per cent.; and in case of sweets, *pera*, the market rate is eight annas a seer and station rate is ten annas a seer, i.e., an increase of 25 per cent.?

(d) Are Government prepared to transfer the administration of vendors at Railway stations from the Railway authorities to committees as advocated in a Resolution discussed in this House in August 1934?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** The Agent, East Indian Railway, states as regards (a), (b) and (c) as follows:

(a) the rates were fixed in consultation with the local civil authorities and were based on the market rates.

(b) the present rates have also been fixed in consultation with the local civil authorities and are for the best quality of food-stuffs available in the market. Area contractors are expected to maintain a higher standard of cleanliness, service, etc., than the petty vendors previously employed, and to maintain a larger establishment and additional equipment. As freshness is insisted upon, the prices charged must cover loss due to stale food having to be discarded.

(c) the market rates per seer compare with those authorised by the Railway Administration as follows:

	Market rate.	Railway Station rates
Puries . . . . .	6 annas.	8 annas.
Milk . . . . .	3 „	4 „
Peras . . . . .	10 „	12 „

(d) The question will be among those considered when Government are re-examining the general question of catering on railways.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** Will the last part of the question be one of the items that will be considered when Government are re-examining the general question of catering?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask why the prices at the stations are higher than those of market prices?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** The Agent has explained it at some length, and when I read out that explanation, probably my Honourable friend did not hear me. I shall repeat it now:

“The present rates have also been fixed in consultation with the local civil authorities and are for the best quality of foodstuffs available in the market. Area contractors are expected to maintain a higher standard of cleanliness, service etc., than the petty vendors previously employed, and to maintain a larger establishment and additional equipment. As freshness is insisted upon, the prices charged must cover loss due to stale food having to be discarded.”

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** With reference to part (d), will Government say when they propose to make enquiries about catering?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** I have already explained at some length here that, as a result of the Resolution moved in the House sometime last year, Government have asked all Railway Administrations to let us have a report on the system obtaining in their railways after consultation with their local advisory committees. Seven or eight reports have already been received, and as soon as other reports are received, Government hope to go into the matter at length.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Can the Honourable Member give any idea of the time required?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** I am afraid not.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** Did the Central Advisory Committee report that the rates should be 25 per cent. higher than the market rate in cases in which these monopolists are allowed to cater?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** I am not aware of any recommendation of the Central Advisory Committee on that point. My Honourable friend must remember that these rates have been fixed in consultation with the local civil authorities.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** Does the Honourable Member mean that the higher rates have been fixed in consultation with civil authorities?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** Yes, Sir.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** On what principle has this higher rate been fixed?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** The quality of food supplied.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The other questions, Nos. 641 to 647, stand in the name of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, but neither he nor Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang whom he authorised to put these questions is present.

CONTRACTORS AT RAILWAY STATIONS IN THE DINAPORE AND HOWRAH DIVISIONS.

641. **\*Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that the agreements given to the contractors at Railway stations in the Dinapore and Howrah Divisions were terminable at one month's notice but the contracts given to the bigger contractors are terminable at six months' notice?

(b) Were their agreements sanctioned by the Agent or by the Railway Board?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) Yes. The Agent states that area contractors would not have accepted the contract owing to the amount of preliminary expenses involved, unless they had a guarantee of the duration of the contract for a reasonable period.

(b) By the Divisional Superintendent concerned.

PASSES GIVEN TO CONTRACTORS AT RAILWAY STATIONS IN THE DINAPORE AND HOWRAH DIVISIONS.

642. **\*Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of first class, second class, intermediate class and third class passes which are given to the contractors at Railway stations in the Dinapore and Howrah Divisions?

(b) Are Government aware that these contractors carry goods in the Railway compartments from one station to another and avoid payment of freight?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) First class 3, Second class 6, Intermediate class 6 and Third class 19.

(b) No. They have been given passes for the carriage of provisions within certain specified weight limits.



**FOOD-STUFF SOLD BY VENDORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

643. \***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Is it a fact that the District Medical Officer of the East Indian Railway, in his report, dated the 28th August, 1934, said: "I personally examined the stuff and found it unfit for human consumption". Again "some *puries* were sent by the P.A. on duty for my examination. They were examined by me and found to be unfit for use. As this is a bad season and cholera cases are occurring at certain places, it is imperative that the foodstuff sold by vendors be fresh and of good-quality"?

(b) Is it a fact that later on, the District Medical Officer examined milk and reported in his letter, dated the 7th September, 1934, that "the milk was examined by me and found to be not pure, probably it is skimmed milk, diluted with water"?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. B. Sanyal, a member of the Advisory Committee, in his letter, dated the 22nd November, 1934, drew the attention of the Agent to the unwholesomeness of food supplied by the contractors, and demanded a statement on the matter at the meeting of the Advisory Committee?

(d) Was the statement ever given to the Advisory Committee of Howrah?

(e) Are Government prepared to send for a copy of all the complaints received by the Divisional Superintendents of Dinapore and Howrah and the Agent, East Indian Railway, and place the same on the table of this House?

**Mr. P. B. Rau:** (a) and (b). I am sending a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary if the matter has not already been brought to his notice, and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

(c) and (d). Government understand that Mr. Sanyal desired that his letter should be considered and a reply given to the points raised at the next meeting. A copy of the letter and of the reply given was circulated to the members of the Committee for their opinion.

(e) No.

**BAD QUALITY OF PURIES AT THE KUIL STATION.**

644. \***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** Will Government be pleased to state the action taken by the Agent, East Indian Railway, as promised in his letter dated the 11th January, 1935, addressed to the Chamber of Commerce of Bihar and Orissa, about the bad quality of *puries* at Kuil station?

**Mr. P. B. Rau:** The Agent, East Indian Railway, states that the contractor was fined.

**CONTRACT OF FOOD VENDORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

645. \***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Have Government seen the letter written by Mr. R. C. Pundit, a member of the Advisory Committee of the East Indian Railway, Calcutta, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, on the 1st December, 1934, regarding the contract of food vendors?

(b) What action has been taken on that letter?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to this and to question No. 646 together:

As regards part (a) of both questions Government have seen the letters, copies of which were kindly sent by the Honourable Member. Mr. Pandit's letter is dated 1st October, 1934.

As regards part (b) I understand that copies of these letters were circulated to the members of the Advisory Committee and the suggestions contained therein were discussed at a meeting of the Committee in connection with the general question of catering on the East Indian Railway.

**LETTER WRITTEN BY MR. M. ABUL QASIM, A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD, TO THE SECRETARY TO THE AGENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

† 646. **\*Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Have the Railway Board seen the letter written by Mr. M. Abul Qasim, a member of the Advisory Board, to the Secretary to the Agent, East Indian Railway, Calcutta, on the 22nd November, 1934?

(b) What action did the Agent take on this letter?

**LOSS TO RAILWAYS ON ACCOUNT OF THE ARRANGEMENT OF CONTRACTS IN THE DINAPORE AND HOWRAH DIVISIONS.**

647. **\*Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Are Government prepared to calculate the net loss to the Railways on account of the arrangement of contracts in the Dinapore and Howrah Divisions by which petty contractors have been replaced by four big contractors?

(b) Are Government prepared to calculate the loss to the travelling public on account of the high prices which the Railway authorities force them to pay to these contractors?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) The Agent, East Indian Railway, states that fees charged for hawking are purely nominal. The question of a loss to the Railway does not, therefore, arise.

(b) The prices charged by contractors are those which are accepted by the local civil authorities as being reasonable.

**CERTAIN POSTS OF THE POSTAL INSPECTORS AND HEAD CLERKS TO SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE ASSAM PROVINCE.**

648. **\*Mr. Basanta Kumar Das:** Will Government be pleased to state whether all the nine posts of Inspectors of Post Offices and the three posts of Head Clerks to the Superintendents of Post Offices of the province of Assam are held by the natives of the province of Assam, or whether the proportionate number of such appointments is held by the natives of Assam in different parts of the Bengal and Assam Postal circle? If not, do Government propose to take immediate steps to nominate the proportionate number of the natives of the province to fill up such appointments?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 645.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 648 to 651 together.

Government have no information, but, as regards the first three of these questions, I would inform the Honourable Members that the posts referred to are filled by selection, either as the result of a competitive examination or on merits, and not on consideration of the relative representation in such posts of the local areas comprised in a postal circle.

As regards the fourth question the reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the number of Assamese employed in the office in question, and the proportion of posts held by them, Government regret that they have no information, but as the rules of the Department already provide for the recruitment of candidates ordinarily from within the revenue division, and, in the case of the Postmaster-General's Office, from any revenue division within the Bengal and Assam Postal Circle, Government consider that these orders are adequate to ensure the proper representation of local candidates and do not, therefore, propose to take any further steps in the matter.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if this circular with regard to recruitment from the revenue circles is being acted upon?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** I hope so, Sir. If my Honourable friend can bring to my notice any case in which he has reason to believe that it has not been acted upon, I shall be very glad to enquire into the matter.

#### APPOINTMENTS OF THE POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE ASSAM PROVINCE.

†649. **\*Mr. Basanta Kumar Das:** Will Government be pleased to state whether all the three appointments of the Superintendents of Post Offices in the province of Assam are held by the natives of Assam province, and if not, whether the proportionate number of such appointments are held by natives of Assam in different parts of the Bengal and Assam Postal Circle? If not, do Government propose to take steps to nominate the proportionate number of the natives of both the valleys of the province of Assam to fill up such proportionate number of posts?

#### POSTS OF CERTAIN HEAD, DEPUTY AND SUB-POSTMASTERS IN THE ASSAM PROVINCE.

†650. **\*Mr. Basanta Kumar Das:** Will Government be pleased to state whether all the 18 posts of the Head, Deputy and Sub-Postmasters in the grade of Rs. 160—250 of the province of Assam are held by the natives of Assam, or whether the proportionate number of such appointments are held by the natives of Assam in different parts of the Bengal and Assam Postal Circle? If not, do Government propose to take steps to fill up all these appointments or the proportionate number of such appointments by the natives of the province of Assam?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 648.

**ASSAMESE IN THE OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BENGAL AND ASSAM CIRCLE.**

† 651. \***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das**: Is it a fact that the postal administration of the province of Assam is under the control of the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, Calcutta, and will Government be pleased to state if the proportionate number of appointments in the office of the Postmaster General is held by the natives of the province of Assam? If not, will Government please state what the present number of Assamese is and whether they propose to take steps to make room for a sufficient number of clerks who are natives of the province of Assam so that the province may be properly represented?

**ASSAMESE IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, AND IN THE POSTAL AUDIT OFFICE, CALCUTTA.**

652. \***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das**: Will Government be pleased to state if a proportionate number of appointments in the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Calcutta, the Audit Office of the Bengal and Assam Circle, has been filled up by natives of the province of Assam? If not, do Government propose to take steps to recruit in future an adequate number of clerks who are natives of the province of Assam?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg**: The reply to both parts of the question is in the negative. It is not the policy of Government to reserve any particular percentage of places in the services for residents of any particular Province.

**SCALES OF PAY OF THE SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

653. \***Sardar Sant Singh**: (a) Will Government please state if the instructions of the Governor General in Council conveyed in Railway Board letter No. 822-E./G., dated the 16th August, 1933, regarding giving old or new scales of pay to the Special Ticket Examiners were given effect to?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state how many of the Special Ticket Examiners (old Travelling Ticket Examiners) accepted the new scales of pay and how many old?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, what special circumstances led the authorities to not giving effect to these instructions?

(d) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway authorities made some addition in the letter in the way of asking the Special Ticket Examiners to sign a declaration form, which would deprive them of the "rights", or of getting the mileage allowance?

(e) Was the said declaration in accordance with the instructions of the Railway Board? If so, why was similar staff on other State Railways not ordered to sign such declaration? If not, why did the Agent, North Western Railway do so?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 648.

(f) Are Government prepared to take up with the Agent, North Western Railway the question of his asking them to sign the declaration which was not imposed by the Railway Board?

(g) Will Government please state when the options allowed will be given effect to on the North Western Railway? Are Government aware that the other State-managed Railways have been liberal on this point?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (g). The Agent reports that four of the old Travelling Ticket Examiners have exercised their option of reverting to the old scales of pay. It appears that no date was specified by the Administration within which the option should be exercised. This omission is being rectified.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The North Western Railway Administration prescribed a form in which the option was to be exercised and made it quite clear that the grant of the option did not entitle the staff to claim mileage allowance. This was according to the intention of the Railway Board.

(f) No. The Railway Board are satisfied that the Agent's action was justified.

#### RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS IN THE INDIAN NAVY.

**654. \*Munshi Iswar Saran:** (a) Will Government please state the total number of officers in the Indian Navy at the end of 1934? How many of them were Indians?

(b) In view of the existing rule of recruitment of two Europeans to one Indian, in what period of time is the Indian Navy expected to be completely Indianised?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement of Commander Baynder who happens to be in Bombay that "the Persian Navy is both officered and manned by Persians themselves"?

(d) Are Government aware that until two years ago Persia had to employ foreign officers in the Navy?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) The authorised strength of officers in the Royal Indian Navy at the end of 1934 was 117 of whom five were Indians. There are in addition nine Indian cadets now under training in England and four more were selected for training as a result of examination held last October.

(b) The commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy would never be completely Indianised if the present, or, indeed, any proportion of British recruitment were to be retained, but as I informed the House in my speech on the 27th February, 1934, in connection with the Indian Navy (Discipline) Bill that proportion is not unalterable.

(c) Government have seen a statement in the Press to this effect.

(d) Government have no information.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashalingam Chettiar:** May I know the answer to part (b)?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** The answer is:

"The commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy would never be completely Indianised if the present, or indeed, any proportion of British recruitment were to be retained, but as I informed the House in my speech on the 27th February, 1934, in connection with the Indian Navy (Discipline) Bill that proportion is not unalterable."

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Are Government considering any proposals to alter this proportion, and to make the proportion of Indians higher?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** When do they expect to come to a decision on this matter?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I hope before very long.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know if the Government have considered the possibility of so increasing this proportion as to Indianise the Commissioned ranks of the Indian Navy within a period of 20 or 25 years?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** We have not considered any definite programme of that kind. What we are considering now is whether we can increase the proportion of Indians to British officers.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Are there any difficulties which the Government are now aware of, in increasing the proportion of Indians?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** It is a fact that until the Royal Indian Marine was converted into the Royal Indian Navy, there was a strange dearth of candidates coming up for the open examination for this service. But since it has been converted, the number of Indian candidates has increased.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** There are no other difficulties; and therefore, I am asking whether, now that the supply is increasing, I take it both in numbers and in quality, there are any other difficulties which the Government are aware of, for not rapidly increasing the ratio of Indians?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** We must in this case, as also in the case of the Indianisation of the army, regard the recruitment of Indian officers as an experiment for some years. Provided, the experiment is successful, there would be no difficulties.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** In view of the fact that India has defended herself before one hundred years or more, why do Government consider the Indian officers

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** That is a matter of argument.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** The Honourable Member was saying that he must regard the recruitment of Indians as an experimental measure. I am asking why he should say so.

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** Because it has never been done before.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Did not India defend herself before?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** Not that I am aware of.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Oh! Oh!

#### PUBLIC DEBTS OF INDIA.

655. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will Government please state the total amount of public debts of India on the 31st March, 1934, giving separate figures for funded and unfunded portions?

(b) Will Government please state the percentages of funded debts (both issued in rupee and sterling) held by Indians and non-Indians, respectively?

(c) If the information asked for in the preceding question is not available, are Government prepared to collect such information now and also to issue instructions that in future such information be maintained and published?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the relevant sections (sections N and following) of the Finance and Revenue Accounts for 1933-34. A copy of this volume is now available in the Library of the House.

(b) and (c). The information desired by the Honourable Member is not obtainable.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government collect the information?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** The information is not obtainable; not that I will not obtain it, but it is not obtainable.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government please try and see if separate figures could be given for future loans that may be raised, as regards funded and unfunded portions?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** If you keep separate figures, they would be quite useless, because the banks hold large blocks of securities on behalf of their clients.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that Honourable Members on this side of the House find such separation would be useful, will Government consider the advisability of devising a scheme whereby the figures could be separately given of funded and unfunded portions?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I cannot achieve the impossible.

**ACTION PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

656. \***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken, or propose to take, on the resolutions and motions passed by the present Legislative Assembly?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is the information that is being collected?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The information asked for in the question.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** From whom is the information being collected, and what is the nature of the information that is being collected?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** From the various departments and from the relevant persons.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** With regard to the removal of the ban on the Red Shirts, for example, what is the information that is being collected?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** That is not the sole object of the question. The question wants Government to state what action they have taken or propose to take on the Resolutions and motions passed by the present Assembly.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** This is one of the Resolutions and motions passed by the present Assembly. I am asking, in respect of this recommended removal of the ban on the Red-Shirts, what is the information which Government are collecting and from whom are they collecting them?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The information is being collected from the locality and from the proper Government officials.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** When do they hope to supply the information?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** As soon as it is received.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Will it be laid on the table?

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Have Government taken action on any single Resolution passed up till now?

**LAYING OF PRINTED COPIES OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON THE TABLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

657. \***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Are Government aware of the practice obtaining in the United Provinces Legislative Council that printed copies of answers to questions tabled for the day are laid on the tables of the members?



(b) If so, are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of introducing the same practice in the Legislative Assembly, as it facilitates the putting of supplementary questions a great deal?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no jurisdiction over the practice to be followed in regard to the answering of questions, but I may refer the Honourable Member to my predecessor's reply to Raj Bahadur Sukfiraj Roy's starred question No. 1191 asked on the 10th April, 1933.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What is that reply, Sir?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Being aware of the amount of curiosity shown here, I have got the reply here:

"(a) and (b). The procedure contemplated by the Honourable Member is not authorized by the Standing Orders and in the opinion of Government would be wholly at variance with the elementary implications of the system of oral interpellation."

#### METHODS OF RECORDING VOTES DURING THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

658. **\*Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena:** (a) Are Government aware that different methods are followed in different provinces for recording of votes during Legislative Assembly and Council elections?

(b) Are Government aware that the system of ballot obtaining in the United Provinces does not insure the same degree of secrecy of ballot as that of Bihar?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of introducing the system of ballot obtaining in Bihar, in the United Provinces and also such other provinces wherein the same degree of secrecy is not secured under the existing system as in Bihar?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to Rule 15 of the Council of State and Legislative Assembly Electoral Rules from which he will observe that the regulations for the Assembly and Council of State embody, with modifications and adaptations, the regulations in force for the purpose of elections to the Legislative Council of the province concerned. Since, therefore, the provincial regulations differ from province to province, it is to be expected that similar differences will occur in the regulations, as modified and adapted, for the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly.

(b) Government find nothing in the regulations for the United Provinces which leads them to believe that this is the case.

(c) Does not arise.

**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant:** Are Government aware of the practice that obtains in the United Provinces in accordance with which a voter, if he is illiterate, has to declare the name of the candidate for whom he votes, in the presence of all the candidates?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** No, Sir.

**Pandit Govind Bahadur Pant:** Do Government consider such a practice desirable?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a matter of opinion.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MECHANICAL ENGINEER IN THE MILITARY FARMS DEPARTMENT.

**659. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is an appointment of a Mechanical Engineer in the Military Farms Department?

(b) If the reply to the preceding part be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the functions of the Mechanical Engineer, and whether the appointment is held by a European or an Indian?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the pay of the appointment, and the pay of its present holder?

(d) If the present holder is a European, will Government please state his academic and technical qualifications, and whether he is in receipt of any overseas allowance and is eligible for passage concessions?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the usual age at which the holder of such an appointment is required to be retired from service?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the age of the present holder of the appointment? If he is above the age of retirement from service, will Government be pleased to state why he was not retired on acquiring that age?

(g) Will Government please state the amount of daily and travelling allowances drawn by him during the last one year?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the last date on which the present holder of the appointment proceeded on leave in or out of India?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state the total period of leave at present to his credit?

(j) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have ever considered that the appointment can be held by a fully qualified Indian on much less pay? If not, why not?

(k) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to ask the present incumbent of the appointment to proceed on leave pending retirement, and fill the post by a qualified Indian, thus causing considerable saving to public funds? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) to (k). The present incumbent of the appointment of Mechanical Engineer in the Military Farms Department proceeded on four months' leave with effect from 25th February, 1935, pending termination of his agreement, after which the appointment will be abolished.

**CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SIR GEORGE SCHUSTER AND MR. GANDHI  
RELATING TO THE SALT CONCESSION.**

660. \***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been some correspondence between Sir George Schuster and Mahatma Gandhi relating to the salt concession, as embodied in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact?

(b) Is it a fact that in the places where the concessions were given to villagers in and about the salt swamps and were withdrawn for one reason or another they shall be restored if the villagers concerned petition the authorities for such restoration?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any such petition for the restoration of the privilege has been received by the authorities?

(d) If not, do Government propose to confer such privileges in the light of the correspondence mentioned above when petitions are put in by the parties concerned?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (d). Applications for the restoration of the concession should be made to the local officers, who will dispose of each application on its merits in consultation with the Local Government.

(c) No such petition has been reported to the Government of India.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have the Government of India laid down any general principles to guide the Local Governments in the disposal of these petitions?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** No, Sir.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that petitions have been sent by the peasants there in the ceded Districts to the Government of Madras to restore these salt concessions?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I am not aware of that, but what I do say is that if the petitions have been sent to the Government of Madras or the local officers, they have full authority to deal with them.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Are the Local Government the final authority in the disposal of such petitions?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** There is a question down on the paper later on about that, and I would rather delay my answer to this till I can give it more fully.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that some of the petitions sent by the peasants concerned in Southern India have been dismissed by the local authorities, does not the Honourable Member consider it proper that he should give a reply to Dr. Rajan's supplementary question whether any appeal lies to the Government of India against the decisions of the Madras Government?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I will answer that question fully when it is reached on the paper.

**RATIO BETWEEN INDIANS AND EUROPEANS HOLDING PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.**

661. \***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) What is the total number of:

- (i) Europeans in the Indian Medical Service,
- (ii) Indians holding temporary commissions, and
- (iii) Indians holding permanent commissions?

(b) What is the ratio between Indians and Europeans holding permanent commissions?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) (i) 408, (ii) 45, (iii) 210.

These were the figures on 1st January, 1935.

(b) Approximately one to two.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Is it a fact that there are only Indians in the cadre of the temporary commissions?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Yes, Sir.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** And there are no members of other communities?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I do not think so.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Is the ratio of Indian to European officers likely to be reconsidered in the near future?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I replied to that some days ago when I was answering a supplementary question on this subject.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Can I have an approximate idea as to how long it will take?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member says he has already answered that question.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** I want to know the approximate period which it might take.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I hope it will be within a year.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know why these Indians are being kept on temporary basis?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I explained that in answer to a number of supplementary questions a few days ago.

**COMPOSITION OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE SELECTION BOARD.**

662. \***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) When did the Indian Medical Service Selection Board meet last?

(b) How many medical officers, military or civil, were on the Board?

(c) Did the Director General of Medical Services attend this Board himself, or did he depute some other officer?

(d) Was the President of this Board a medical man or a military man, or was he a civilian layman?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** (a) November, 1931.

(b) Three.

(c) and (d) Major-General Sir John Megaw, who was then Director-General, Indian Medical Service, himself attended and presided over the Board.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Did the Director of Medical Services attend the meeting of the Selection Board?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** Yes, Sir.

#### CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED BY THE LAST INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE SELECTION BOARD.

568. **Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) How many candidates were interviewed by the last Indian Medical Service Selection Board?

(b) How many temporary officers of the Indian Medical Service appeared before this Board?

(c) How many temporary officers of the Indian Medical Service were considered suitable for permanent commissions by this Board?

(d) To how many candidates, who had no foreign qualifications, has the Board given permanent commissions?

(e) When will those who were considered suitable for permanent commissions be given the commission?

(f) Was any action taken by Government to discharge from temporary service those candidates who were found unsuitable for permanent commissions by this Selection Board?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** (a) 77.

(b) 37.

(c) Ten were definitely selected as suitable. Others might also have been selected if a greater number of vacancies had been anticipated.

(d) Two on that occasion.

(e) All the ten referred to in the answer to part (c) have already been given permanent Commissions.

(f) No immediate action was taken. They were allowed to complete their contracts.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Will the Honorable Member inform the House as to how many temporary I.M.S. men are still available to be made permanent?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** I answered that question about a week ago.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Will the Honourable Member please state whether any recruitment to the permanent Commission will take place before these people are made permanent?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That question has been answered before.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** I am not asking that question. I want a piece of information whether these temporary men will be made permanent before further recruitment for permanent vacancies takes place.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Not necessarily, Sir.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Is the Indian Medical Service up to strength or below strength?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** The permanent establishment of the Indian Medical Service is below strength.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** What action do Government intend to take to bring the service up to strength?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Recruit more officers.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** In view of the Honourable Member's reply and in view of the fact that no Selection Committee has sat since 1931, will the Honourable Member please inform this House how, in view of the Indian Medical Service being below strength, several selected Indian Medical Service officers are still awaiting appointment?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I answered that question about a week ago. I forget exactly what the numbers were, but the information is already on the records of the House.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** In view of the fact that the service is below strength, will Government state whether they intend to bring the service up to strength by recruiting from these officers who have been selected and who are awaiting appointment?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** As I explained the other day, we are at present engaged in the consideration of the whole question of the strength of the Indian Medical Service Cadre: until we get final decisions on that, we cannot say whether there will be reductions or whether there will be an increase: until we reach decisions on that, it would be unwise to go further than we are going at present.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** Will Government state the reason as to why, when temporary men are awaiting posts for permanent posts, recruitment should still take place for permanent posts?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** As I have explained in the previous set of question, the point is this: there is a certain ratio between Indian and British officers in the service: the British proportion is below strength, and

the Indian proportion is upto strength. During the last few years, we have been trying to get the British proportion up to strength: we have already got the full proportion of Indian officers: when we reach the prescribed ratio between the two, then normal recruitment will be revived.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** My question relates to the Indian portion of the service.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I said the Indian portion of the service is up to strength: no further recruitment is required at the present moment.

TEMPORARY INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE MEN APPEARING BEFORE THE  
SELECTION BOARD.

664. **\*Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Why are temporary Indian Medical Service men who are candidates for permanent commissions asked to appear before a civil Selection Board, whose President is a non-medical civil officer?

(b) Was any action taken by the Military Department to help these temporary officers to obtain permanent commissions by giving them training which would enable them to get into the permanent cadre?

(c) Were the temporary medical officers asked to take leave and travel at their own expense to appear before the Selection Board?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) The Selection Board is not a civil board nor is its President a non-medical Civil Officer.

(b) The training and experience which temporary commissioned officers obtain are obviously of assistance to them in the competition for permanent commissions.

(c) Yes.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** In view of the fact that these temporary I.M.S. men are still in service, will the Honourable Member inform this House whether or not it is a fact that such officers are entitled to travel free for such purposes?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** Yes; when they are on Government duty they are entitled to travel free.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Do I take it that these officers who were called for examination were in service?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** They were in service; but I think the reason why they were made to pay on this occasion was because of a recommendation made by the Retrenchment Committee at the time which considered that when officers were coming up on business of this kind to improve their own prospects, they might well be called upon to pay their own expenses.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Does that rule apply to any other service similarly situated, i.e., who desire to improve their prospects?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** I do not know.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** When they are called for a selection examination before a selection board, at the invitation of the board, how is it they are not allowed travelling allowance?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** I have just explained that to my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney.

**PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE GIVEN TO INDIANS.**

665. **\*Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is it a fact that during the last ten years, only four Indians, who do not possess foreign qualifications, have been given permanent commissions?

(b) Were hundreds of others found incompetent or unsuitable? If so, why is the health and care of Indian troops entrusted into the hands of these incompetent doctors?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** (a) The correct number is nine.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

**SELECTION BOARD FOR RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE MEN.**

666. **\*Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) When is it proposed to hold the next Selection Board?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing two members of the All-India Medical Council on this Board?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** (a) As soon as there are sufficient vacancies in the Indian cadre, which is at present up to strength.

(b) No.

**DESIRABILITY OF ALLOWING THE STAFF REAPPOINTED AFTER RETRENCHMENT TO RETAIN THE FUNDAMENTAL LEAVE RULES.**

667. **\*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that in the case of employees, who were in service prior to 16th July, 1931, but were retrenched due to economy campaign, their previous service has been treated as continuous for the purposes of pay, increment, provident fund and gratuity?

(b) Is it also a fact that in the matter of leave such persons have on re-appointment been brought under the new leave rules, although some of them were before retrenchment governed by the Fundamental Rules?

(c) Is it the general policy of Government to apply new rules only to new entrants?

(d) If so, why have the re-employed staff who have been treated as having been continuously in service for all other purposes, been brought under the new leave rules?

(e) Will the grant of this concession cost Government more than the concession of old scales of pay which Government have already allowed to such staff?



(f) Are Government aware that the number of staff affected is very small?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of allowing the staff concerned to retain the Fundamental Leave Rules?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) No. Government servants discharged as a result of the economy campaign were granted extra concessions as regards leave, gratuity and pension. If re-employed subsequently, they are subject to such conditions of service in respect of pay, leave and all other matters as would be applicable to them if they had entered Government service for the first time on the date of re-employment. In other words, they are treated as 'new entrants'.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) to (g). Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

#### L 4 LICENCES IN THE CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA, NEW DELHI.

668. \***Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan:** Will Government please state the number of persons who have been granted L4 Licences in the Connaught Place area, New Delhi?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Five.

#### ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.

669. \***Mr. Fakir Chand:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if in any of the Cantonments in India the official President of the Cantonment Board has delegated any powers to the elected Vice-President under section 22 (2) of the Cantonments Act, 1924? If so, what and where? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that at the Lahore Cantonment Board meeting held on the 31st January, 1935, Mr. Jugal Kishore, B.A., LL.B., an elected member, moved the following resolution which was ruled out of order by the Military President?

"That in the opinion of this Committee the time has come when the non-Official Vice President should have some real power instead of being a mere figure-head, a position disgraceful for a constitutional Municipal body; resolved that this Board respectfully requests the President to delegate sufficient portion of his powers to the Vice President under section 22 sub-section 2"?

If so, why?

(c) Is it also a fact that the point of order was not raised by any member and the President himself without allowing the mover or members to explain, ruled the said motion out of order and cited no reasons or authority for the same?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 669 to 676 together.

The information has been called for and the replies will be laid on the table in due course.

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT UNDER SECTION 25 OF THE CANTONMENTS ACT.**

†670. \***Mr. Fakir Chand:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many times the Executive Officer of the Lahore Cantonment with the previous sanction of the President has taken action under the Emergency Powers under section 25 of the Cantonment Act within the last two years?

(b) Are Government prepared to examine all these cases in order to determine how many of these really pertain to service, safety, or discipline of the troops and fall within the scope of the said section 25 of the Cantonment Act?

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN OF VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.**

†671. \***Mr. Fakir Chand:** Are Government aware of the fact that the President of the Lahore Cantonment Board has not appointed any elected member, other than the Vice-President, as the Chairman of any of the various sub-committees of the Cantonment Board? If so why?

**PRESIDING OVER THE MEETINGS OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD BY VICE-PRESIDENT.**

†672. \***Mr. Fakir Chand:** Will Government be pleased to state how many times the Vice-President of the Lahore Cantonment Board has presided over the meetings of the Cantonment Board during the last four years?

**ACTING MILITARY OFFICERS AS PRESIDENTS OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.**

†673. \***Mr. Fakir Chand:** Will Government be pleased to state how many acting military officers have acted as Presidents of the Lahore Cantonment Board during the year 1934 in the temporary absence of Brigadier J. C. Gretton?

**RESIGNATION OF THE NOMINATED MEMBERS OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.**

†674. \***Mr. Fakir Chand:** Are Government aware of the fact that in Lahore Cantonment the Executive Officer never communicates to the Board the acceptance of the resignation of the nominated members by the Local Government, as required by section 19 (2) of the Cantonment Act in order to enable the Cantonment Board to declare the seat vacant?

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† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 669.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT THE MEETINGS OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.

†675. \***Mr. Fakir Chand**: Is it a fact that the Executive Officer of the Lahore Cantonment sends demi-official letters to the official members to ensure their attendance at the time of every Board meeting, whereas no such effort is ever made in the case of elected members?

RESOLUTIONS PASSED OR REJECTED IN THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.

†676. \***Mr. Fakir Chand**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number and nature of the resolutions passed or rejected by the weight of official majority in the Lahore Cantonment in the year 1934?

(b) Is it a fact that none of these resolutions concerned the health, welfare and discipline of the troops?

(c) Is it a fact that the unanimous resolutions of the elected members of the Lahore Cantonment Board to appoint one of the elected members as the Executive Officer during the temporary absence of the Executive Officer under section 286-A of the Cantonments Act was turned down by the sheer weight of the official majority? If so, when?

OPTION GIVEN TO THE TEMPORARY STAFF OF THE OLD AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES OF REMAINING UNDER THE LEAVE RULES LAID DOWN IN THE FUNDAMENTAL RULES.

677. \***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. Fakir Chand): (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board have decided that the temporary staff appointed in the old combined Audit and Accounts Offices after the 1st September, 1928 (after the 1st April, 1927 on North Western Railway) and before the 1st April, 1929, and taken over by the Railway Accounts Department, should be allowed the option of remaining under the leave rules laid down in the Fundamental Rules, if they were not apprised of the fact that the new State Railway leave rules (promulgated under Railway Board's Resolution No. 8373-E., dated the 20th February, 1930), would be applicable to them?

(b) Is it a fact that this principle is observed in the case of the staff appointed on other Railways but subsequently taken over by the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(c) Is it a fact that the staff appointed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office within the above mentioned dates has been refused this concession?

(d) Is it a fact that the staff in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office conducts the foreign traffic work of the Railways party to this office on their behalf?

(e) Is it a fact that the staff in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, if appointed on the various Railways, would have been eligible to the above concession?

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† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 669.

(f) Are Government prepared to reconsider the case of the staff appointed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office within the dates mentioned in part (a) above, and grant them also the concession of remaining under the leave rules contained in the Fundamental Rules?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes—in respect of the staff falling in the category referred to in part (a) above.

(c), (d), (e) and (f). The staff appointed directly in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office during the period were not given this concession because it had been notified to the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, in September, 1928, that the staff appointed on that date or after the 1st September, 1928, would be liable to be brought under the new leave rules when promulgated. In view of this definite warning, Government are not prepared to reconsider their decision.

**BUILDING OF PUCCA BOUNDARY WALLS ROUND CERTAIN BUNGALOWS IN THE JULLUNDUR CANTONMENT.**

678. **\*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. Fakir Chand): (a) Is it a fact that the Cantonment Board of Jullundur has ordered certain proprietors of bungalows there to build pucca boundary walls round their bungalows? If so, why?

(b) Is it also a fact that almost every bungalows in Jullundur Cantonment has a cactus hedge around it ever since the Cantonment was formed?

(c) Is it not against the policy of Government to compel landlords of bungalows to incur such expenditure?

(d) Is it a fact that there are several Government buildings without such walls? Are Government providing funds for constructing pucca boundary walls around them? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

**FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF BERAR**

679. **\*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. M. S. Aney): (a) Are Government aware of the fact that His Excellency the Viceroy had made an announcement on the future administration of Berar on the 29th November, 1934, in his speech at Hyderabad?

(b) Are Government prepared to publish the text of the entire arrangement between His Exalted Highness the Nizam and the British Government, to which reference was made in the above announcement of His Excellency the Viceroy?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, on the passing of the Government of India Act.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Why not before that?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** If I said on the passing of the Government of India Act, it means it is not before that.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** I know that. I want to know, why not before the passing of the Government of India Act?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Government consider it neither desirable nor necessary.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Do Government think, therefore, that the public and this House should know nothing about this matter, until they are unable to do anything about it?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Government do not accept that suggestion: there may be other reasons.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What are the other reasons?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The other reasons are that they do not see any necessity whatsoever for doing this thing before the passing of the Government of India Act.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask whether the people of Berars who will be affected by this announcement will be consulted as regards the point mentioned in the question?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I am not aware of any decision to that effect.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask whether Government propose to do so?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** They will do so, if they decide to do so. (Laughter.)

#### FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF BERAR.

680. **\*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. M. S. Aney): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following passage in paragraph 83 of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report?

"We also think that the special position of the Berars should be recognised by requiring the Governor, through his instrument of instructions, to interpret his special responsibility for the protection of the rights of any Indian state as involving *inter alia* an obligation upon him, in the administration of the Berars to have due regard to the commercial and economic interests of the State of Hyderabad".

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether this obligation is being imposed on the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar in accordance with any one of the terms of the new arrangement?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member will know when the complete arrangement is published.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** We want to know whether this obligation cast upon the Governor, that he should consider the economic and commercial interests of the State of Hyderabad, is being imposed upon him according to any one of the terms of the new arrangement or independent of those terms?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** That involves disclosing the terms of the arrangement which we are not prepared to disclose.

FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF BERAR.

681. **\*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. M. S. Aney): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention is drawn to the following recommendation in paragraph 131 of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report?

"We also recommend, as part of the arrangements which have been made with H. E. H. the Nizam in connection with Berar, that in the case of Berar Constituencies the educational qualification should include the passing of a corresponding examination in Hyderabad, and that the Military Service qualification should cover retired, pensioned or discharged officers, non-commissioned officers or soldiers of His Exalted Highness' regular forces"

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Minister of Education of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar, as well as the University of Nagpur, were consulted before Government agreed upon the first part of this recommendation? If so, are Government prepared to publish the correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar?

(c) If the Local Government and the University of Nagpur were not at all consulted, will Government please state the reasons for not doing so?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The recommendation referred to by the Honourable Member was made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and not by the Government of India. But I may state that the Government of India did consult the Government of the Central Provinces on these matters though they are not in a position to state what officers or other authorities that Government consulted.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Did the Government of the Central Provinces agree to this in answer to the consultation of this Government with that Government?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Agree to what?

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** I am talking of the paragraph referred to in the question, that, in the case of the Berar constituency, the educational qualifications should include the passing of a corresponding examination in Hyderabad, etc. I want to know whether, when this Government consulted the Central Provinces Government, they agreed to this.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I am not prepared to answer that question just now: but I do not mind answering it if I get notice.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** With regard to the second part of the paragraph, that military service qualification should cover retired, pensioned or discharged officers, non-commissioned officers or soldiers of His Exalted Highness' regular forces, was the Central Provinces Government consulted on this matter, and did they agree to this?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Well, Sir, if my Honourable friend wants information on those points as to what the Central Provinces Government did or what they agreed to, I shall have to ask for notice.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With regard to the first part of this paragraph relating to educational qualifications, does that apply to voters who are already on the voters' list?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The first part of the question I have answered "Yes".

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Then what happens, Sir, to all those people who are already on the voters' list, but who unfortunately have not been able to obtain the educational qualifications by the passing of a corresponding examination in Hyderabad?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** What happens to them, Sir, does not arise out of part (a) of this question.

#### FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF BERAR.

682. **\*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. M. S. Aney): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to section 47 of the Government of India Bill now pending before the Parliament?

(b) Will Government please state any reasons why the Bill refers to the arrangement regarding the future administration of Berar as an agreement in contemplation and not as an accomplished fact?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they had submitted any proposals for the consideration of His Majesty's Government regarding the future administration of Berar, if the two high contracting parties failed to arrive at any agreement or if any agreement arrived at be rescinded by any one of them?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to inform this House whether they have pressed His Majesty's Government to incorporate the same in the Government of India Bill, just in the same way as they have made provisions for alternative proposals for the Government of the Central Provinces in section 47 (2) in the case of a similar contingency?

(e) If so, will Government please state the grounds on which His Majesty's Government declined to embody in the Bill any alternative scheme for the future administration of Berar?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) Yes.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware the arrangement will have to be approved by Parliament and hence the Bill can only refer to the arrangement as an arrangement in contemplation.

(c), (d) and (e). The Government of India have not submitted to His Majesty's Government any alternative arrangements for the future administration of Berar because no such proposals were necessary in view of the provisional understanding arrived at with His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government which it is hoped to embody in a formal agreement after the Constitution Act is passed. If the agreement does not come into effect, or, if after coming into effect, it subsequently ceases to have effect, then alternative arrangements for the administration of Berar would have to be the subject of further negotiation with Hyderabad and for that reason no provision relating to such alternative arrangements could be made in the Government of India Bill.

FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF BERAR.

683. \***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. M. S. Ancy): (a) Are Government aware of the fact that the public of Berar were given a pledge by the British Government more than once to the effect that no change in the status of Berar will be effected without consulting the opinion of the people of Berar?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to consult the public opinion in Berar on this point after the appointment of the Statutory Commission? If not, will they be pleased to state whether they propose to take any steps hereafter to ascertain the same?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) As far as I am aware the assurance given by the Government was with reference to the question of the rendition of Berar and as the Honourable Member is aware that question has been settled by His Excellency's speech at Hyderabad on the 29th November, 1933.

(b) Does not arise.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Were the people of Berar consulted about the new arrangements proposed in the Government of India Bill apart from the status, using it in a technical sense?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I do not know exactly what is meant by the people who were consulted, but popular opinion was made known in various forms like writings in the press and in various other ways.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I request the Honourable the Law Member to be good enough to specify one or two ways, in which the Government of India ascertained the public opinion of the people of Berar?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I have not got the Berar papers before me now, but public opinion surely was declared in many ways, like writings in the press, interviews with officials and non-officials, Resolutions of meetings, and so on. I have not got exactly before me all the materials to say what was done to ascertain the public opinion in Berar.



**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know, Sir, what is the impression that the Honourable the Law Member got from these interviews, statements, and various other things, whether the people of Berar approved or disapproved of the arrangement?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The impression of the Honourable the Law Member is not an action of the Governor General in Council.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** I am asking, out of mere politeness, what is the impression of the Honourable the Law Member, but, if he wants the question to be put in a technical form, I ask what is the impression that the Government of India gathered from these various modes of public opinion, whether the people of Berar agreed or did not agree to this arrangement.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The impression which the Governor General in Council or the Government of India formed surely is an inference or opinion drawn from people . . . .

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** Were the people of Berar consulted when Berar was separated . . . .

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** Order, order. Two Honourable Members cannot put supplementary questions at the same time.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India considered the public opinion in this matter, whether they came to any conclusions on the trend of that public opinion, and what their conclusions are?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** The conclusions are that there will be no substantial change.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** May I now put the supplementary question, Sir? Will Government be pleased to state if the people of Berar were consulted when Berar was taken from His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad by Lord Curzon?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** That was taken shortly before my accession to this Assembly.

**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** I am addressing my question to the Government of India, and not to Sir Nripendra Sircar?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I ask for notice, Sir.

**Maulana Shaukat Ali:** May I put a supplementary question, Sir, if you will kindly permit me?

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** The Honourable Member is too late.

FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF BERAR.

684. \***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (on behalf of Mr. M. S. Aney): (a) Did Government receive several representations from the Berar All-Parties Committee and a number of other public bodies in Berar, urging on Government the need of constituting Berar into a separate Governor's Province under the new Constitution?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what action they have already taken, or propose to take, in the near future on these representations?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** (a) Yes.

(b) The representations were forwarded to His Majesty's Government. Government do not propose to take any further action on those representations.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Did Government support those representations or oppose them, and will they kindly state the reasons for the attitude they took?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I am not prepared to answer that question, Sir, because that does not arise out of this.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** The question is, Sir, did the Government of India receive several representations, etc., etc. And the Honourable the Law Member stated that they forwarded those representations to the Secretary of State and to His Majesty's Government. I want to know whether in forwarding those recommendations they expressed their approval or disapproval, and in either case what their reasons were.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Government are not prepared to give any information on that matter which was dealt with in a confidential communication to the Secretary of State.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Sir, the Standing Orders contemplate that questions on matters of controversy between the Government of India and the Secretary of State cannot be asked, but, even then, questions may be asked on matters of fact. I am merely asking whether, as a matter of fact, in forwarding this recommendation to the Secretary of State they expressed their approval or disapproval, and in either case to state their reasons.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** Just at present I have not got any materials before me from which I can answer that question. If that question is put to me after due notice, then I can say whether I can answer it or not, but at the present moment, with the best of my inclinations to answer it, I cannot give an answer.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Then, I shall put down a question on that.

**Maulana Shaukat Ali:** A supplementary question, Sir. I want to know, Sir, in this connection whether there was any treaty between His Exalted Highness the Nizam and the Government of India relating to the administration of Berar?

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** My impression is that there is more than one, but if my Honourable friend will put down a question, I shall try to answer it.

#### STOPPING OF MAIL TRAINS AT THE KODARMA STATION.

685. \***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that the Bombay Mail formerly used to stop at the Kodarma station on the Grand Chord Line, and that at present it does not stop there?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the said mail does not stop there these days?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of the first and second class passengers leaving and arriving at the station during the past three years?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that Kodarma is the centre of the mica trade in this country?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of asking the Railway authorities to stop the mail trains at this station, owing to the commercial importance thereof?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (e). The Agent, East Indian Railway, states that the stoppage was discontinued as the passenger traffic offering did not justify it, but, on account of increasing traffic recently, it has been arranged that the Up and Down Mail Trains will stop there from the 1st April, 1935.

(c) I lay a statement on the table giving the information required.

(d) Government are aware that Kodarma is one of the centres of the mica trade.

#### Statement.

##### (i) Passengers leaving Kodarma :

	1932.	1933.	1934.
First class . . . . .	124	74	50
Second class . . . . .	268	172	232

##### (ii) Passengers arriving at Kodarma :

	1932.	1933.	1934.
First class . . . . .	68	41	39
Second class . . . . .	213	226	241

STRENGTH OF THE INDIAN ARMY AND THE BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA.

686. \*Bhai Parma Nand: What is the total strength of the Indian Army and the British Army in India, respectively?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:**

Indian Army . . . . .	1,48,761.
British Army in India . . . . .	57,280.

HINDUS AND MUSLIMS IN THE RANK AND FILE OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

687. \*Bhai Parma Nand: What is the percentage, in the rank and file of the Indian Army of Hindus and of Muslims of India, excluding Hindus and Muslims of non-British territories, such as Nepal and the trans-frontier tribal country?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:**

Hindus . . . . .	34.4 per cent.
Muslims . . . . .	35.8 ..

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know why the Government keep these records in the Army, with classifications as Hindus and Mussalmans, and not as Indians once for all?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** We do not keep these records, but Honourable Members ask for the information and we get it. (Laughter.)

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Thank you.

HINDUS AND MUSLIMS OF NON-BRITISH TERRITORIES IN THE RANK AND FILE OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

688. \*Bhai Parma Nand: What is the percentage in the rank and file of the Indian Army of Hindus and Muslims of non-British territories, such as Nepal and the trans-frontier tribal country?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:**

Hindus . . . . .	13.3 per cent.
Muslims . . . . .	5 ..

INDIANS HOLDING KING'S COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN ARMY.

689. \*Bhai Parma Nand: What is the total number of Indians, holding King's Commissions in the Army in India? How many of them are Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** 196 of whom 80 are Hindus, 42 Sikhs and 60 Muslims.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh:** What is the proportion of Indian officers to European officers in the Army?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this question.

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I should require notice.

INDIANS HOLDING KING'S COMMISSIONS DEPUTED FOR REGIMENTAL TRAINING TO THE BRITISH REGIMENTS.

**690. \*Bhai Parma Nand:** How many Indians, if any, holding King's Commissions, are deputed for regimental training to the British Regiments and, how many of them are Hindus and how many Muslims?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** All Indian Commissioned Officers, except those commissioned into Engineers and Signals, do one year's attachment to a British unit at the start of their service, just like British Officers of the Indian Army. Their numbers and communities have been given in reply to the Honourable Member's preceding question.

ADULT POPULATION IN THE TRANS-FRONTIER TRIBAL TERRITORY AND IN AFGHANISTAN AND GUNS AND RIFLES IN THE POSSESSION OF THE PEOPLE.

**691. \*Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Have Government any estimate of the total adult population, between the ages of 18 and 60 in the trans-frontier tribal territory and in Afghanistan?

(b) Have Government any estimate of the total number of modern rifles and guns in the possession of the people of the trans-frontier tribal country?

(c) What is the total number of raids into the British territory from the people of trans-frontier tribal country, each year during the last five years, and how many houses were looted and burnt and how many of them were of Hindus and of Muslims?

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** (a) The Government of India have no information with regard to Afghanistan. By "trans-frontier tribal territory" it is presumed that the Honourable Member means the tribal areas of India on the North-West Frontier. No accurate census has been taken of these tribal areas, but the fighting strength of the tribes concerned was estimated in the last return at 450,000 men.

(b) The last return of fighting strengths and armaments shows the number of breech-loading rifles in the hands of the North-West Frontier tribes as 216,061.

(c) A statement showing the number of Hindus and Muslims wounded and killed during the years 1929-30 to 1933-34 in raids carried out by trans-border tribesmen into British territory is laid on the table.



**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b), are all these arms smuggled or how else are they got?

**Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe:** What does the Honourable Member mean exactly by "smuggled"? He is probably aware that there are certain arms factories in tribal territory in which the Arms Act does not run.

**DENOUNCING OF THE INDO-TURKISH TRADE CONVENTION BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.**

692. **\*Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indo-Turkish Trade Convention of 1930 has been denounced by the Turkish Government;
- (b) what the reasons for the same are; and
- (c) what action Government propose to take thereon?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore.** (a) Yes.

(b) In September, 1930, by an Exchange of Notes an agreement was reached between India and Turkey, which provided for reciprocal most-favoured-nation treatment of goods, the produce and manufacture of one in the territories of the other. For some time past Turkey has embarked on a policy of balancing her overseas trade exchanges and has adopted for this purpose regulations to restrict imports into Turkey and to control her foreign exchange. It is presumed that the denunciation of the agreement has been made in order to facilitate that policy.

(c) The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Have Government made any enquiries from the Turkish Government as to the reasons why they have denounced this trade agreement?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore:** I have given my Honourable friend what we take to be the reasons.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I know whether the Government of India have addressed the Government of Turkey on this matter to find out what are their reasons?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore:** We have made representations to His Majesty's Government.

**MEMORIAL ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF DEPRESSED CLASSES AS HOME MEMBER IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.**

693. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** (a) Is it a fact that a memorial has been sent to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India on behalf of the United Provinces Depressed Class Sabha (Association) through the Home Department, Government of India, in which it has been requested and prayed for that if any Hindu is going to be appointed as Home Member in the Government of the United

Provinces. the chance may be given to one belonging to the Depressed Class?

(b) Has the name of B. Jagannath Parshad, B.A., LL.B., Advocate, President, Oudh Depressed Classes Federation of Lucknow and son of late B. Gokul Parshad, Vakil, High Court, caste Khatick, depressed class, been suggested for the Home Membership of the United Provinces in the memorial, wherein apart from the respectability and ability of the family the loyalty of the family has been described at the time of the mutiny, 1857?

(c) Will Government be pleased to inform this House what steps have been taken in connection with the said memorial?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Government of India have returned the memorial with an intimation that under the memorial rules no memorial is considered by the Government of India unless it is submitted through the Local Government.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Do Government accept the proposition that, even in Cabinets, there should be communal representation?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** How does that arise out of this question?

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** In part (a) of this question, the memorial refers to the appointment of the Home Member from the depressed classes. I am asking the Honourable Member whether Government accept the proposition that, in appointing Members of Council who form the Cabinet—I may roughly describe them as such—they should observe the principle of communal representation.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** It is not a matter for the Government of India, but I notice that Home Members are apt to become a little depressed between the hours of eleven and twelve daily. (Laughter.)

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** My respectful sympathies!

#### RECRUITMENT OF STENOGRAPHERS IN THE RAILWAY BOARD'S OFFICE.

694. **\*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any appointments of stenographers have been made in the Railway Board's office after the 1st January, 1935? If so, what are their ages and qualifications?

(b) What is the age at which a Railway servant is compulsorily made to retire?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** (a) Three temporary stenographers have been appointed recently whose ages are 28, 56 and 63. The first of them was already working in the Board's Office as a clerk, and his qualifications as a stenographer made him suitable. Owing to the accumulation of urgent work, due to illness of permanent stenographers, it was found necessary, a few



days ago, to add to the strength of the staff by appointing two other men, as a purely temporary measure. It was necessary also to choose men whose qualifications were well-known. There were no stenographers with Public Service Commission qualifications available at that time and two retired stenographers were, therefore, employed for the time being. Both of them have since been discharged.

(b) The age of superannuation is generally 60 for ministerial servants and 55 for others. During retrenchment the age limit was reduced as a temporary measure in certain cases.

#### INTERPRETATION OF THE REVISED SCALES OF PAY RULES BY THE RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS.

695. \*Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that the orders on revised scales of pay for subordinates were not uniformly interpreted by various Railway Administrations and Heads of Departments?

(b) Do Government propose to examine all the circular letters issued by the State Railway Administrations on the subject of the revised scales of pay and bring them into one line?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to parts (h) to (j) of question No. 489 asked by Mr. Fakir Chand on the 23rd February, 1935.

#### REVISED SCALES OF PAY FOR SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE RAILWAYS.

696. \*Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that various Railway Administrations who are represented on the Personnel Section of the Indian Railway Conference Association, consult each other on important questions affecting the staff as a whole? If so, was the question of revised scales of pay discussed by that section?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House a copy each of the discussions, if any, and the findings of this section on the subject of the revised scales of pay for subordinate staff?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) The Personnel Section of the Indian Railway Conference Association deals with matters referred to it by the President of the Association and relating to the staff of Railways. The question of revised scales of pay was not discussed by the Personnel Section of the Indian Railway Conference Association. The section really began to function only in 1934.

(b) In view of the reply to the second part of (a) above, this does not arise.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Question No. 697.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Before I put my question, in view of the fact that there is great difficulty experienced on this side of the House in hearing Members on the Government side, who are either inaudible or not understandable, may I suggest that the replies be printed

and circulated to Honourable Members ten minutes before the question time. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member knows very well that the matter is under consideration. There was a question only today.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** I refer to the Provincial Council system.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Question No. 697.

APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDERS AS COMMERCIAL INSPECTORS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

697. **\*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Are Government aware that four outsiders have recently been appointed as Commercial Inspectors on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the object of these appointments was to apply a special check to the working of the checking staff on passengers travelling without tickets?

(c) Is it a fact that the D. T. S. (crew) who is a responsible officer, was not even consulted in the matter of their appointment?

(d) Is it a fact that he protested strongly against their appointments?

(e) Is it a fact that the Commercial Inspectors appointed have been given Rs. 200 per mensem to start with?

(f) Are Government aware that according to the new scales of pay, recently put in force on State Railways, the Assistant Permanent Way Inspectors, Signal Inspectors and other responsible Inspectors will start on Rs. 65 per mensem only?

(g) Will Government please state in what scale of pay the newly appointed Commercial Inspectors have been put?

(h) Is it a fact that one of the Commercial Inspectors appointed is related to a high Railway officer?

(i) Is it a fact that many deserving candidates already in service and some retrenched staff applied for these jobs and their claims were altogether ignored?

(j) Are Government aware that these appointments have caused widespread resentment amongst all sorts of employees of the Railway?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** (a) to (d) and (h) to (j). Government have no information. A copy of this question has been sent to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for examining the allegations made.

(e), (f) and (g). The scale of pay of Assistant Permanent Way Inspectors is Rs. 65 to Rs. 180 and of Commercial Inspectors from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. I am placing a copy of the revised scales of pay on the Eastern Bengal Railway in the Library.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** I want to know the reply of the Honourable Member to part (h) of the question.

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** I have no information. I have sent a copy of the question to the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway for examining the allegations made in the question.

ASSOCIATION OF NAMES OF AGENTS WITH RAILWAY INSTITUTES, DRAMATIC CLUBS, ETC., ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

698. **\*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Is it a fact that several Railway Institutes and Dramatic Clubs, built at Government cost on the Eastern Bengal Railway, are being named after the retiring Agent?

(b) Are Government aware that Railway Hospital recently built at Calcutta on Railway land and with Railway money, has already been named after the Agent?

(c) What are Government rules about the names of officials being associated with Government Institutions?

(d) Do Government propose to issue orders that the naming of Government Institutes after private persons be discouraged as far as possible?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) and (b). Government are aware that the Railway hospital at Sealdah has been named "B. R. Singh" Hospital. They are not aware whether Railway institutes and clubs have been so named. I may point out, however, that such a course is not unusual.

(c) There are no rules on the subject.

(d) Government have no such proposal under consideration.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** If an Agent has a building named after him, will Government consider the question of stopping such a practice?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** No. They do not see any reason to do so.

CATERING DEPARTMENT ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

699. **\*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Is it a fact that the Catering Department was started on the Eastern Bengal Railway with the approval of the Railway Board in the year 1922 by Colonel Cameron, the then Agent of the Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that Food Inspectors were appointed by him to carry on regular inspection of food-stuff offered for sale at various stations?

(c) Is it a fact that the Food Inspectors carried on their work till the end of 1933, i.e., for more than ten years?

(d) Is it a fact that the vending work on this Railway improved considerably during this period and also fetched handsome income to the Railway?

(e) Is it a fact that the jobs of Food Inspectors were abolished all of a sudden at the end of 1933, without even the consultation of the District Officers under whom the Food Inspectors were working?

(f) Is it a fact that the District Officers concerned protested against this decision?

(g) Is it a fact that the main plea for the abolition of Food Inspector's posts was that they were not competent to examine the food-stuff offered for sale?

(h) Is it not a fact that the Food Inspectors carried on their duties for more than ten years and no such plea was ever advanced?

(i) Is it a fact that Food Inspectors were drawing Rs. 150 per mensem, and on the abolition of their jobs they were offered a job on Rs. 100 per mensem as guard?

(j) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial headed "Food Supply on Railway" published in the *Amrita Basar Patrika* of the 27th October, 1934?

(k) Are Government aware that with the abolition of Food Inspector's jobs on the Eastern Bengal Railway, the quality of food stuff offered for sale has greatly deteriorated and the corruption considerably increased?

(l) If the replies to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, what steps do Government now propose to take to put the matters right?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second in the negative.

(e), (g) and (h). The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, states that it was considered that the work which the Food Inspectors were doing could be better and more economically done by the Medical Department. The posts of Food Inspectors were, therefore, abolished.

(f) No.

(i) Yes. In addition to their pay as Guards, the men get a mileage allowance usually amounting to about Rs. 75 per mensem.

(j) Government regret they have not been able to get a copy of the article referred to. If my Honourable friend will send me a copy, I shall have the matter examined.

(k) No. The Agent states that the food is regularly examined by the staff attached to the Railway's Medical Department. In his opinion the transfer of the inspecting work to the Medical Department has further improved matters.

(l) Does not arise.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** With reference to his reply to part (j) of the question, the Honourable Member says that I should supply him with a copy of the article. May I suggest that notice of this question was given fifteen days ago, and it would have been better if the Honourable Member had taken the trouble of procuring a copy, or, had he written to me, I should have supplied him with one?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** I tried to get a copy of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and I found in the *dak* edition of the 27th and 28th this article had not appeared. May I remind the Honourable Member that there is a ruling by the late President of the Assembly that if Honourable Members want to ask questions about articles appearing in newspapers they should themselves send a copy of the articles to the Departments concerned.

**Mr. B. Das:** Then, may I know what is the department of the Director of Public Information for, if at every stage Government ask Members of this House to supply them with copies of newspaper cuttings?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). It is the practice to require Honourable Members who put such questions to supply a copy of the newspaper article referred to therein.

**Mr. B. Das:** The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is a well-known paper.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** May I know the qualifications of these Food Inspectors?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** The Food Inspectors are now in the past tense. The inspecting is at present done by the Medical Department.

**Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** But the Food Inspectors they have got—have they any medical qualifications to do that work?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** There are not any at present.

**Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney:** Has the Medical Inspector got any food qualification? (Laughter.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

##### MILEAGE OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN AND THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAYS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

122. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state the route mileage of the Bengal and North Western Railway and the Bengal Nagpur Railway, respectively, traversing the province of Bihar and Orissa?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** The approximate mileage of the Bengal Nagpur and Bengal and North Western Railways in the province of Bihar and Orissa is given below:

	Miles.
Bengal Nagpur Railway . . . . .	1,278
Bengal and North Western Railway (including Tirhoot Section . . . . .	1,000

##### RECRUITMENT OF BIHARIS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN AND BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAYS.

123. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of gazetted Indian officers appointed in the place of retired European gazetted officers on the Bengal and North Western and Bengal Nagpur Railways, respectively, each year since the Lee Concessions were sanctioned?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give similar information regarding subordinates employed in the above mentioned Railways?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Biharees employed on the Bengal and North Western and Bengal Nagpur Railways in the superior gazetted ranks as administrative District or Assistant Officers in the Commercial and Transportation Departments, respectively?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any Regulations observed by the Bengal and North Western Railway or Bengal Nagpur Railway in giving preference to Biharee candidates for posts in stations coming within Bihar Province?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a) to (c). Such information as Government have on the subject is contained in the Administration Report of Indian Railways.

(d) Government are not aware of any such rule.

#### EXPIRY OF CONTRACT OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN AND THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAYS.

**124. Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state when the present contract of the Bengal and North Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways will expire with Government, and whether any steps are being taken for the purchase of the said Railways on the expiry of the contract?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** Government has the option of terminating the contracts with the Bengal and North Western and the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways on the 31st December, 1957, or, the 31st December, 1942, on giving twelve months' notice.

It is too early yet to consider the question of purchase of these companies lines.

#### PROTECTION TO THE INDIAN PLAYING CARD INDUSTRY.

**125. Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any representation from the Indian Playing Cards Company regarding the necessity of protection of the industry against Japanese competition?

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Statements of have been rising since 1928-29? Will Government be pleased to state the value of imports of playing cards since 1929?

(c) Is it a fact that there are only two playing card manufacturing companies in India, and are Government aware that they are unable to meet Japanese competition?

**The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Statements of the Sea-borne Trade of India, copies of which are in the Library.

(c) Government's information is that there are more than two concerns in India manufacturing playing cards. Representations have recently been received from one of these for assistance against Japanese competition, and these are under examination.

**TRANSFER OF INSPECTORS OF STATION ACCOUNTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

126. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what procedure was in vogue in 1984 regarding the transfer from one section or station to another, of Inspectors of Station Accounts on the North Western Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that it is a general practice not to allow Accounts Inspectors to remain in the same section for more than two or three years, to minimise the possibility of corruption or collusion?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is contemplated to prescribe a definite procedure regarding the transfers of Inspectors of Station Accounts on State Railways to minimise partiality or any injustice?

(d) Are Government aware that the Chief Accounts Officer, East Indian Railway, suggested to the Railway Board that the intervals of inspection of Station Accounts which were prolonged in 1982 should no longer continue?

(e) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action the Railway Board propose to take on this suggestion?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (a), (b) and (c). Till September, 1984, transfers of Inspectors of Station Accounts from section to section were regulated at the discretion of Chief Accounts Officers according to exigencies, but in practice Inspectors seldom remained at one place for more than three years. Orders, however, were issued in September, 1984, asking Chief Accounts Officers not to retain Inspectors of Station Accounts in the same section for more than three years at a stretch, except in special circumstances.

(d) and (e). The Chief Accounts Officer recommended the shortening of the intervals between inspections but, later on, decided to watch the results further before making final recommendations. These final recommendations are still awaited.

**NON-ADOPTION OF SHORT TIME METHOD OF SPREADING WORK IN STATE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.**

127. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state what State-owned Railway Workshops have not as yet adopted short-time or other methods of spreading work to absorb the unemployed and also the number of skilled, unskilled and semi-skilled labour employed in each of the State-owned Railway Workshops?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** I have called for up to date information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

**EXPENDITURE DUE TO LEE CONCESSIONS ON RAILWAYS.**

128. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state the expenditure incurred every year since the Lee concessions were sanctioned on each Class I Railway under Lee concessions for gazetted officers and non-gazetted officers, respectively?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** Government regret that the information required is not readily available and its collection will involve a considerable amount of labour. The following information, regarding officers of non-Asiatic domicile in Class I Railways (excluding the Jodhpur Railway and H. E. H. the Nizam's State Railway), was, however, collected for the year 1931-32 for the Railway Retrenchment Committee and may be taken as approximately correct for that year:

	In lakhs. Rs.
Cost of sterling overseas pay for officers of non-Asiatic domicile . . . . .	41
Passages for officers of non-Asiatic domicile . . . . .	7
Passages for subordinates of non-Asiatic domicile . . . . .	‡

(Overseas pay is not admissible to subordinates).

#### ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

129 **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff employed in the Establishment Branch of the Railway Board under important categories?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of questions referred to the Establishment Branch of the Railway Board and the number of rulings, orders and resolutions arrived at by the Railway Board on Establishment matters in 1933 and 1934?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing a summary of each ruling, order or decision issued on Establishment matters by the Railway Board in 1933 and 1934?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** (a) One Superintendent,  
 nine Assistants,  
 nine clerks,  
 two temporary clerks.

(b) They are innumerable.

(c) This is, I regret, impossible by reason of its bulk.

#### RETENTION OF OFFICERS IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

130. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the justification for retaining the existing number of officers in each Branch of the Railway Board?

**Mr. P. E. Rau:** In the opinion of Government the amount of work done in the office of the Railway Board cannot be done with a smaller staff.

It is for the Honourable Member to show in what respects he considers the existing organisation excessive.



**MAHABODHI TEMPLE AND ITS PREMISES AT BODH-GAYA.**

**181. U Thein Maung:** (a) Will Government please state how much money they have spent on (i) the excavation of the Mahabodhi Temple and its premises at Bodh-Gaya; (ii) the repairs thereto; and (iii) the maintenance thereof?

(b) Will Government please state whether the said temple and its premises have been brought under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act? If not, will Government please state the reason for the omission?

**Mr. G. S. Bajpai:** (a) No expenditure has been incurred on the excavation, repairs or maintenance of the temple during the last thirty years.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to part (c) of U Ba Maung's starred question No. 1073 in this House on the 21st November, 1933.

**REDUCTION IN THE RAILWAY FREIGHT ON SUGAR EXPORTED FROM CERTAIN PROVINCES TO KARACHI.**

**182. Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if they have received a representation from the Pioneer Sind Sugar Mills Company, regarding the proposed reduction in the railway freight on sugar exported from Bihar, the United Provinces and the Punjab to Karachi;
- (b) if it is a fact that Government propose to reduce the railway freight on sugar exported from Bihar, the United Provinces and the Punjab to Karachi;
- (c) if it is a fact that Government propose to retain the railway freight on sugar transported from Nawabshah, Khadro and other stations in Sind to Karachi at the existing rates;
- (d) if the replies to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government are aware that the proposed reduced railway freight on sugar exported from Bihar, the United Provinces and the Punjab to Karachi will be altogether disproportionately lower in comparison with the existing railway freight on sugar transported from Nawabshah, Khadro and other stations in Sind to Karachi;
- (e) if it is a fact that the cost of cane production in Bihar, the United Provinces and the Punjab is much lower than in Sind;
- (f) if so, whether Government are aware that sugar exported from Bihar, the United Provinces and the Punjab to Karachi will obtain an advantage over the sugar produced in Sind owing to the lower cost of cane production and the reduced railway freight in the former case; and
- (g) if so, whether Government propose to take necessary action to ensure that no prejudice is caused to the sugar industry and cane production in Sind?

**Mr. P. R. Das:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No orders have been issued by Government, but I understand that the Railway Administrations concerned have recently made certain reductions in the freight rates on sugar from Bihar, United Provinces and the Punjab to Karachi. The Agent, North Western Railway, states that the question of a reduction from stations in Sind to Karachi is under examination.

(d) and (f). Statements to this effect have been made by the Pioneer Sind Sugar Mills Company.

(e) No adequate data of the cost of sugar-cane cultivation are available.

(g) As I have informed the House already the rates for sugar from stations in Sind to Karachi are being re-examined by the Agent, North Western Railway, and I am sending him this question and my reply for information.

LETTERS WHICH MR. ARUN CHANDRA GUHA, A STATE PRISONER, IS PRIVILEGED TO WRITE.

133. **Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) how many letters Mr. Arun Chandra Guha a State Prisoner under Regulation III of 1918 is now privileged to write in a week?

(ii) whether is it a fact that he invariably wrote three letters every week up to August 1934?

(iii) whether is it a fact that he has not written any letter since September, 1934?

(b) Are Government aware of any reason for his not writing any letter since September 1934?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) (i). In accordance with the rules a State Prisoner is allowed to write three letters a week.

(a), (ii), (iii) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Mr. Basanta Kumar Das' starred question No. 885 on the 21st February, 1935.

I have since been informed that he has resumed correspondence with his relatives.

REPRESENTATION MADE BY MR. ARUN CHANDRA GUHA, A STATE PRISONER.

134. **Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Will Government be pleased to state if Babu Arun Chandra Guha, a State Prisoner under Regulation III of 1918 has made any representation to Government? If so, on what points, and with what result?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** Several representations have been received from Arun Chandra Guha since his detention as a State Prisoner and orders have been passed on them. If the Honourable Member will intimate the point or points on which he requires information I will endeavour to supply it.

PRESENT MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION OF MR. ARUN CHANDRA GUHA,  
A STATE PRISONER.

**135. Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Will Government be pleased to state the present mental and physical condition of Babu Arun Chandra Guha, a State Prisoner under Regulation III of 1818?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** The State Prisoner is in good health. Though he complains of sleeplessness, he eats well, is said to look well and to have gained in weight.

RESTRICTIONS ON INDIAN KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVING IN  
BALUCHISTAN FOR COMBINED LEAVE IN INDIA.

**136. Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that combined leave in India, for Indian King's Commissioned Officers, serving in Units in Baluchistan District, has been restricted to a period not exceeding three months except in special circumstances?

(b) Is it a fact that Regulations for the Army in India provide for combined leave up to a period not exceeding eight months in India and twelve months *ex-India*?

(c) Is it a fact that no such restriction has been imposed on the British Officers?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) and (c). I am making enquiries and will lay the result on the table in due course.

(b) Yes.

CADETS ADMITTED TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

**137. Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) How many cadets out of the ranks of the Indian Army have been admitted to the Military Academy through nomination by the Commander-in-Chief?

(b) How many of these have been turned out or reverted as unsuitable?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** (a) 101.

(b) 10.

TELEGRAMS RECEIVED IN NEW DELHI CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

**138. Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it a fact that since the conversion of the Delhi Government Telegraph Office into a combined office, all telegrams for Delhi are received in New Delhi Central Telegraph Office, whence after one or two hours' delay they are sent by hand to Delhi General Post Office in open covers?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** Since the conversion of the Delhi Telegraph Office into a Combined office all telegrams for and from Delhi pass through the New Delhi Telegraph Office. Express class messages between the Delhi Combined Office and New Delhi are passed by wire.

while messages classed Ordinary are forwarded in locked bags by a motor bicycle service which runs at intervals of twenty minutes from 9 A.M. to 10-40 P.M. The early morning delivery of the night ordinary traffic leaves New Delhi at 5-30 A.M. The few ordinary messages (if any) for Delhi arriving between 5-30 and 9 hours in the morning are transmitted to Delhi by wire with the Express traffic. It is not a fact that the messages are delayed for one or two hours.

#### DELHI C AND A TRAFFIC.

139. **Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it a fact that:

- (a) the Delhi C traffic is nearly 1,000 and A, 200 daily; and
- (b) the average daily income is about Rs. 400?

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:** (a) The average daily C traffic is 658 and A traffic 149.

(b) The average daily revenue from all telegraph messages booked at the Delhi Combined Office is about Rs. 172.

#### LOCOMOTIVES MANUFACTURED IN INDIA.

140. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) what kind of locomotives are being manufactured in India;
- (ii) in which workshops;
- (iii) the total number of locomotives manufactured per annum;
- (iv) since when these locomotives have been manufactured in India;
- (v) the total number of locomotives imported from England and other countries respectively during the same period;
- (vi) the capacity per annum of our workshops to produce locomotives;
- (vii) the relative prices of the same kind of locomotive imported from England and other countries;
- (viii) the cost of production of the same in our workshops; and
- (ix) when the manufacture of other kinds of locomotives also is likely to be taken up?

**Mr. P. R. Rau:** (i) Metre gauge.

(ii) Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway workshops at Ajmer.

(iii) About 15 per annum during recent years.

(iv) About 1896.

(v) The information is not readily available.

(vi) No other workshops are able to produce locomotives.

(vii) Recent comparable prices are not available due to the paucity of orders and the fact that orders for the same types have not been placed simultaneously in England and abroad. The last contract prices for YD class engines purchased in England and Switzerland were Rs. 74,100 and Rs. 78,000 each.

(viii) The last cost of construction of YD class locomotives at Ajmer was Rs. 74,126.

(ix) As I have already stated on previous occasions, the question is under investigation.

TERMINATION OF CONTRACT OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

141. Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) when the contract with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company for the management of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway terminates;
- (ii) what are the financial steps to be taken and at what cost if the State were to take over the management of that Railway;
- (iii) whether Government have considered the advisability of taking over the said management; and
- (iv) if so, when Government propose to give the necessary notice of their intention to take over the management of the said Railway to the Company?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (i) The earliest date on which the contract with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company can be terminated is 31st December, 1937.

(ii) If Government decide to terminate the contract, twelve months' previous notice shall have to be given and arrangements made for the cash payment of the Company's share capital of £5 million.

(iii) Not yet.

(iv) The question will be examined next year.

ABSENCE OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS ON TRAINS RUNNING BETWEEN MADRAS AND MANGALORE.

142. Prof. N. G. Ranga: (i) Are Government aware of the fact that there is no intermediate class in the passenger and mail trains running between Madras and Mangalore on the South Indian Railway?

(ii) If so, why?

(iii) Are Government aware that this causes much inconvenience to many middle-class people?

(iv) Do Government propose to see that intermediate class is introduced on the said Railway line?

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

(ii), (iii) and (iv). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply placed on the table of the House on the 23rd November, 1933, in reply to Mr. K. P. Thampan's question No. 751 asked on the 7th September, 1933.

**INDIAN OFFICERS OF ALL-INDIA SERVICES AND SECRETARIES, JOINT SECRETARIES, ETC., IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.**

143. **Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of officers in the All-India Services, province by province on the 1st of January 1921, 1925, 1930 and 1935? How many of them were Indians?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Under-Secretaries working with the Government of India on the 1st January of the foregoing years, and how many of them were Indians?

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:** (a) Information relating to the percentage of Indians in the All-India Services in 1921 is contained in the statement laid on the table in reply to question No. 170 on the 15th September, 1921. Information as to the number of Europeans and Indians in the All-India Services on the 1st January of each of the years 1925 to 1934 is contained in the annual returns showing the Indianisation of the Superior Civil Services, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The collection of the information in the form asked for by the Honourable Member, i.e., by Provinces, will entail considerable time and labour, but I hope the statements to which I refer will meet his requirements.

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

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**SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**

**REDUCTION OF THE BRITISH ELEMENT IN THE INDIAN ARMY.**

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the speech made by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the Council of State  
12 NOON. on the 25th February, 1935, in reply to the Honourable Rai Bahadur Mehrotra's Resolution, urging a substantial reduction of the British element in the Indian Army;
- (b) when the expert enquiry referred to in the speech was made;
- (c) who the members of the enquiry were;
- (d) what the terms of the enquiry were;
- (e) when the expert enquiry committee submitted their report;
- (f) whether they are prepared to place the report on the table of this House; if not, why not; and
- (g) what the main recommendations of the expert committee are?

**Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham:** (a) Yes.

(b) The investigation started in April, 1931.

(c) It was conducted by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and members of his staff.

(d) The terms of the enquiry followed the terms of the Resolution of the Defence Sub-Committee of the first Round Table Conference, which read as follows:

"The Committee also recognise the great importance attached by Indian thought to the reduction of the number of British troops in India to the lowest possible figure and consider that the question should form the subject of early expert investigation."

(e) 18th June, 1931.

(f) No. It is a confidential document.

(g) The results of the enquiry were published in a Press Communiqué issued on the 21st December, 1933—a copy of which I shall be glad to place in the Library of the House. The main recommendation was that there should be no immediate reduction in the numbers of British troops on the Indian Establishment, partly because those numbers had already been reduced by about 20,000 since the war and partly because the present scheme for the Indianisation of the Indian Army included the gradual replacement of certain British Units by Indian Units, which would in itself involve an automatic reduction in the number of British troops as time went on.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** At the present pace, may I know how many years it will take for the Indian Army to be Indianised?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** At the present rate, it should be obvious to anybody who is not a congenital idiot that the Indian Army will never be Indianised.

*(Cries of "Shame" from the Opposition Benches.)*

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What has happened to the Skeen and Rawlinson Committees' recommendations?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** I do not know what the Honourable Member means by the Rawlinson Committee. If the Honourable Member is referring to the Shea Committee, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief gave an answer in the other House on that question a few days ago, which was published in the papers.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I want an answer in this House. May I ask for a ruling from the Chair?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no question of ruling.

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** I am shortly going to answer a long short notice question by Mr. Satyamurti on the subject of the Indianisation of the Indian Army proper. Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's question dealt with the reduction of British troops. He is now asking supplementary questions about the Indianisation of the Indian Army. I shall deal with that in reply to the next question.

## INDIANISATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they recently examined the whole question of the Indianisation of the Army;
- (b) if so, the nature of the enquiry, the time when it was made and the names and qualifications of those who made the enquiry;
- (c) the place or the places where the enquiry was made;
- (d) whether any Indian witnesses were examined, or whether in any other manner, Indian opinion, expert or lay, was consulted and if not, why not;
- (e) whether the results of the enquiry were submitted to the Government of India, or sent directly to the Committee of Imperial Defence;
- (f) whether they made any recommendation thereon;
- (g) whether the Government of India as a whole were or were not consulted, and if they were not, why not?
- (h) the time and manner of the consideration of this question by the Committee of Imperial Defence;
- (i) the time when the views of His Majesty's Government were conveyed to the Government of India and what those views were;
- (j) whether the Government of India as a whole considered these views and accepted them;
- (k) whether the Government of India had any discretion in the matter; and
- (l) why the Government of India agreed to the proportion of three to one British to Indian in the Indian Army?

**Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:** I think it would be of more value to the Honourable Member and to the House if I were to give a general answer to his question instead of replying to each part of it separately. In doing so I shall endeavour to give the information that he asks for. The specific recommendations of the Defence Sub-Committee of the First Round Table Conference were, firstly, that there should be an immediate and substantial increase in the rate of Indianisation within the Indian Army proper and that a Training College should be started in India for that purpose; and, secondly, that there should be an expert enquiry into the possibility of reducing the number of British Troops on the Indian establishment. These two recommendations, although necessarily interconnected, were formulated separately and were dealt with separately. I have already given an answer regarding the expert enquiry into the possibility of reducing British troops. In this answer, I shall confine myself to the Indianisation of the Indian Army proper, that is to say the replacement of British by Indian officers in that Army. It is clear however from the last part of the question which suggests that the Government of India have accepted a ratio of three British to one Indian in the Indian Army that the Honourable Member is under a misapprehension which I must first endeavour to remove. Neither His Majesty's Government nor the Government of India



have ever prescribed any proportion between British and Indian personnel within the Indian Army—either in the lower ranks, which are, and always have been, almost entirely Indian, or in the higher ranks which, until comparatively recent times, have been entirely British. In the fighting units of the Army in India as a whole, *i.e.*, both the Indian Army and the British Army on the Indian establishment taken together, there are about 80,000 British and 1,20,000 Indians, that is to say the present ratio is about one British to two Indians. In an Infantry Brigade the proportion of Indians is even higher. There are ordinarily one British and three Indian battalions in a Brigade.

Returning now to the question of the Indianisation of the Indian Army—one of the first steps of the present Commander-in-Chief shortly after his arrival in India at the end of 1930 was to re-examine the whole question in the light of the recommendations of the Round Table Conference. The result was a scheme for the complete Indianisation of, or in other words the total replacement of British by Indian officers in, the units required to make up a Division of all arms and a Cavalry Brigade, together with a due proportion of all the ancillary and non-combatant departments which serve the needs of these two war formations. This scheme represented an advance of about 100 per cent. in Cavalry and Infantry alone, on the scheme that had hitherto been in force and which was known as the 'eight unit' scheme. It also involved the introduction of Indian Commissioned officers for the first time in other branches of the Army such as Artillery and Engineers. The Commander-in-Chief's proposals were accepted by the Government of India, who recommended them for sanction to His Majesty's Government in April, 1931. His Majesty's Government sanctioned the scheme without alteration in August, 1931. Before doing so the Committee of Imperial Defence was probably consulted (I have no precise information on that point), but I hope I have made it sufficiently clear that the initiative throughout lay with the Government of India on the advice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and that there is no question whatever of the Government of India's not having been consulted or not having had any discretion in the matter.

While these proposals of the Government of India were under the consideration of His Majesty's Government during the summer of 1931, a Committee under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief met to consider the question of starting an Indian Military Academy in India. This Committee contained the following non-official Indian members:

Sir Abdur Rahim, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chotu Ram, Dr. B. S. Moonje, Mr. S. N. Mukarji, Captain Sher Muhammad Khan, Lieut. Narsain Singh Bahadur and (for the Indian States) Major General Rajwadi, Colonel Lachman Singh and Lieut.-Colonel Mirza Kadir Beg.

Although it was not part of the terms of reference to that Committee to discuss the rate and methods of Indianisation, the Indian members were in fact given an opportunity to express their views on this subject and some of them did so in a lengthy series of separate minutes which were published along with the report. These minutes expressed different views as to the pace and methods of Indianisation, but there was general recognition of the fact that the Commander-in-Chief's scheme did represent a very considerable advance.

In fact while discussions were, and still are, proceeding on many other issues arising out of the Round Table Conference, this particular recommendation was given effect to without delay; and the prompt action taken by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief did lead to an immediate and substantial increase in the rate of Indianisation. It is this scheme which is now in full working order and which is being faithfully and sympathetically carried out by the military authorities.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** I am obliged to the Army Secretary for giving a very full and elaborate answer, but may I ask one or two supplementary questions? May I know the reason why the Government of India have decided that there can be no further reduction in the strength of British troops in India?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** That, Sir, was explained by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the other day. As His Excellency said, we are at the present moment embarking upon an experiment in Indianising the Indian Army. During the process of that experiment, that is, while it is in an experimental stage, His Majesty's Government and the Government of India do not consider it advisable to reduce the British Army below the strength at which it is at present, in view of the fact that it has already been decreased by over twenty-thousand since before the war, and also in view of the fact that the process of Indianisation by itself will automatically involve a gradual reduction of British troops in this country.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Is it or is it not a fact that, for purposes of Imperial defence, the Imperial Government insist on this number being kept in India, and not for the purpose of Indian defence, but for the purposes of Imperial defence?

**Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham:** No, Sir, that is not a fact.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** May I ask . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The House cannot have a debate on that. The House has had a statement giving very full particulars, and Honourable Members will have a further opportunity of discussing this matter of Indianisation later on.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** Sir, may I ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Chair cannot allow any further supplementary questions. Mr. Asaf Ali.

#### AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME PER HEAD IN INDIA AND INCIDENCE OF TAXATION.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the average annual income per head in India (i) before the Great War, (ii) during the years 1918—24, and (iii) now?

(b) Will Government also be pleased to state the incidence of taxation in corresponding years?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the average annual income per head during the same periods in England and also the incidence of taxation in corresponding years?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** (a) The Honourable Member will find a list of the estimates which have been made from time to time of *per capita* income in India on page 162, Volume II of "Indian Economics" by G. B. Jather and S. G. Beri. There are no more recent estimates than the last of those there shewn.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** May I have it again, Sir?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I will lend you a copy.

(b) A statement giving the average figures since 1911-12 is laid on the table. This is of course misleading because it leaves out of account local (as apart from provincial) taxation and it ignores the fact that the burden of import duties is greater and in many instances very much greater than the burden as measured by the sums which actually accrue to the Treasury.

(c) Some estimates of national income are given on pages 166-167 of the above mentioned volume. As regards the taxation per head, I have been unable at this short notice to lay my hands upon the most up to date information but my recollection is: (a) that Lord Snowden stated that national and municipal taxation together now take something like 25 per cent. of the national income and (b) that the corresponding pre-war figure was in the neighbourhood of 10 per cent.

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### INDIA.

#### *Incidence of Taxation.*

	Rs.	a.	p.
1911-12 . . . . .	2	11	8
1912-13 . . . . .	2	13	10
1913-14 . . . . .	2	15	0
1914-15 . . . . .	2	13	7
1915-16 . . . . .	2	13	10
1916-17 . . . . .	3	4	2
1917-18 . . . . .	3	9	10
1918-19 . . . . .	3	11	8
1919-20 . . . . .	4	9	3
1920-21 . . . . .	4	14	2
1921-22 . . . . .	5	0	4
1922-23 . . . . .	5	4	5
1923-24 . . . . .	5	5	7
1924-25 . . . . .	5	6	6
1925-26 . . . . .	5	6	7

	Rs. s. p.
1926-27 . . . . .	5 4 11
1927-28 . . . . .	5 5 0
1928-29 . . . . .	5 5 0
1929-30 . . . . .	5 5 6
1930-31 . . . . .	4 11 6
1931-32 . . . . .	4 12 6
1932-33 . . . . .	4 15 4
1933-34 . . . . .	4 14 10
1934-35 . . . . .	4 10 7

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire which one of the *per capita* rates of income, as given in the statement in that book, does the Honourable the Finance Member himself accept—because it varies from Rs. 25 to Rs. 100 *per capita* as given by different financial and economic experts?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** I would not be rash enough to accept any of them, having had some experience of the mechanics of making estimates of the national income in England. (Laughter.)

**Mr. B. Das:** Does the Honourable Member agree that the correct *per capita* income is something like Rs. 80 and not higher?

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** The Honourable Member is stating his own calculation.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Chair desires to mention to the House that this really is not a proper subject for a short-notice question. This was allowed, but the Chair does not want this to be taken as a precedent for the future. (Hear, hear.)

#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

##### IMPENDING EXECUTION OF ONE ABDUL QUAIYUM FOR MURDER IN SIND.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion for adjournment from an Honourable Member, Mr. K. L. Gauba, and I have to inform him and the House that that motion for adjournment has been disallowed by His Excellency the Governor General under rule 22 (2) on the ground that the motion cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What is the motion, Sir?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion relates to the impending execution of one Abdul Quayum on a conviction and sentence for murder in Sind.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): On a point of order, Sir, I would ask the ruling of the Chair whether the communication of the Governor General is *intra vires* or *ultra vires* of the Governor General?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. If the Honourable Member looks up the rule referred to, he will find that the Governor General has the power to disallow a motion of this nature on the ground which has been stated.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba:** No, Mr. President, I would refer you to rule 22 (2) under which the Governor General has disallowed the discussion of this motion, and I would submit, Sir, that it is not yet a motion before the House. The Governor General has no right to prevent a Member from bringing forward a motion . . . .

(At this stage the Honourable Sir Henry Craik, Home Member, rose.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the point of order of the Honourable Mr. Gauba?

**Mr. K. L. Gauba:** My point of order is that the Governor General can rule out a motion once it is a "motion", that is, under rule 22 (2) after leave has been granted by the House; but the Governor General has no right to prevent a Member from asking for leave to move a motion. (Hear, hear.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think that the point of order raised by the Honourable Member is a valid one. It is quite clear from rule 22 (2) that:

"The Governor General may disallow, on grounds as aforesaid, any motion for adjournment under rule 11, notwithstanding the consent of the President, and if he does so, the adjournment shall not be permitted by the President, and no further discussion of the motion shall take place."

That, the Chair holds, means that when a notice of a motion for adjournment has been given, it is open to the Governor General at any stage to disallow it, and then the President cannot take any further step in connection with that motion.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba:** May I point out, Sir. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Chair has given its ruling.

#### STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

*information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 129 and 130 asked by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen on the 31st August, 1934.*

#### APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES AS TRAIN EXAMINERS.

129. (a), (e) and (e). The details of the training received by Mr. Keys, the Anglo-Indian ex-Apprentice referred to and the considerations on which his selection was based will be found in the reply to part (c) of question No. 375, laid on the table of the House on the 19th July, 1934.

(b) Government are informed that the minimum standard of pass marks is 30 per cent.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(g) A copy of Mr. Keys' certificate is appended.

**EAST INDIAN RAILWAY,**  
**APPRENTICES' TECHNICAL SCHOOL, JAMALPUR.**  
*Full Obverse Certificate.*

Certified that C. Keys studied in the above School for a period of five years and attended lectures and practical classes in the following subjects :

Applied Mechanics, Heat Engines, Mechanical Drawing, Electrical Engineering,  
 Workshop Theory, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

His general conduct has been excellent, progress fair and he is placed in the second Division.

(Sd.) E. E. L. GRUNDY,

B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E.,

A.M.I. Mech. E., A.I.A.E.  
 Principal.

(Sd.) G. TRIMMING,

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer,  
 and Vice Chairman.

Jamalpur, dated the 11th February 1930.

**APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES.**

130. (a) Agent, East Indian Railway, reports :

that he now finds that the reason for return of two apprentices *viz.*, Messrs. P. N. Dutt and T. C. Ghosh was not unsatisfactory working and irregular attendance as previously stated.

(b) The Agent reports that the reply to these questions are in the negative.

(c) (i) The details of the training received by Mr. Keys, the Anglo-Indian ex-Apprentice referred to and the considerations on which his selection was based will be found in the reply to part (c) of question No. 375 laid on the table of the House on the 19th July, 1934.

(ii) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Reference is invited to the reply given to part (c) of question No. 631 asked by Mr. Bhupat Singh on the 4th March 1932. Government understand that when vacancies occur on the East Indian Railway in which it may be decided to appoint shop-trained ex-apprentices these two apprentices will be called for selection and their claims will be considered along with other apprentices.

(f) Does not arise.

*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 5 asked by  
 Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 5th February, 1935.*

**INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO ROAD TRAFFIC BY CLOSING THE BRIDGE OVER THE  
 GANGES NEAR BENARES.**

(a) Yes.

(b) The Ganges bridge is common to road and railway traffic.

(c) The bridge is closed for road traffic when an up goods train leaves Moghal Sarai, as goods trains cannot be stopped at the outer signals for fear of a breakdown due to gradient. In the case of passenger trains, however, the loads are much lighter and the bridge is, therefore, closed only when passenger trains leave Bichupur. As regards down trains, passenger and goods, the bridge is closed when the trains leave Benares.

(d) The bridge is sometimes kept closed for a period of about four hours, but this is with regard to the slow moving road vehicles only; fast road vehicles are permitted to go through whenever there is an interval of not less than twenty minutes between train blocks over the bridge.

(e) The suggestion of stopping trains on either side of the bridge to give precedence to road traffic is impracticable as it would involve serious dislocation of the movement of rail traffic.

Plans are in course of preparation for the regrading of the bridge; the provision of independent accommodation for road traffic will be settled in consultation with the local Government when designs are finally got out.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 37 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 5th February, 1935.

UNQUALIFIED CLERKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.

Statement showing the names, etc., of unqualified men employed in the Government of India Secretariat,

Name of Department.	Names of unqualified men employed on 1st January 1935.	Division in which employed.	Length of service on 1st January 1935.		
			Y.	M.	D.
Education, Health and Lands.	Mr. Nauhria Ram	Statistical clerk	0	8	15
Legislative					
Legislative Assembly.	As-	..	..	..	..
Industries and Labour.	Mr. K. K. Misra	Third	1	4	29
	„ S. P. Sarma	„	1	6	12
	„ Iqbal Singh	„	1	6	0
Reforms	Mr. Gian Chand	Second	2	11	15
	„ Roshan Lal	Third	2	10	0
	„ J. Robinson	Second	2	11	0
	„ Kashmiri Lal	Third	1	8	15
	„ Abdul Haq	„	1	7	15
	„ Amir Singh	„	0	2	15
	„ Ahmad Sajid	„	0	8	0
	„ K. V. Padmanabhan	Second	0	7	0
	„ M. D. Malak	„	2	11	0
	„ G. L. Varma	Third	0	0	20
Home	Mr. Babu Ram Sharma	Third	4	7	11
	„ T. N. Chatterjee	„	4	8	7
	„ N. Chatterjee	„	4	7	6
	„ T. Dorairajan	„	4	6	5
	„ J. C. Paul	„	4	5	23
	„ P. K. Roy	„	3	2	25
	„ M. M. Roy	„	2	11	12
	„ Zamir Husain	„	2	7	23
	„ P. Peachey	„	1	8	12
	„ A. R. Qadri	„	0	0	22
	„ Kewal Kishan	„	0	0	14
Military Finance.	Mr. E. J. Menzies	Third	0	3	24
Finance	„ R. K. Tannan	Third	1	1	21
	„ N. Banerjee	„	0	6	24
	„ Mohindra Sen	„	0	1	17
	„ M. S. Thakur	„	0	0	19
	„ Mohd. Sharif	„	0	0	19

Name of Department.	Names of unqualified men employed on 1st January, 1935.	Division in which employed.	Length of service on 1st January, 1935.		
			Y.	M.	D.
Army	Mr. H. K. Ghazi	Third	2	11	1
	„ C. L. Kohli	„	2	11	7
	„ Rattan Lal Sharma	„	1	2	24
	„ Krishna Datta	„	1	2	24
	„ B. C. Das Gupta	„	1	11	19
	„ M. L. De	„	1	10	16
	„ M. M. Butt	„	0	11	20
	„ Brijanand	„	0	4	10
	Mrs. I. M. Collins	„	0	4	2
	Mr. A. Wahid	„	0	3	13
	„ V. D. Khanna	„	0	1	23
	Miss J. Fairhurst	„	0	1	18
	Mr. R. R. Sett	„	0	10	21
	„ Waizuddin	„	0	3	5
	Foreign and Political.	Mr. S. K. Ayangar	First	4	6
„ T. C. L. Shah		„	3	10	15
„ G. R. Chaubal		„	1	8	15
„ C. K. Maru		Second	1	8	15
„ T. R. Chaubal		„	1	8	15
„ D. Y. Pradhan		„	1	8	15
„ B. B. Benjamin		„	1	8	15
„ Sher Mohammad Khan		Third	4	9	28
„ S. K. Nundy		„	4	2	0
„ Abdul Rahman		„	4	1	25
„ G. B. Ghosh		„	4	1	14
„ Mohammad Aslam Khan		„	2	6	9
„ Sarnagat Singh		„	2	6	8
„ D. D. Sharma		„	2	3	5
„ Habibulla Jan		„	2	2	4
Mrs. M. S. Hosley		„	2	1	29
Miss. G. L. Robertson		„	2	1	10
Mr. Nabi-ul-Hasan		„	2	1	6
„ M. S. Sharma		„	2	1	2
„ Teja Singh		„	2	1	0
„ Banwari Lal		„	1	5	8
„ S. K. Roy		„	1	3	11
„ Asmat Ali		„	1	2	9
„ Tufail Ahmad	„	0	5	25	
„ A. Narsinga Rao	„	0	3	15	
„ C. Jacob	„	0	2	0	
„ Mohammad Tahir	„	0	2	0	
„ C. R. DeMagry	„	0	0	19	
„ K. P. Bose.	„	0	0	19	
„ Mohammad Rafiq.	„	0	0	19	
„ N. N. Kalia	„	0	0	19	



Name of Department.	Names of unqualified men employed on 1st January, 1935.	Division in which employed.	Length of service on 1st January, 1935.		
			Y.	M.	D.
Railway	Mr. Radha Behari	Third	*5	8	18
	„ M. N. Chatterjee	„	*5	9	16
	„ Harbans Lal	„	*4	11	28
	„ C. L. Bery	„	*0	8	18
	„ Nisar Ahmad	„	*3	0	19
	„ K. M. Murtuza	„	*2	4	1
	„ M. P. Kaicker	„	*1	11	10
	„ Bansī Ram	„	*1	2	9
	„ S. M. Said	„	*0	10	9
	„ R. Narasinhām	„	*0	2	26
	„ N. V. Subramaniam	„	0	1	0
	„ Mohammad Bux	„	0	1	0
	„ R. K. Vankatasān	„	*0	2	22
	„ P. V. Rangaswami	„	0	0	29
„ S. M. Masud	„	0	0	15	
„ M. N. Ramchandram	„	0	0	15	
Commerce	Mr. Ehsan-ul Haq	First	4	5	0
	„ M. M. Siddique	Third	4	5	0
	„ Sukhdev Kumar	„	1	4	0
	„ A. N. Fegredo	„	0	11	0
	„ L. R. Dhami	„	0	10	0
	„ Nandlal	„	0	5	0
	„ A. N. Chopra	Stenographer.	2	8	0
„ B. N. Chada	„	0	5	0	
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.	Mr. Har Dayal	Third	0	8	0

*Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 95 and 97 asked by Mr. M. Asaf Ali on the 11th February, 1935.*

#### PUBLICATION OF THE DELHI PROVINCIAL BULLETIN.

\*95 and \*97. 3,000 copies are published. Twelve separate issues per month in English, Urdu and Hindi were published in 1933. The Bulletin is now published approximately at the same intervals. The total expenditure incurred during the years 1932 to 1934 on the publication of the Bulletin is as follows :

	Rs.
1932	5,724
1933	5,028
1934	4,020

\*Including broken periods.

No separate figures for printing, editing and circulation are available. The expenditure has been mainly met by public subscription.

2. There are no regular subscribers of the Bulletin. Copies have been sold as well as distributed free. Information as to the income from the sale of copies is not available. The work of editing and management is carried out under the general supervision of the Industrial Surveyor (now Superintendent of Industries), Delhi.

*Information promised in reply to the second part of starred question No. 159 asked by Mr. V. V. Giri on the 12th February, 1935.*

#### ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF WAGES TO BE PAID TO RAILWAY LABOUR IN INDIA.

The estimated amount of wages to be paid to Railway labour in India during 1935-36 in respect of the works programme for that year is approximately Rs. 67½ lakhs.

*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 182 asked by Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon on the 12th February, 1935.*

#### ASSESSMENT WITH EXCISE DUTY OF KHANDSARI SUGAR FACTORIES.

(a) Yes. They are not required to be registered under the Act. The number of factories assessed is 143. The Government of the United Provinces have intimated that information could not be had from all districts. The number of factories assessed viz. 110 in United Provinces has been included in the above figure.

(b) As already stated in (a) above sugar factories are not required to be registered under the Act. The amount of excise duty recovered so far from these factories is Rs. 72,283-5-2.

(c) Yes. The total number of Khandsari sugar factories which do not come within the definition of the Sugar (Excise Duty) Act, 1394, in all provinces except the United Provinces, is 521. There are a large number of Khandsari concerns in the United Provinces but no figures are available showing their number or the quantity of sugar produced by them. The local Government report that they have undertaken to ascertain the approximate amount of sugar produced by Khandsari factories but the results of the enquiry will not be available for some time yet. So far as the other provinces are concerned the information is given below :

Province to which the factories belong.	Number of Khandsari sugar factories which do not come within the definition of the Act.	Quantity of sugar produced.
Bombay . . . . .	3	Figures not available.
Assam . . . . .	1	No manufacture.
Central Provinces . . . . .	1	Negligible.
Bengal . . . . .	24	3 factories produce 26 maunds per day ; output of others not known.
Punjab . . . . .	473	The average quantity produced at each factory during the year 1933-34 was 239 maunds.
Madras . . . . .	4	2,240 maunds 16 seers up to the end of June 1934.
Bihar and Orissa . . . . .	15	Half a maund on an average per day at each factory.
	521	

Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 219 asked by Seth 'Haji Abdoola Haroon on the 13th February, 1935.

**ASSESSMENT WITH EXCISE DUTY OF SUGAR FACTORIES IN THE INDIAN STATES.**

(a) There are 11 sugar factories in the Indian States.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 224 asked by Mr. S. Satyamurti on the 14th February, 1935.

**REVOLUTIONARY PERSONS CONVICTED IN PROVINCES.**

Statement showing the number of persons (a) who are still undergoing imprisonment for crimes of a terrorist nature committed before 1920, and (b) who were convicted for such crimes during the period 1920 to April 1930.

Terrorist prisoners still undergoing imprisonment for crimes committed before 1920.

Province.	No.	Case in which convicted.	Unfinished term of imprisonment.	Remarks.	Terrorist prisoners convicted during the period 1920 to April 1930.
Madras	..	..	..	..	..
Bombay	2	Gujrat riots case of 1919.	(1) 9½ years without remission. (2) 5 years without remission.	One of them was the ring-leader in the Virangaum riots and another was one of the murderers of a police constable in the riots at Ahmedabad. Their cases will be reconsidered by the local Government when each of them has served 20 years' imprisonment including remission.	5
Bengal	2	Shibpur Dacoity case of 1916.	About 7 years in each case.	Both these prisoners were conditionally released in 1926, but were recommitted to jail 1932 for failing to comply with the terms of their bonds. It is not proposed to release them prematurely.	59
United Provinces. Punjab	.. 15	.. One was convicted in the 1914 — 15 Lahore Conspiracy Case, and the others in connection with the disturbances in the Punjab in 1919.	.. All the prisoners are undergoing life sentences which are indeterminate.	.. No decision has been reached regarding the date of release of these prisoners.	38 79

Province.	No.	Case in which convicted.	Unfinished term of imprisonment.	Remarks.	Terrorist prisoners convicted during period 1920 to April 1930.
Burma	..	..	..	..	..
Bihar and Orissa.	..	..	..	..	14
Central Provinces.	..	..	..	..	..
Assam	..	..	..	..	..
N. W. F. P.	..	..	..	..	..
org	..	..	..	..	..
Delhi	..	..	..	..	2
Ajmer-Marwara.	..	..	..	..	..
Total	19				197

*Information promised in reply to starred question No. 247 asked by Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq on the 14th February, 1935.*

**BENGALI MUSLIMS APPOINTED IN THE SUPERIOR GRADE OF THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.**

*Statement showing the number of Appraising, Preventive and Ministerial Appointments made during the the last five years in the various Offices of the Customs Department and the number of appointments given to Bengali Muhammadans.*

	Total number of appointments.			Number of Bengali Muhammadans.		
	Appraising.	Preventive.	Ministerial.	Appraising.	Preventive.	Ministerial.
<i>Custom Houses.</i>						
Calcutta	7	48	36	1	3	7
Bombay	20	21	66	..	..	1
Karachi	15	6	28	..	..	..
Madras	7	4	14	..	..	..
Rangoon	2	21	15	..	..	..
Chittagong	..	4	3	..	2	2*

\* Including one retrenched clerk re-appointed.

*Information promised in reply to part (e) of starred question No. 499 asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman on the 23rd February, 1935.*

**COMMUNAL INEQUALITY IN THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT, BIHAR AND ORISSA.**

(e) It is not a fact.

*Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 591 and 592 asked by Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar on the 27th February, 1935.*

**FAMINE IN THE CEDED DISTRICTS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.**

591. (a) Famine has been declared only in parts of the Anantapur and Bellary districts. No Famine Commissioner has been appointed, but the Commissioner of the Board of Revenue, Madras, Land Revenue and Settlement, is in charge of the famine relief operations.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) No such committees have been formed, as far as Government are aware.

(f) The area has been subject to famine for a very long time the more serious famines having occurred in 1876-78, 1891-92 and 1896-97. Famine also occurred in one or other of the ceded districts in the years 1921-22, 1923-24, and 1934-35. Test works were started in Bellary districts in the year 1931-32, but it proved unnecessary to convert them into relief works. Particulars of the amount spent on famine relief measures until the year 1934 are not readily available, and their compilation would involve a great deal of time and labour.

(g) The information is not readily available.

**FAMINE RELIEF MEASURES IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.**

592. (a) Yes.

(b) There are six relief works and one test work in the Anantapur districts, and two relief works and two test works in the Bellary District.

(c) A statement giving information for week ending 16th February 1935 is attached.

(d) With the exception of one tank work all the relief works now undertaken are road works. They are of a permanent nature but unremunerative.

(e) Yes. One tank work in Anantapur.

*Statement showing the number of Workers employed on the several Test and Relief Works for the week ending 16th February, 1935 in the Anantapur and Bellary Districts.*

		Taluk.	No. of workers.
Anantapur—			
Relief Works	Tadpatri	. . . . .	1,945
Penukonda—			
	Budali-Kottacheruvu Road	. . . . .	496
Penukonda and Hindupur taluks—			
	Palasamudram and Kotnur Road	. . . . .	2,442
Penukonda and Hindupur taluks—			
	Parigi and Roddam Road	. . . . .	1,643

	Talak.	No. of workers.
<b>Anantapur—contd.</b>		
<b>Relief Works—contd. Penukonda—</b>		
	Mavatur tank work . . . . .	845
<b>Gooty—</b>		
	Gooty and Nagasamudram road . . . . .	2,031
Test work . . . . .	Anantapur talak . . . . .	928
<b>Bellary district—</b>		
Relief works . . . . .	Siruguppa . . . . .	696
	Alur . . . . .	2,045
Test works . . . . .	Bellary . . . . .	801
	Rayadrug . . . . .	585

For the purpose of wages workers are divided into three classes, and no distinction is made on the ground of sex.

Class I workers are paid from Re. 0-1-3 to Re. 0-1-6.

Class II " " " " Re. 0-1-0 to Re. 0-1-3.

Class III " " " " Re. 0-0-9 to Re. 0-1-0.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

**Secretary of the Assembly:** Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State:

"Sir, I am directed to inform the Legislative Assembly that the following motion was passed in the Council of State at its meeting held on Wednesday, the 27th February, 1935, and to request the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in the said motion:

"That this Council do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that the Bill to amend the law relating to marriage and divorce among Parsis be referred to a Joint Committee of this Council and of the Legislative Assembly, and that the Joint Committee do consist of 12 members."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the House takes up the general discussion of the General Budget, the Chair has to announce that it has fixed 20 minutes as the time-limit for the speeches. But before the general discussion commences, the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce has to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act.

#### THE INDIAN MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

##### PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce** (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1928, for certain purposes.

## THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

**Mr. H. P. Mody** (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, Finance Members all the world over are a very hard-used tribe: no one has a good word for them. Whether they produce surpluses or deficits, whether they tax the poor man's salt or the rich man's income, whether they propose to spend on weapons of destruction or means of construction, they are always in the wrong. I am sure, my Honourable friend, with his experience of so many British budgets, realises that, and it is possible that he might discount the criticisms which will pour in on him during the next few days, and he might be tempted to regard the opposition as his natural enemies. I will ask him, however, to remember that, in spite of the fact that a great many impractical and unsound suggestions have been made during the course of budget debates in the past, some very valuable advice has been tendered to Government also, which, if it had been accepted, might have saved the country many disasters.

Within the limitations imposed upon a debate of this character, it is not my intention to deal with individual aspects. I am going only to confine myself to the general picture presented by the budget. I am going to ask, in what manner it can be regarded as being a reflex of the true condition of the country, and in what measure is it an attempt to promote its economic development. From that point of view, it does not matter to me really how individual items have been disposed of; what counts really is the general policy of the Government of India and their attitude towards questions of fundamental importance to the country. Sir, in my opinion two things are required if the economic condition of India is to be improved. The purchasing power of the country has got to be raised and the bloated military budget has got to be drastically cut down. If these things are not done, the Finance Member can only play about within a very limited field. He can put a little on one tax and take a little off another, but in the main the economic condition of the country will continue to be unsatisfactory. Now, Sir, how is the internal purchasing power of the country to be raised? We hear a great deal these days of economic planning. I have no use for high-sounding phrases; what is required is a more enterprising policy on the part of the Government of India. One of the obvious directions is a more helpful attitude towards industrial development. It is true—and we gratefully recognise it—that within the last few years several industries have received protection, which has enabled them to live and in some cases even to prosper. Situated as the economic world today is, India's goal must be in the direction of industrial self-sufficiency. With quotas, tariff barriers and exchange restrictions imposed everywhere, the only thing that India can do is to have a protectionist policy, and if you like, even a rabidly protectionist policy. But, Mr. President, I foresee a time coming—perhaps coming sooner than most of us expect—when the economic structure of the world may crumble down and a new orientation of policy may take place. Already various countries are moving away from tariff barriers and moving in the direction of agreements. An outstanding example of this was provided two years ago when a delegation from the Japanese Government came to negotiate with this country. It was certainly not in the interests of India that she should allow Japanese cloth to come in this country, particularly as much as four hundred million yards, but India had to consider the case of her cotton cultivator and she agreed, in

return, for the purchase of Indian cotton to admit Japanese cloth. In some such way, we may find that, while our ambition may be to fully satisfy all the requirements of India in respect of manufactured articles, world forces may prove too strong for us and we may not be able to do it.

There is another difficulty which I foresee with regard to the main industries of the country, a difficulty which is of recent growth. My Federation, the Employers' Federation of India, of which I happen to be the President, and which represents most of the major industries of the country, has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Government to the handicaps imposed on industries in British India through labour legislation being forced at a pace not being correspondingly adopted in Indian States. This is becoming a serious handicap, and industries of all kinds are springing up in one Indian State after another. In so far as the States are trying to utilise their natural advantages, there can be nothing but cordial agreement with their policy, but in so far as they are seeking to develop their industries through unfair conditions, through competition which is not fair, I say that that is a state of things which must make the Government of India sit up and consider very seriously. Another danger has arisen recently. The Indian tariff is becoming more and more complicated and burdensome; excise duties are being imposed and attempts are made to get the Indian States to fall into line. But very recently what has happened in certain States is that exemptions are made, even when they have accepted the principle of excise duties. I will give the instance of matches which are produced in an Indian State and marketed in British India at prices against which the British Indian industry cannot compete. I say that that is a state of things which we have got very seriously to consider. Considering all this, I am inclined to think that the possibility of a very rapid industrial development in British India is not as bright as one might expect. I have held the view for some time that it is in the direction of the smaller industries that the line of advance should lie and I have no doubt that if the policy underlying the Safeguarding Act, which was passed two years ago, is vigorously pursued, many small industries for which there is great scope in India would be developed and would supply the essential requirements of the people. Sir, the State has a part to play in this business. The State can give more direct and more energetic assistance than what it has found itself able to do so far. What happens today is that industries establish themselves, and, when they find themselves in difficulties, they approach the Government of India. The Government of India consider their case. Then the case is forwarded to the Tariff Board. The Tariff Board sometimes takes a year to consider it. All sorts of interests appear before the Board, and finally its recommendations are forwarded to the Government of India, who again sit in judgment on it, and then comes legislation. I ask, whether this procedure which has served us so well in the past, is suited any longer to the changed requirements of the times. The Government can also, through the various Directors of Industries in the provinces, develop a more active policy of encouragement of industries, even by guaranteeing in certain cases interest and capital. Then, there are marketing facilities to be provided, the regulation of commodity exchanges and various other things which would help not only the producer of the raw materials but also the manufacturer. A case in point is the legislation which has been on the tapis for the last several years, namely, the licensing of gins and presses. It is true that there is not unanimity about it, but there is a substantial



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body of opinion which feels that in the proper regulation of gins and presses lies the true interest of the cultivator.

I will not deny, Sir, that while so much is required of Government, a great deal is required also of industrialists themselves if they are to maintain their position today. Industrialists must not only be content with producing, and even producing with economy and efficiency—efficiency and economy of course are essential—but they must realise that the consumer's demand has got to be enlarged if the country is to absorb all that it produces and all that it receives from abroad. I refer, as instances in point, to the propaganda carried out as regards tea and cement interests which has helped enormously in the consumption of tea and cement in this country.

I shall refer next to the tariff and revenue policy of the Government. In his budget speech, on which I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member—he avoided all frills and made a matter of fact presentation of facts as he saw them—in his speech the other day, he envisaged a revision of revenue tariffs in certain directions. I do not know how his mind is running, but I do hope that he will not take any action unless he has consulted Indian interests. After all, Sir, within the shelter of these revenue duties, a great many small industries have grown up, and they would be ruined by any hasty scaling down of tariffs. That is an aspect of the question which I would like to urge upon my Honourable friend. In this connection, I cannot help remarking that Government are sometimes very strangely irresponsive to the requirements of the country. Take, for instance, the cinema industry. Strong representations have been made in this House and outside for the last few years by the cinema industry, and yet we find that the raw materials of that industry are being taxed for the sake of the revenue which is derived. The cinema industry has an enormous future in this country. In the United States of America, it ranks perhaps third or fourth in importance. In every other country, it certainly ranks amongst the first dozen industries. Situated as India is, even in spite of her poverty, I foresee an enormous future for this industry. Surely the Government ought to encourage it by every possible means within their power. I hope, when my Honourable friend deals with our criticisms, he will tell us why it is that Government have not seen their way yet to help the cinema industry.

Another thing which I have got to bring to the notice of the House is the proposal with regard to salt duty. I do not know, Sir, in whose interests it is conceived. It may be that, for the time being, if the salt duty is removed, the consumer of salt in Bengal will benefit, but I want to know whether it is not a fact that in the last analysis he will probably be paying more for his salt through elimination of Indian competition than he is doing at the moment. (Hear, hear.)

**An Honourable Member:** I will deal with that point when I speak.

**Mr. H. P. Mody:** I am glad my Honourable friend who is behind me is going to deal with that. I respect the weight of his authority! What I was going to say was that if the salt industry had been wholly established in India, I am sure this action would not have been proposed, but because a part of that industry is located in Aden, therefore the duty is

sought to be taken away. Now, we have been complaining, and complaining vehemently, for years together of the handicaps imposed upon Indian traders in the Colonies and the Dominions, but what we are now seeking to do is to handicap traders who have established themselves in a part of British India itself. When Aden is separated, it may be a different matter. We shall apply other considerations to it; but so long as Aden is a part of British India, I want to know why the Indians, who have settled there and who never imagined that Aden was to be separated from British India, who have sunk their capital in the enterprise, should be allowed to be ruined.

One other matter arising out of the budget which I want to refer to briefly in passing is the question of gold export. We are all victims of catch phrases, and it is these wretched catch phrases which very often prevent a dispassionate consideration of important issues. I am not going to say that it is all distress gold that is going out of the country. That is a view-point which stinks in the nostrils of Government; all that I want to know, and I am asking as an humble enquirer, all that I want to know is whether the fact that so much of gold has gone away from the country does not to a certain extent mean that the country is living on its capital. Apart from any other consideration, one result has been that we have been able to increase our imports of commodities and manufactures. Now, the question is, is it a matter of undiluted satisfaction that the country should have lived, so to speak, upon its capital in this matter? One other question I would ask my Honourable friend. India has always been regarded as the sink of the precious metals, and, within the last 25 years, enormous accumulations of gold have taken place which are now being drawn upon. Supposing we were to revert to the happy position within the next two or three years in which, after paying for all our remittances and home charges, we still had a favourable balance of trade and we had to import the precious metal, will it not be that we shall be paying more for our gold than we have realised on an average in all these years. I wish my Honourable friend to answer that question.

Sir, I come now to the all-important question of agricultural indebtedness. Sir George Schuster a year or two ago gave certain figures by which he tried to show that the lot of the agriculturists had not been so miserable as was supposed. I shall take his own figures; they show that in 1938 the value of eleven of the most important exported products of India came down to 46 per cent. as compared with the period of 1920-30. In other words, the cultivator, for every hundred rupees that he realised in the period between 1920 and 1930, realised Rs. 46 in 1938. At the same time, he paid much more than Rs. 46 for those articles,—and they are only a very few,—which he consumed; he paid a great deal more, because it is a known fact in economics that manufactures lag behind food products in a world depression in the matter of price. So what happened was that while the cultivator was realising only Rs. 46, he was probably paying Rs. 60, 70 or even 80 for what he consumed. Now, Sir, how can it be said in these circumstances that the lot of the agriculturist is one which need not cause any anxiety? I grant here again that a great deal has been done in recent years in the matter of relief of the agriculturist. Debt legislation in all the provinces has been initiated. But a great deal of this debt legislation, I am afraid, has been ill-conceived and hastily executed, and I feel that the Government of India can do an enormous service to the provinces if they were to give them the benefit of their

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advice and guidance, and if they were to bring about a co-ordinated policy. A great deal remains to be done, and the success which, for instance, has been achieved in the Central Provinces in the matter of setting up conciliation boards must be a reminder to the Government of India that while the problem is bristling with difficulties it is capable of solution. And that brings me, Sir, to the one crore grant which my Honourable friend has promised in his budget. There must be general agreement that no feature of the budget is as happy as this one. It is a very substantial measure of relief, but my only fear is that it may be frittered away in showy undertakings, in spite of the fact that my Honourable friend has promised a very careful scrutiny on the part of the Government of India of every scheme put up for their consideration. I say, here is a field, an enormous field for co-operation between Government and the people. We may have our political differences, but, surely, in a matter, which affects vitally the well-being of the masses, there can be only one attitude, and that is that each one of us, whether he be a Government servant or a member of the public, has got to help. There are a great number of non-official agencies which work in the villages and in the districts. They have been working for years, and my suggestion is that provincial Governments should impress them into their service, and should borrow from their experience, if this one crore of rupees is to reach the masses and give them the fullest possible benefit.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has exceeded his time.

**Mr. H. P. Mody**: Sir, if you give me five minutes more, I will conclude.

I said at the start that another thing which requires to be done is that the military expenditure must be drastically cut down. Exhaustive statements of policy have been made today in answer to short notice questions. I say, I am not concerned with how much we spend *per capita*; I am not concerned with what is the extent of the territory which has got to be protected. The simple position which I take up is that we simply cannot afford the present military expenditure. And if India has to make a choice between a little less security and a little less crippling of her resources, I have no doubt whatsoever how the decision would be made. Sir, India certainly requires protection against internal disturbances and external aggression, but she needs even more to feed and clothe her masses and to secure for them the satisfaction of their most elementary needs.

Sir, just a few words about the country's financial position. Some time ago, I pointed out that the country had lived beyond its income to the tune of 56 crores of rupees during the previous ten years. Taking today the previous 15 years, I find that the country has lived beyond its income to the extent of 50 crores of rupees. Sir George Schuster did not challenge my figures. He only pointed out that I had taken no account of the provision that had been made for debt reduction and redemption. Sir, that is a provision which the Finance Member has admitted must be the first charge upon the revenues and I do not take that into account, and I repeat that the country has lived beyond its income to the extent of 50 crores of rupees. We must all admit that in one respect we are happier than probably some of the biggest countries in the world,

and that is in the matter of our credit. Our credit stands very high in international markets, and that has been achieved by budgetary equilibrium. It has been achieved by the sacrifices which the country has been asked to make in the way of additional taxation. But the limit of taxation has been reached, and I ask my Honourable friend to believe that the Indian tax-payer can offer no further resources which he can tap, and that the problem of middle-class unemployment is becoming a monster which may devour every one of us in time to come.

I come to my last word. My Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, from what I know of him, is a realist. I ask him to consider what sort of economic future he envisages for the country if his balance-sheet is going to be overweighted by one single item, namely, the military expenditure, and if the industrial backwardness of India and the agricultural indebtedness are to continue. When he has considered the matter, I hope he will persuade his colleagues in the Government of India to adopt a bolder policy towards the industrial and agricultural development of the country, and, at the same time, save the country from the stranglehold of the military budget.

**Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah** (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars: Landholders): Sir, I should like to make a few observations on the budget. The budget proposals which have been presented to this House by the Honourable the Finance Member in regard to the coming year are, I might say, very encouraging. It is refreshing to see that in the coming year's budget there is no proposal for fresh taxation. It is after many years that we have no proposal for additional taxation, and our thanks are due to the Honourable the Finance Member. I must, at the same time, congratulate the Finance Member on his candour in admitting the shortcomings of his budget. The Honourable the Finance Member says that the budget certainly does not satisfy him. I am afraid, if the author of the budget is not satisfied with his own budget, it is not going to satisfy others. The Honourable the Finance Member, while disposing of his surpluses, has taken upon himself the impossible task of pleasing every one. He has tried to please the agriculturists, the industrial and commercial classes, the poor and middle classes, and the services. But I must state frankly that he has been able only to satisfy the services. He has made a provision of one crore of rupees for the economic development of the rural areas. I think we ought to feel grateful to him for this small mercy, and we ought to be grateful to the Government of India for taking interest in the rural areas since last year. They had an economic conference last year, and this year the Government of India have translated their sympathy into action by providing one crore of rupees for rural uplift. But I must say that this one crore for the vast area of India is a very small sum: this tiny dole will not be very much appreciated by the people of the rural areas who are the teeming millions, nor will this tiny dole serve the purpose for which it is provided.

As regards the Honourable the Finance Member's proposal for reduction in the income-tax burden, I do not think the industrial and commercial classes are fully satisfied with his reduction of one-third of the surcharge; nor are the middle and poor classes, who pay income-tax on incomes from one to two thousand rupees, satisfied with his proposal. Had he taken the bold step of raising the income-tax limit from one thousand to two thousand rupees, I am sure, it would have been very much appreciated by all.

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Coming to the services, I think it is an inopportune time to restore their cut in pay. Had he restored the cut in the pay of menials and clerks, nobody would have grudged it; but I am sure that his restoration of the cut to other officials is very much resented. Government have always treated their services generously. When the cost of living went high, Government gave their services substantial increases in their salary. On the top of it came the Lee Commission concessions; then the time-scale was introduced for their benefit. All these concessions cost the country crores of rupees. Now, when there is depression, when the cost of living has gone down, I feel that Government servants also like others should take the rough with the smooth.

I come now to the remarks of the Honourable the Finance Member as regards gold. I am sorry I do not agree with him there. May I ask, when other countries are conserving their gold resources, when they are hoarding gold, why should not India do so? The Honourable the Finance Member knows there is a great flow of gold from India. Why does he not stop it by imposing a heavy export duty? Again, the Honourable the Finance Member thinks there is in India a plethora of gold and only the surplus is being sent out for India's benefit. It might be true in some cases; but in most cases the people have to meet their demands; take the agriculturists who are the backbone of the country. May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member if it is not the agriculturists that pay all these excises—excises on matches, sugar, kerosene oil and tobacco? It is the agriculturists that pay land revenue and the water rate: they pay the rates to the local bodies, and what is their position now? The price of their produce has gone down considerably and they are hit very hard: in order to meet their demands, most of them have been selling their gold—not because it is surplus gold. Only some of them might be selling their surplus to make a little profit.

When I looked at the budget, though it shows a surplus of a crore and a half, I found that that surplus has been achieved by postponing the payment of liabilities. I take the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member: he himself admits that we have got a moratorium of Rs. 58 lakhs from the United Kingdom; otherwise he would have had to make provision in the budget for that. Again he considers three crores as a reasonable amount for the redemption of debt. But the old convention has been—it was established in 1924—that for all borrowings before the 31st March, 1923, a provision of four crores ought to be made for the redemption of debt; and on subsequent borrowings 1½ per cent.: and that convention was followed till last year: it was a sound convention, and according to that convention, I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member would have to provide not less than six to seven crores for the redemption of debt: and the redemption of debt is the first charge on the revenues: and he states as his reason that most of the debt is borrowed for the purpose of the railways; and unless railways pay, we should provide only three crores. May I put it to him—suppose the railways do not pay for ten years more, is he going to postpone the evil day indefinitely or for ever? But he is himself conscious of the fact that three crores is not sufficient for the redemption of debt; and out of his surplus he adds 75 lakhs to it. Had he made proper provision for the redemption of debt, I am sure this would have been a deficit budget.

Let us now see how our expenditure is shaping. In 1933-34, our expenditure was Rs. 75.97 crores: in 1934-35, it was Rs. 78.12 crores—revised, Rs. 78.53 crores; and next year's budget estimate is Rs. 88.69 crores . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg** (Finance Member): Give the figure in the table corresponding to those figures: it is not 88.69.

**Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah:** Even if I take the figure at Rs. 80.06 crores it shows that the expenditure is still on the increase, on the upward grade. Then not only that, but along with the civil expenditure, which is steadily increasing, let us take the defence expenditure. What did the Honourable the Finance Member say about it? This is what he said:

"In his budget speech last year my predecessor again communicated to the House a warning previously given that a large reduction in defence expenditure in recent years had been secured to some extent by emergency measures of a temporary character, and that the figure of 44.38 crores could not be regarded as representing a new permanent level of defence expenditure."

That means this is the bare minimum, and it is liable to increase. Therefore, not only the civil expenditure goes on increasing, but there is a likelihood of the military expenditure also increasing.

Now, let us take the revenues. What does the Honourable the Finance Member say about opium? That is what he says:

"As Honourable Members are aware, this source of income, will practically cease at the end of the present calendar year in accordance with the policy which was announced some years ago by the Government of India, and in future we shall recover only the cost of opium sold for consumption in India."

And what is the opinion of the Honourable the Finance Member about the sugar import duties? He says that when sugar factories will be in full working order, this income out of the import duty will also ultimately disappear. I shall quote his own words:

"The process may not, however, be completed during 1935-36 and the best forecast we can make is to assume an import revenue of 175 lakhs."

He further says:

We cannot, however, anticipate that the revenue from the import duty will remain at so high a figure in 1935-36 and the increased revenue to be expected from the excise duty will by no means compensate for this inevitable reduction. During the period when Indian factories were not working at their full strength imports have been substantial, but when Indian production reaches its full level, imports of foreign sugar for ordinary consumption will almost disappear, and there will only be certain small imports of the finer varieties of sugar."

So Sir, according to the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member, import duty on sugar is also likely to disappear in the near future. That is, taking the two, the opium revenue and the import duty on sugar together, our revenue will shrink to the extent of about two crores. Now, Sir, I have shown to the House that the expenditure is on the increase and the revenue is shrinking. My friend from Sind might say that this is an under-estimate of sugar import,—I have no quarrel with him if he says that it is an under-estimate or an over-estimate. It is immaterial for my purpose. Now, Sir, what has been the policy of the

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Government of India since the depression set in in 1929? It has been a policy of what may be called *laissez faire*. They have been balancing their budgets by taxing the people. The credit of budgetary equilibrium is due to the people, who have been subjected to all sorts of taxes. May I ask the Finance Member how much taxation has been levied since 1929 by the Government of India? It must be to the tune of many crores. Take the Local Governments. They have also for the purpose of balancing their budgets been levying taxes to the extent of some crores . . . .

**Mr. S. K. Hosmani** (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Who did it? In Bombay you were the Finance Member.

**Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah**: Yes, I did it, and I take the credit and the discredit both together.

Then, Sir, the same is the case with regard to the local bodies. In spite of this heavy taxation, what is the financial position of India today? Look at the resources of the local bodies. They have depleted treasuries. What is the plight of the Provincial Governments? Excepting a few, most of them have deficit budgets. Then what is the position of the Government of India? It is, I might say, hand to mouth existence. Therefore, I would request the Finance Member to take his courage in both hands and adopt a bold policy of rigid economy, retrenchment and re-organisation. If he won't do it, then I might assure him that the people cannot bear any more taxation. Military expenditure is already increasing steadily. It might be said that the military authorities have already brought down their expenditure to the lowest possible limit and that they have reduced it to 44 crores, which is less than the recommendation made by the Inchcape Committee. But what about the losses on strategic lines? That money ought to be debited to the military department. What about the Indian Medical Service officers that the Government of India compel the Provinces to employ and pay for? Their salaries ought to be debited to the military department. Then, Sir, the military authorities themselves admit that this 44 crores is only a provisional figure liable to increase, because they have kept in abeyance many of their important works. That means the expenditure will come to many more crores, and I don't think that a poor country like India can afford to pay this sum. \* . . \*

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

**Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah**: I shall finish in a few minutes, Sir. Whenever suggestions have been made for reducing the army expenditure, the policy has always been dictated by the Army Department, and, therefore, it is but fair that those who call the tune must pay the piper. The Army Department will not contribute properly to the heavy military expenditure. They ought either to carry out the recommendations of their own expert committees, or they ought to contribute a considerable amount to the defence of this country. There is a great deal of room for retrenchment also in the civil expenditure. Before I sit down, I will again request the Honourable the Finance Member to give up this policy of drift and follow a bold policy of rigid economy, retrenchment and reorganisation.

**Sir Leslie Hudson** (Bombay; European): Sir, I should like to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on the brevity of his speech, the crisp and concise sentences of which are strongly reminiscent of the style of Lord Snowden, one of Britain's most able Chancellors. I recall my own remarks last year concerning some of the main items in the Finance Member's budget proposals when I said that my Group acquiesced in the proposal to distribute half the jute export tax among the jute producing provinces. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member recognises the efforts which the Government of Bengal have made and are making to retrench and to tap new sources of revenue. It does not, however, appear to me that Bengal is in the least likely to return to solvency unless it receives the whole, or at any rate, a larger percentage of the jute export tax. Without prejudice to the claims of any other province, I trust that the financial position will soon allow this additional assistance to be given to Bengal, for, as has been emphasised, on more than one occasion from these Benches, financial instability is one of the most potent causes of political unrest in that unhappy province.

We note that the position of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, as rendered in the accounts, is not so satisfactory as it appears at first sight. We recognise the great steps that have been taken in this commercial department to make it more solvent, and we hope that in future the Finance Member's statement will present the picture more accurately, making allowance for withdrawals from the depreciation fund.

With regard to the ways and means provisions, these seem to be satisfactory. It is fortunate that owing to the large amount of remittances which it has been possible to make during the current year, the Reserve Bank will be inaugurated with a silver redemption reserve amounting to ten crores, which was the ultimate maximum at the time of the passing of the Reserve Bank Bill and which was then expected only to be reached after some considerable time.

As far as the borrowing programme for the coming year is concerned, the actual amount of rupee loan which the Government will repay during the course of the year is estimated at Rs. 37 crores, whereas the amount required to be raised in the Indian market will be Rs. 25 crores only. This, I think, is a satisfactory state of affairs and ensures the continuance of easy money conditions for some time to come.

I should like to pay a tribute on behalf of my Group to the way in which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has fulfilled his undertaking that he would not relax his search for economies in the defence estimates. (Laughter on the Opposition Benches.) My Honourable friends may laugh, but the prudent man insures his life and his property and he chooses the best company, the soundest company to do it in . . .

**Munshi Iswar Saran** (Benares and Gorakhpur Division: Non-Muhamadan Rural): . . . and starves his family and children in order to pay the premium!

**Sir Leslie Hudson:** Well, they will probably get it on his death.

**A few Honourable Members:** After India dies!



**Sir Leslie Hudson:** The figures for 1935-36 represent only an increase of seven lakhs in actual defence expenditure on the figures for the current year. When His Excellency assumed command of the army in India, the defence budget was Rs. 54 crores 10 lakhs; for the next year he has budgeted for Rs. 44 crores 98 lakhs, or a reduction of Rs. 9 crores 32 lakhs, or 17 per cent. That is a considerable achievement, and credit must go to him and his officers for their unremitting efforts in this direction. This process of retrenchment has been aided, somewhat fortuitously it must be admitted, in the last few years by the continued low prices of grain and other foodstuffs, a circumstance that cannot be expected to continue for ever.

The Honourable the Finance Member expects to have in hand on the 31st March this year a balance of Rs. 3,80 lakhs. This he calls a non-recurrent balance, and he proceeds to allot Rs. 100 lakhs for economical development in the provinces, Rs. 40 lakhs to the Road Development Fund, Rs. 25 lakhs for schemes of development in the North-West Frontier Province, and Rs. 20 lakhs for broadcasting. He also proposes to debit the balance with the Civil Aviation programme of Rs. 98 lakhs, and the transfer of the Pusa Institute to Delhi costing about Rs. 36 lakhs, both of which schemes, however, the Standing Finance Committee and this House originally agreed should be charged to capital. The remainder of the surplus of Rs. 75 lakhs is to go as an additional allotment for the redemption of debt. We have no complaint to make as to the items to which these allocations are made. We particularly welcome the contribution to the Road Development Fund, and we express the hope that in considering the schemes prepared and put forward by the Provincial Governments to improve the economic position of the people, the Government of India will take as short a time as possible to carry them out and that such schemes as are already *in esse* ought to be put into operation at once. We do, however, question the general principle underlying the argument of the Finance Member when he calls this balance non-recurrent and states that it is only available for non-recurrent purposes. He is, of course, aware that this balance is arrived at as a result of the emergency taxation, and as he is not removing the surcharge altogether, does it mean that he considers that the emergency has not passed? If so, is he justified in treating the balance in the way in which he proposes? If the balance has been achieved as the result of emergency taxation, then the first charge on it, after the restoration of the cut in pay, should be the removal of the surcharge, a pledge given by his predecessor and which he himself repeats in paragraph 38 of his budget speech. If, on the other hand, this balance is largely due to under-estimating certain sources of revenue, to which we in this Group drew the attention of his predecessor at this time last year, then the balance can hardly be called non-recurrent. In his proposals for next year, it seems to us clear that the Honourable the Finance Member is estimating so cautiously as to render it practically certain, unless economic conditions gravely deteriorate, that he will have a balance of considerable dimensions on the 31st March next year. Will he then call that a non-recurrent balance to be spent only for non-recurrent purposes? If that is to be the case, what prospect is there of the surcharges ever being abolished?

With regard to the restoration of the cut in pay, we acquiesce, in view of the pledges already given and in view of the fact, that it is already

a *fait accompli*. I must, however, point out that there is a very strong feeling amongst our constituents that the proper course would have been to restore half the cut and to remove half the surcharge. If the emergency still persists, where is the justification for the restoration of the whole of the cut? We are, however, more concerned with the policy implicit in the Finance Member's statement that the surplus, due as we consider to under budgeting, is to be treated as a non-recurrent balance and ear-marked for non-recurrent expenditure. It is easy to see that if this policy were to continue, there need never be a recurrent balance, for the Honourable the Finance Member could absorb surplus after surplus in non-recurrent schemes of all sorts and kinds and indefinitely postpone relief to the taxpayers.

I now come to the estimates for the coming financial year. It will be observed that there is an estimated increase of 75 lakhs in the customs receipts. This allows for an estimated decline of two crores in the import duty on sugar, combined with certain increases in the excise duties on various other commodities. It appears to us that the Honourable the Finance Member has been unnecessarily cautious in regard to his sugar estimates. The original estimate of customs receipts from sugar for the current year was 2,05 lakhs, the revised estimate is 3,75 lakhs. The original estimate was based on imports of 113,000 tons and the revised estimates are the figures calculated on 207,000 tons. The estimated income from customs under this head, sugar imports, for next year, is 1,75 lakhs only, which represents an import of 96,500 tons or a reduction of two crores and over 100,000 tons in the revised estimates for the current year. Now, we recognise that it was always anticipated that there would be a rapid diminution of the import of sugar. We are inclined to think, however, that sufficient allowance has not been made in the present budget estimates for the reduction in crop this year owing to the damage by frost in Bihar and also for the probability that Java will follow the same procedure that she has done during the current year of dumping large quantities of her surplus stocks at rates considerably lower than the basic figure laid down by the Tariff Board. I may say that the figures placed before the Honourable Member's predecessor, at this time last year, have been very fully justified in the current year's revised estimates.

Now, with regard to income-tax, allowing for the 1,36 lakhs which is the cost of the reduction of the surcharges by a third and of the 16 lakhs due to the additional tax recoverable from Government servants on account of restored pay cuts, the Honourable the Finance Member estimates an increase of only 85 lakhs. Surely this again is either an ultra conservative estimate or else it must be a confession that the Government is not realising all the taxes due. During the years of depression that we have passed through, the net receipts from income-tax, which, of course, includes surcharges, were 16,74 lakhs in 1931-32, 17,19 in 1932-33 and 16,30 lakhs in 1933-34. There has been undoubted improvement in the financial position of many of the major industries of the country during the current year, the result of which should show partially at any rate in the income-tax recoveries during the year 1935-36. It is difficult, therefore, to appreciate the reason for estimating an increase of only 85 lakhs now. If the estimate does prove to be correct, does it not suggest that something is impeding the natural course of tax recovery in relation to the commercial and industrial prosperity of the

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country. I have only to emphasize the increase in the figures relating to the recoveries of income-tax from incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 during the last three years to show that a greater increase in the recoveries from the higher incomes might be expected.

Generally speaking, therefore, in our view, the Finance Member has been unnecessarily conservative in his estimates of revenue next year. The balance he estimates to be at his disposal on 31st March, 1936, is 1.50 lakhs. We, however, challenge his estimates and we believe that a more optimistic view would have been justified, enabling him to fulfil the promise given by his predecessor that relief must first be given in restoring the emergency cuts in pay, and, secondly, in taking off, not reducing by one-third, but *taking off*, the surcharges on income-tax now in force. The Finance Member is extremely frank in saying that he is disappointed with his own budget. From this point of view, his disappointment must be no greater than our own and we have received the strongest representations from many quarters, both Indian and European, that in this matter the Finance Member has been parsimonious and unnecessarily cautious. He has relied upon his predecessor's pledge in regard to his action in restoring the cut in pay. Will he, however, give us a pledge, an explicit pledge, that in the event of any surplus next year, as the result of under budgeting or exceeded expectations, he will make the total removal of the surcharges the first charge upon the balances? I am afraid that nothing less than that will satisfy us.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member who preceded me mentioned opium, and, in passing, I also have just a word or two to say in regard to opium. The decline in revenue is naturally the result of the policy laid down by the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, and I have only to say that, apart from the high principle underlying that policy in closing down the export of the drug entirely, it is certain that there is no less opium consumed in China than there was ten years ago. The only result has been that supplies have been obtained from other sources and the benefit which used to accrue to the Government of India has been transferred to the countries from whom these supplies are now obtained and to those countries through whom they are financed and distributed.

As regards the reduction in the duty on silver, we realise that the high duty of five annas has resulted in a great deal of smuggling, which the reduction to two annas will probably put an end to, but there will still remain a considerable amount of smuggling both in imports and exports other than silver through only partially-protected customs lines in the North-West and also in Burma. It is known that large quantities of tea are being exported through Nokkundi, quantities which are considerably in excess of the export quota for tea, thereby tending to destroy the position which the restriction of exports was intended to secure, and, in addition, we understand that large quantities of produce which would be subject to taxation were they to enter India through normal channels where adequate customs facilities are provided, are also finding their way down from the North-West and, under present conditions, are able to evade the slender customs posts which have been established. Similarly, rubber is being exported from Burma into Siam, from which it goes as a free export, without license. It is exported from Burma without license and goes through into Siam. The honest trader

is thus penalized just as much as the honest trader in silver, to whom the Honourable the Finance Member referred in his speech; and India's obligations in the matter of international regulating agreements are being evaded. We request, therefore, that the Government should take prompt action to ensure that the revenues of India are safeguarded, that honest traders are protected, and that our international obligations are fully met.

With regard to the export duty on skins, we shall deal with this matter when the Finance Bill is before us, as it is possible—I may say probable—that our constituents will hold divergent views. (*Mr. B. Das*: "Hear, hear.")

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How long is the Honourable Member likely to take? He may resume his speech afterwards.

**Sir Leslie Hudson**: May I conclude after lunch, Sir?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes.

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. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

**Sir Leslie Hudson**: I was saying, Sir, that, as regards the duties on skins, we shall have something to say probably later on. As far as the additional import duty on salt is concerned, we note that the Honourable the Finance Member is leaving the final decision to the House. And here, again, it is not only possible, but probably that divergent views will emerge. In the meantime, we understand that commercial opinion in Calcutta holds one view and we have already heard that commercial opinion in Bombay holds exactly the opposite.

There are three points of general interest upon which I should like to touch before I close. We share the Honourable the Finance Member's anger and humiliation at not being able to suggest any possible action designed to promote India's export trade by a general world agreement to reduce tariffs and quotas. We have felt and we shall urge this at a later stage that the question of India's overseas trade requires to be dealt with more energetically and we have felt that, even under the present Constitution, this is a matter which it is within the power of the Government of India to adapt its organisation. I am also glad that the Honourable the Finance Member considers that the present customs tariff is too high and too complicated and is a restraint on trade recovery. With that admission, we hope that later on he will tell us what steps he proposes to take to deal with that position. Last year, a departmental inquiry was promised into the incidence and classification of the Government tariff. Something in regard to the classification has been done and that we acknowledge gladly, but what about the incidence of the revenue tariff? There is a crying need for a wholesale revision. For an agricultural country like India the free list should be as comprehensive as

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possible, especially in regard to the articles necessary to agriculture like agricultural machinery and so on. Where a revenue tariff is required, it should be at uniform rates applicable to as many items as possible, thus making for uniformity, and we trust that the Honourable the Finance Member will give us an assurance that something will be done in that regard in the near future. The third point is in regard to the administration and the incidence of income-tax. Here, again, we consider that an inquiry is due for reasons which I have already made clear. I hope the Honourable Member will be in a position to tell us something on that score also.

My own final word is that there is a happy medium between an effort of pure imagination and the path of prudence. This budget shows us that if hell is paved with good intentions, the path of prudence is paved with unpleasant disappointments. I trust that in the coming year the Honourable the Finance Member will place in the forefront of his programme the alleviations to taxpayers, great and small, which in the last sentence of his speech he suggested might be achieved from time to time. We hope that those stages will not be so distant as to exclude from any benefit those who are living in the present generation. A little imagination is sometimes justified even in financial matters, and, if the Honourable the Finance Member's prudence were a little coloured by it, I am sure that the canons of sound finance would not be unduly offended.

**Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Ochetty** (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, my inherent regard for truth makes it incumbent upon me to characterise this budget as a bald statement of a mass of figures. I am all the more disappointed in that it is a creation of a sweet charming and youthful personality of Sir James Grigg, who, I am told, has a large reputation for ability. But I am afraid that, while on his voyage to India, he left a greater portion of it on the other side of the Suez. The budget does not deal with many important problems, particularly those affecting the economic condition of the country, in a bold and statesmanlike manner. I am afraid, the only effect that is left on our taste by this budget is one contrary to sweetness and pleasure. Sir, I am accustomed to budgets of the Indian Governments having been a Member of the Madras Legislative Council for some years past. They are all framed on the practice, which has now become almost a principle of over-estimating expenditure and under-estimating revenues. And, I am afraid, the Government of India, in the matter of preparing their budget, have proved to be no exception to the general rule. But in taking into account the surplus of last year, I am afraid Sir James Grigg has absorbed it into the general revenues and has also provided for increases in normal expenditure. If only that surplus is not to be dissipated in that fashion and is to be utilised for the relief of the taxpayer, there would have been no necessity for such a halting reduction of the surcharge on income-tax and perhaps it would have enabled him to increase the taxable minimum income to Rs. 2,000.

The military expenditure continues to be as high as ever. It is now as much as 49 crores of rupees under the regular head of defence services. But there are, as has already been pointed by the previous speakers, other dubious methods by which more money has been provided for the military budget. During the last election fight, my friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar, who had the honour of being a Member

of this Assembly on behalf of the City of Madras, prided himself in the fact that he was responsible for the cutting down of the military expenditure by about Rs. 60 lakhs. Sir, what has been then the real state of affairs? Some of us really believed that the Government might have been persuaded to reduce their expenditure in response to the continuous demands from the people for cutting down the military expenditure. But His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in his speech in the Council of State the other day has removed all doubts about the generous mentality and attitude of the Government by saying that the previous budgets were all false, that, as a matter of fact, the Army Department was drawing its resources from the surplus stocks either of materials or equipment, and that the time has now come when it is no longer possible for them to draw their resources from these surplus stocks, and they should, therefore, provide for more money under that head. Well, if the previous budgets were false, according to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, there is nothing to warrant the belief that the present budget might not prove equally false later on. As a matter of fact, budgets are always framed by the Government, not with a view to the actual state of affairs, but with a view really to carrying on the set purpose they have in view. In fact, the budget today as presented to the Assembly, shows how unconcerned the Government of India can carry on their administration to the real interest of the people. It does not show even the slightest indication on the part of the Government of India to be responsive to the public opinion either in the matter of relief of taxation or in the general development and improvement of the economic condition of the masses. No policy or programme or even an indication of a thought seems to have been bestowed on the question of unemployment, on the question of raising the agricultural commodity prices or facilities for the increase of export trade, or, for that matter, for anything that would improve the general condition of the people. On the other hand, his remarks on the export of gold are very cruel indeed and very very disappointing. I have never known of the Honourable the Finance Member's capacity to suit his principles according to the conditions under which he is serving this Government. I challenge the Honourable the Finance Member to tell me honestly if this statement was made in the British House of Commons with regard to export of gold, he would be able to retain his seat for one moment.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Certainly.

**Mr. Sami Venkatchelam Chetty:** We have been told that he does not see much difference between the export of gold or the export of surplus-exportable commodities of articles. It is a very curious statement, coming as it does from the Honourable the Finance Member. In the first place, he must prove to this Assembly that this gold is surplus gold. Evidence was not lacking to prove that this gold was gold that was parted with by the agriculturists, by the ryots and the cultivators on account of distressful conditions. Sir, it is not necessary that this sentiment should be expressed by a person who is sitting on the Opposition Benches. With your permission, Sir, I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to turn to the pages of the debates of this very Assembly on the budget and particularly to the speech made by Sir Leslie Hudson during the budget debate on the last occasion.

**Sir Leslie Hudson:** Not the last occasion.

**Mr. Sami Venkatchelam Chetty:** The year before perhaps. If it was distress gold two years ago, I suppose it continues to be more distressful today. In the first place, the Honourable the Finance Member must, as I said, prove that it is surplus gold. Has there been any calculation with regard to the possession of gold in India *per capita*? How does it compare with the possession of gold by individuals in other countries? It may be, the volume of gold that is found in India appears to be much larger than the volume of gold that was possessed by other countries some years ago. But having regard to the large population of this country, which is perhaps the largest population of any one single country, I ask, what is the quantum of gold that is possessed by an individual on an average? Moreover, having exported 220 crores of gold, ever since England went off the gold standard, the Honourable the Finance Member still maintains that it might be treated only as a commodity which India must be anxious to part with, because it is finding a very good market for its so-called commodity. Well, Sir, this seems to be an advice which can be very well followed by England. Coming as it does from Sir James Grigg, who served the Finance Department in England, if it is burdensome for India to possess so much gold which she has relieved herself in part, may I make an appeal to the English Government through the Honourable Sir James Grigg to relieve herself of that burden and send that gold, at least some quantity of it, to India? Will the Honourable Sir James Grigg undertake to carry this message to the English Parliament and get its sanction? Even a child can disprove his statement that gold is surplus to India. We can understand the commodity being treated as saleable commodity, and part with it, because we can always be sure of the production of that commodity from the fruitful bowels of the earth. If we part with a surplus commodity like groundnuts, like cotton or oil seeds, we know we can depend upon mother earth that it will be produced once again. But with regard to gold, how can we depend upon its production? How can you treat it, therefore, as a commodity that can be easily exported to other countries? Why, in spite of the same advice, coming as it does from the Honourable the Finance Member, that all the Governments all the world over are unmindful or are ignorant of this simple truth that gold must be treated as an exportable surplus commodity. Now, Sir, here, again, I may quote an equally high authority on economic problems as Sir James Grigg, and that is no less than Sir Thomas Ainscough. He says in his report on the trade between England and India:

"Economic life and trade have been at the mercy of those devastating world forces which have driven the commodity prices to still lower depths, reduced the purchasing power of the people, forced to make heavy drafts upon their reserves of the precious metals."

This is what Sir Thomas Ainscough says with regard to the export of the precious metals from this country. It is very regrettable indeed that, while he gives expression to the statement that the export trade of India is falling down, he has made no provision or he has shown no indication of how that catastrophe might be averted. As a matter of fact, in 1932-33, the export trade of India fell down by about 25 crores, probably by 1933-34, there must have been a still greater fall than 25 crores. Yet he has absolutely nothing to tell us how this can be avoided. It may be said that commercial treaties are being entered into with other countries in order to facilitate the export of our raw products from this country. The only treaty which the Indian Government have to their credit is the

Ottawa Agreement, by which it is not possible to show even for the Government that India has gained. As a matter of fact, by confining or by regulating the course of export only to one country, that is, with Britain and her colonies, they have deprived India of her rightful share with regard to commerce with other countries which have been taking large quantities of the products of our country in return for their commodities.

Then, with regard to the protection policy, I am afraid he has sent a thrill of terror into the minds of industrialists while regretting the fact that it has not been possible for him to reduce the revenue tariff. In one sense, it is not the occasion for me at any rate to assess the benefit of the protection policy of the Government of India so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned. Probably the time will come when the mutual interests of the Madras Presidency and other Presidencies with regard to the particular protection policy that the Government of India is asked to undertake might be settled quite to the advantage of all concerned. But it should not be said that Madras is either lacking in patriotism or nationalism or less keen about the development of national industries if she should now at any rate make a complaint that, while she is ready to give every encouragement and every support for the protection policy which other Presidencies are asking the Government of India to give, it is also necessary that so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned with regard to her agricultural products, the Presidencies must show more regard and more respect with regard to their takings of those products from this Presidency. But, at any rate it is neither good for the industry nor safe for commerce to be living upon precariousness of this sort. Let us know from the Government of India definitely whether they have resolved in their own minds to reduce the tariff on the imported goods in the immediate future. If it be so, it is necessary that the industrialists should be forewarned in order to see that the industries which are now just raising their heads might not be stifled even before they are born. It is a pity that no economic planning with regard either to the increase in our commerce of exportable articles nor in the proper distribution of our indigenous products has been made by the Finance Member, and no attempt has been made to seriously tackle the many life and death problems that are facing us.

There is one other matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government of India, and that is with regard to the negotiations with the rulers of Indian States. Well, Sir, the question of negotiations with the rulers of Indian States might perhaps be considered to be a close preserve of the Political Department of the Government of India, but at any rate when they are entering into negotiations with regard to parting with some of our customs revenue or management over railways, in which the interests of British Indians are greatly involved, it is up to the Government of India and it is fair to this Assembly and to Indian public opinion that they should be taken into consideration, that their interests are not allowed to be subordinated to the mere shibboleth of a federation that is going to come.

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

**Mr. Sami Venkatchalam Chetty**: I have almost finished, Sir.



[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty.]

My Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, referred to the debt legislation as affording partial relief, at any rate, to the agriculturists. I can only characterise that kind of debt legislation as robbing Peter to pay Paul. Nothing has come out with regard to real help to the agriculturists. If they have made some legislation it is only to deprive the creditor of his share of the money which he had lent. Not that I have any objection to make legislation in order to temper the severity of interests on debts. But certainly anything more than that to deprive the creditor of his capital and thus benefit the agriculturist and earn the gratitude of the agriculturist is only calculated to undermine the structure of credit in the country.

I can only close my remarks by hoping that the Government of India will recognise the need for sound economic planning by which the agriculturist may be insured against further impoverishment.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee** (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, there are some persons in this world who may be called the favourites of fortune, and one of them is our Honourable friend, the present Finance Member of India. For years Sir George Schuster toiled hard and the people of the country made great sacrifices. But as soon as there is a turn in the tide, Sir James Grigg appears on the scene and reaps where others have sown. I offer my hearty felicitations to him for his good luck, but I am sorry I cannot congratulate him on the financial measures proposed by him except to a very limited extent.

The only really satisfactory feature of the present budget is the provision of a crore of rupees for rural uplift. This is a move in the right direction; but unless it is supplemented by annual grants and a definite plan is prepared for the expenditure of the money, it will not go a long way towards the amelioration of the economic condition of the people. I desire to suggest in this connection the formation of a Rural Development Fund to which all surpluses in the central budgets of the future may be credited.

I am thankful to the Government of India, for the provision which has been made for continuing the payment of one-half of the proceeds of the jute export duty to Bengal. But I must make it clear that this does not meet the whole demand of the province. It is well known that the financial position of Bengal has been in a very unsatisfactory condition for several years past. There have been five deficits in her budget and this year the sixth deficit budget has been presented by the Finance Member.

**Sardar Sant Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): Why don't you reduce your expenditure?

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee**: As for expenses you will find that the revenue and expenditure of the Government of Bengal are in both cases smaller than the revenue and expenditure of all the larger provinces of India. The financial difficulty of Bengal has been due to the inequity of the Meston Settlement and that fact has been admitted by all persons and committees who have any claim to speak with authority on this subject. The claim of Bengal to the proceeds of the export duty on jute has also been recognised as legitimate, as is shown by clause 137 (2) of the Government of India Bill.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): That was politics.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** That is not politics, it is financial justice. If you compare the figures of the revenue and expenditure of Bengal with those of other provinces, you will find that while Bengal has the largest population of India, her income is fifth in order of allocation of resources.

**An Honourable Member:** What about the Permanent Settlement?

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Owing to the Permanent Settlement, the income derived from land revenue is smaller in Bengal than in the other provinces; but Bengal's contribution to the total resources of India in respect of income-tax, customs, salt and other sources is much greater than that of any other province. In this connection I may point out that Bengal has done her best to present a balanced budget . . . . .

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Bengal is not the only province to do that. . . . .

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** . . . and, just at the present moment, five taxation Bills are on the legislative anvil of the province.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** You have started rather late in the day: we have been doing it for years.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** You are mistaken. In Bengal, during the years 1922, 1923, and 1924, more than half a dozen taxation measures were passed . . . . .

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): It is the budget of the Government of India, not that of Bombay or Bengal, we are discussing.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** . . . and when the Government of Bombay reduced their taxation, Bengal continued her fresh taxation measures . . .

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** Are those facts in those two big volumes?

**Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Yes: if you want to consult them, I shall be glad to present you with several volumes. What I contend now is that one half of the jute tax is not enough even for the immediate needs of the province. I, therefore, urge that, if the budget figures show an improvement in the course of the year, the entire proceeds of the jute duty or at least a higher proportion than has been provided now should be made over to the province so as to enable her, not only to balance her budget, but to undertake some development in the beneficial services. I am thankful to the Honourable the Leader of the European Group for the sympathy he has shown to my province, and I hope that all sections of this House will unite in securing financial justice for all the provinces, including Bengal.

I desire also to plead for Assam, whose finances are in a chronic state of deficit. While this province contributes annually a crore and a quarter rupees in the shape of petrol duty to the Central Exchequer, she herself derives little benefit from this important source of production within her own borders.

[Dr. P. N. Banerjee.]

One of the unsatisfactory features of the financial statement is the provision relating to military finance. Under the stress of a severe economic depression, helped by a fall in prices, and, as a result of the Capitation Tribunal's decision, defence expenditure has considerably diminished in recent years; but unfortunately it is once again showing a definite tendency towards an increase. The burden of the defence budget, amounting to Rs. 44.98 crores (to which must be added various other items, including strategic railways), is far too heavy for the country to be able to bear. It was pointed out by Sir Walter Layton—Financial Adviser to the Simon Commission—that defence expenditure had increased in a higher proportion in India since the war than in any other part of the British Empire. He also laid stress on the fact that while India was incurring expenditure for the primary functions of the Government, such as defence and the maintenance of law and order, as high a proportion of her wealth as western nations, her expenditure on social services, such as education, sanitation and public health, was far behind western standards, and indeed in many directions was almost non-existent. Defence expenditure now amounts to over 51 per cent. of the total expenditure of the country. The time has, therefore, come to impart a balance to the financial system of the country, without which no progress will be possible in the future.

There are four ways in which a reduction in military expenditure can be made. The first is the Indianisation of officer's ranks of the army at a more rapid pace. There is no dearth of capable men in the country to fill the posts of commissioned officers, and opportunity is the only thing that is at present wanting. The second method is a substantial reduction in the strength of the expensive British force. It is often argued that any reduction in this force would imperil the safety of the country. But experience shows that this apprehension is groundless. For a considerable period of time during the last European War, the British garrison in India consisted only of 15,000 men. If diminution to such an extent was possible during the war crisis, there is no reason why it cannot be made in peace time. In fact, this is a question of policy, and a reduction in strength can be easily effected as soon as the Government cease to regard the British force in India as an army of occupation. I may be permitted to refer in this connection to the speech made by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the Council of State a few days ago, which has given rise to a great deal of public dissatisfaction throughout the country. The third method is the transfer of the cost of that portion of the army which is really an imperial reserve to the British exchequer. It can hardly be denied that a considerable part of the army in India is required to maintain the supremacy of the British power throughout the world, particularly in the east. Unfortunately, the majority of the Capitation Tribunal took a very restricted view of their terms of reference and made recommendations which were far from satisfactory. Equity demands that a considerable contribution should be made by Britain to India on this account. Lastly, considerable economies are practicable, as was pointed out by my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, last year in the administrative charges of the military department. It is my firm conviction that if all these steps are taken, defence expenditure can be reduced by at least ten crores of rupees.

The decision of the Government to restore the remainder of the salary cut can never meet with the approval of the elected portion of this House. The scales of salaries paid to officers of the higher services are extravagant for a poor country like India. Besides, as the existing salary scales were fixed at a time when prices were very high, is it not fair to demand now, when the price level is so low, a reduction in these scales? The proper thing for the Government to do will be to postpone the restoration of cuts in pay, except in the case of persons drawing comparatively small salaries, till a general revision of salaries is undertaken.

The gold policy of the Government has been the subject of adverse criticism for a considerable time past, and the Honourable the Finance Member's observations will only add to the feeling of dissatisfaction. It is true that gold is a commodity; but it is also true that, unlike other commodities, it is the basis on which the currency and exchange structure of most civilised countries stands. This is the reason why many countries have taken adequate steps to conserve their reserves of the yellow metal. Nor will the public accept the Finance Member's point of view that the country has not been driven by distress to part with her gold reserves. Over 220 crores rupees worth of gold has already left the country, and the time has come for the Government to revise their policy in this regard.

Coming to the remission of taxation, it seems to me that the abolition of the export duty on skins and the reduction in the rate of duty on silver are justified by the circumstances of the moment, although these decisions need not be regarded as final for all time to come. There is much to be said in favour of the reduction in the surcharge on the ordinary income-tax, but the reduction in the surcharge on the super-tax ought to have waited for a more favourable opportunity. In case, the raising of the minimum taxable limit ought to have priority over the relief given to the super-tax payers. Persons earning incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 belong to the poorer section of the middle class in India and they deserve the sympathy of the Government as well as the Legislative Assembly in the fullest degree. But there is one measure of relief which should have precedence over all, and that is the reduction in the price of the postcard. The raising of the price of the postcard from one to two pice and then to three pice has been keenly resented by poor people, and the reversion at least to the two pice rate ought not to be delayed any longer. The excise duty on sugar, which is a tax on production and not on profits, has adversely affected the industry, and I would strongly urge upon the Government the immediate necessity of reducing the existing rate. The question of reducing the rate of duty on matches should also be considered carefully.

As for the additional import duty on salt, the Finance Member says, "an impost that has the effect of helping the producers of Aden at the expense of the consumers of Bengal is fundamentally unfair". But the question is,—have the possibilities of the salt industry in Bengal been fully explored? The Government of the province have not afforded any encouragement to the promotion of salt manufacture, but have utilised their share of the additional duty for other purposes. No final step should be taken in this matter without a full investigation of all the facts of the situation. Taken as a whole, I am sorry to have to say that the Finance Member's proposals tend more to benefit the rich than the poor.

[Dr. P. N. Banerjea.]

Sir, before concluding, I wish to say a word about the cheap sneer indulged in by Sir James Grigg when he spoke about imagination in matters relating to finance. He ought to know that an imaginative financier is not necessarily identical with a financier gifted with imagination. It is because India's Finance Members and administrators are generally devoid of the faculty of imagination that they live from hand to mouth and never care to look beyond their immediate surroundings, with the deplorable result that stagnation and reaction prevail in the country. Sir, Sir James Grigg is still a beginner (Laughter) so far as his work in India is concerned, and he will do well to remember the words of a great authority on financial questions who said many years ago: "Finance is not arithmetic; it is a great policy".

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury** (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir, as one representing the province of Assam, I want to offer my thanks to the Honourable the Finance Member for the sympathetic reference that he has made in his speech with regard to the needs and requirements of my province. He assured us that out of the 40 lakhs ear-marked for road development fund, Assam will receive a substantial benefit. We are thankful, Sir, for those small mercies, but I want the House to realise that the position of our province is very grave and serious, and these occasional doles from the Government of India, though they may help temporarily to tide over difficulties, are quite inadequate to the total requirements of our province. Our province, owing to its unenviable financial position, has acquired the nickname of cinderella province in India. Out of a budget of little over two crores, in the year 1933-34, Assam had a deficit of 81 lakhs, and the revised estimate for this year shows a deficit of 46 lakhs, and, in the budget estimate for next year, it is estimated that there will be a deficit of over 60 lakhs, and that in a budget of only two crores. Sir, this represents 30 per cent. of the total revenue of the province, and I wonder what the Assembly would have thought of the budget of the Government of India if Sir James Grigg had produced a budget with a deficit of 30 per cent., that is, of 25 crores. That is the position with which Assam is faced today, and I wish Honourable Members realise the seriousness and gravity of our position in Assam. The Assam Government, years ago, exhausted all the balance they had with the Government of India, and for the last few years they are borrowing from the Government of India to carry on the normal administration, and, Sir, our debt to the Government of India amounts to about 2 crores 17 lakhs, and for which we have to pay interest.

**Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah:** No Provincial Government is free from it.

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** Every year the Assam Government borrow fresh money to pay off the debt of previous years. . . .

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They are creating many more provinces,—Sind, for instance.

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** Let them not do it, if they can't afford. Then, Sir, with this huge deficit and also with the increasing debt burden, the Assam Government are called upon to administer a territory which is about 60,000 square miles in area and has got a population of over eight

millions. And what is the result? Our Government are perhaps the most backward in regard to administration in India.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** No, you are not backward.

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** Sir, we have got no University, we have got no High Court, we have got no Medical College, we have got no Agricultural College, not even an Agricultural School.

**An Honourable Member:** Then, what have you?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Let the Honourable Member go on.

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** In regard to educational expenditure, our expenditure is the lowest in proportion to other provinces in India. As regards medical facilities, while our neighbouring province of Bengal has got a hospital for every 71 square miles of area, we have got a hospital in every 215 square miles.

As regards communications, while the province of Madras has got 151 miles of road per thousand square miles, we have got only 10½, and the Finance Member does recognise that ours is the most needy province, but unfortunately in the budget we find no provision to meet the needs of the province.

**An Honourable Member:** Subvention!

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** About subventions, Sir, the Federal Finance Committee inquired into the finances of the provinces, and they found that Assam was a deficit province, it was an undeveloped province, and the Federal Finance Committee could devise no means of balancing the budget of the province, and they recommended that a loan should be granted from the Federal Government to enable the province to develop itself. Then came the White Paper proposals. In the White Paper, it was suggested that Assam should get a subvention and the Joint Parliamentary Committee also repeated that suggestion and said that the claims of Assam for an increased revenue must be recognised. But there the matter ended. We got only a theoretical recognition of our demand, but nothing practical was done to supply our needs. We do not want to be put in the same category as the deficit province of Sind or Orissa or the North-West Frontier. We have got in our own territories sources of revenue which we claim we should be allowed to appropriate. . . .

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** What about the Government of India?

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** But should they take from us an amount out of all proportion? What we demand is, we have got our own sources of revenue which we should be allowed to appropriate, and that revenue is the petrol tax. Assam produces oil in the oilfields of Digboi and Badarpur. When the crude oil is converted into motor spirit, the Government of India impose a duty of ten annas per gallon of petrol and two annas six pies per gallon of kerosene. Out of this, they take rupees one crore and 25 lakhs as a duty from our province. I am very thankful to my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjea, for his very kindly referring to that in his speech and for the support he gave to us.

**An Honourable Member:** You support jute!

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** I do.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Justice for everybody.

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** Sir, . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member tries not to answer every interruption, he will be able to get along better.

**Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury:** The Government of India take one crore and 25 lakhs every year in the shape of petrol tax from our province, and this amount represents over 50 per cent. of the revenues raised within the province. If you add to this the amount that we pay as income-tax, over 70 per cent. of the revenues raised within the province is taken by the Centre. I may inform the House that from the United Provinces the Government of India take only 22 per cent. of the revenue raised in that province, and from the Punjab they take only eight per cent. Now, we have been agitating for a number of years for the restoration of these petrol duties. I think no one fought more vigorously than our Governor. His Excellency Sir Michael Keane, and the Assam Legislative Council also sent representations to the Joint Parliamentary Committee, but, everything was unavailing. We have been told that with the inauguration of the reforms all the provinces will be put on an even keel. But ours is already a bankrupt province, and we do not want that we should be put on an even keel by the adventitious aid of a subvention. Subvention will always depend upon the uncertain vote of this House and we should rather prefer that the sources of revenue that we have got within our own territory should be allowed to be developed by us. That is all that I have got to say.

**U Ba Si** (Burma: Non-European): Sir, in discussing the budget proposals, I am to state that we, Burmese Members, welcome the proposal for the abolition of export duty on raw skins, and we would be more pleased if the same could be done with the export duty on rice. Burma is a purely agricultural country, and rice is her mainstay. The export duty has an adverse effect on the cultivators of Burma, since Burma does not hold the monopoly of rice trade, like Bengal in jute. However, so long as there is duty on it, we strongly urge that Burma has a just claim for distribution of half of her rice export duty, just in the same way as Bengal gets from her jute export duty, so as to enable her to use it for the improvement of the economic position of her agricultural people. For instance, Burma has long made a scheme since 1925, for opening of land mortgage banks, but has not yet been able to put it into operation for want of funds. We hope the Government of India will give their sympathetic consideration to the just claim of Burma, while they have enough to spare out of the surplus funds.

Turning to other proposals, we are much disappointed that no steps have been taken to reduce postal rates. The increased rate for postcards has hit the poor villagers and small traders very hard, and we would like that the rate for postcards is reduced to its former level.

We would also like to have the additional duty on salt abolished. In this respect, we would like the Government to push on with the schemes which they undertook to do when the additional duty was levied. The impending separation of Burma should not prevent them from fulfilling the pledges. As Burma has already paid her share, it is but right and proper that she should earn what is now her dividend.

With regard to the proposal for making provincial distributions out of the surplus, I may mention that in Burma we are sorely in need of help in order to save the co-operative movement there from utter ruin. About 3,000 co-operative credit societies, out of a total of 5,000, have gone to rack and ruin within a few years, in consequence of which cultivators and rural classes suffered most terribly, and several of the remaining societies are also on the verge of liquidation, and there is no way out of it unless financial help is forthcoming. Again, in the matter of roads also, Burma is one of the worst, if not the worst, in the whole of India. Unless the development of roads is soon made possible, the conditions of the rural population can in no way be ameliorated. We hope the Government of India will do justice to Burma in making the distributions.

We wish also to avail ourselves of this opportunity to ventilate some of the serious grievances of Burma since it will be about a year more before Burma is separated from India and much could be done to remove or alleviate those grievances during that period.

*Defence.—Firstly, Army.*—In spite of strong popular demands, Government have not yet made any attempt to Burmanise any of the existing units of the army in Burma, nor to raise any new Burmese unit there. As a matter of fact, they have not even defined their policy as regards Burmanisation of the army and the rate of pace thereof. They have even disbanded such Burmese units as were raised during the Great War, and transferred Burmese officers to the Police Department and Frontier Service to the great dissatisfaction of the people. We want Government to declare their policy, re-transfer Burmese officers to the army, train more Burmans to be officers and take such other steps as are necessary for immediate Burmanisation of some units and for the general training of the people to defend themselves and their country.

*Secondly, the Navy, the Royal Indian Marine, and the Indian Air Force.*—We must also protest very strongly against Government for having neglected Burma altogether in training and recruiting for the Navy, the Royal Indian Marine and the Indian Air Force; and we hope that some justice will be done to Burma without further delay.

*The Reserve Bank.*—We attach great importance to the representation of Burma on the Directorate of the Reserve Bank as we would be within the Indian currency system, even after separation, and we wish to have experience of the working of the Reserve Bank before we start one of our own. We have been very much disappointed inasmuch as neither of the two Directors, who have been nominated to represent Burma on the Directorate, is a Burman. We urge very strongly that the position should be reviewed and the interests of the Burmese people recognised as soon as possible.

*Burmanisation of Services.*—Burmanisation of Services has been too slow. No attempt at it has been made in the Currency Department, the Accounts Department and the Telegraph Department. A start should be made seriously in them and the pace of Burmanisation should be accelerated in all departments and services.



[U Ba Si.]

*Buddhists in India.*—Incidentally, we wish to draw the attention of Government to the position of Buddhists in India. They have not got any safeguards like other minority communities. They get no special representation on the local bodies and Legislatures, and we have received complaints of their interests having been entirely ignored in making appointments to the services. We would ask Government to look into the matter and see that Indian Buddhists do not suffer any injustice on account of their religion.

On the question of the postal and telegraphic facilities, I submit that the general development of Burma has been seriously retarded by the lack of postal and telegraphic facilities. On the average, one post office in Burma has to serve an area of 460 square miles as against 84 square miles in Bengal; and one letter box in Burma has to serve 69 square miles as against 10 square miles in Bengal. We note that the Posts and Telegraphs would show a profit of 14 lakhs this year and we urge that Burma should be given the benefit thereof to improve her postal facilities. In this connection, we also wish to suggest that a much larger number of school masters can be employed as extraneous agents. At present only 55 school masters are employed as such in Burma as against 733 in Bengal and Assam and 2,253 in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier.

Lastly, I wish to say a few words in connection with the Burma rebellion prisoners and unlawful associations in connection with that rebellion. A large number of those who were convicted in connection with the rebellion are still in jail and the rate at which such prisoners have been released by Government is not at all satisfactory. Besides, the ban has not been removed yet from 244 associations which were declared unlawful in connection with the rebellion. We would ask Government to release all the said prisoners and raise the ban from all the said associations. Government can do so without any risk whatsoever, and such gesture on the part of Government is necessary to create the proper atmosphere for impending constitutional reforms. They are, in fact, not rebels in the sense that they intend to set up a Burmese king in the place of King George V. It was a rising of a section of peasants in 1930-31, due to economic causes. In Burma, there was a form of tax called capitation tax or *thathameda* tax which, I understand, is peculiar to Burma alone. This was the form of tax imposed in the time of Burmese despotic kings. The British Government found it convenient to keep it on over and above other forms of new taxation. This particular tax became very unpopular and the agitation for its abolition has been made for several years past. Later, Resolutions for its abolition were also passed in the Legislative Council without effect. In the year 1928-29, the villagers in some parts,—the areas where the so-called rebellion first started in 1930,—owing to the oppressive methods of its collection, decided to refuse to pay it. Police and Gurkha forces were sent to enforce payments. Police excesses in various forms were reported and the villagers suffered terribly from such excesses by the police and the Gurkhas. This movement then died out within a few months, but the peasants continued to suffer due to the acute financial stringency and the unprecedented fall of rice and paddy markets. Many were thrown out of employment. The agriculturists' condition became almost unbearable as they were unable to recover even the cost of labour charges for their cultivation. At a time while they were in such a desperate condition, a

man named Saya San moved about these villages, urging the rustics to resist payment and meet force with force. The conditions then existing favoured him in getting adherents to his creed, culminating in open rising. Men came out to the open with knives and forks against the rifles and machine guns of the Government forces. They fell in hundreds in various conflicts before the machine guns and rifles. According to our estimate, the number killed alone would not be less than 5,000 villagers on the whole. They were then rounded up after a lapse of about eight or nine months. Many, excepting the leaders who surrendered within a specified time, were given amnesty. The leaders and those followers who did not get the amnesty were tried by special tribunals and some were sent to the gallows including the leader Saya San, while many hundreds were sent to life sentences. The Burma Legislative Council have repeatedly passed Resolutions for appointment of a committee to enquire into the causes of the so-called rebellion and to find ways to prevent its recurrence, but to no avail. Recently, I wrote to ask the Government of Burma as to how many of them are still undergoing their terms of imprisonment, but the Government in their reply stated:

"It will not be possible to collect the information without an expenditure of time and labour which will not be commensurate with the value of the information required and the Local Government regrets that it is unable to furnish you with the particulars called for.

I am to add that the Local Government has been reviewing every case of rebels convicted by the Courts, with a view to the grant of as much clemency as possible, and that it will continue to do so till all the cases are disposed of. A large number of cases of convicted rebels has already been reviewed and the orders passed on them are *inter alia* commutation of death sentences, reduction of sentences of imprisonment and unconditional releases. It has also been decided to review the remaining cases after periods ranging from two to twelve years according to the part they were supported to have played individually during the rebellion."

My submission is that these misguided people have suffered enough. The new reforms are coming before long, and, even before the coming of the new reforms, we are going to have the great celebration of the King's Silver Jubilee. In the interests of peace and goodwill and in commemoration of the King's Jubilee, I submit that all the remaining rebel prisoners now undergoing their terms of imprisonment may be given clemency and released.

**Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha** (Darbhanga *cum* Saran : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, let me thank you for the opportunity which has been given to me to take part in the general discussion of the Budget. Sir, situated as we are in this House, I mean those who sit on the back Benches, it is very difficult to catch the eye of the Chair, because those who are sitting on front Benches generally loom large in your eyes, being nearer to you, and when they stand up, we are always at a disadvantage. Our trouble does not end there. Sir, when Honourable Members who sit on the opposite Benches speak in low, soft, effeminate and aristocratic tones, it is always difficult for us to follow them properly, and the Honourable the Finance Member belongs to the same category, and so, Sir, truly speaking, that day when he was reading his budget speech, I could not follow him properly. All that I guessed from here was that he was uttering something which was not suited to his taste, quite unpalatable to him, because I found that he could thrust it down his throat only with the help of water which . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making personal reflections. The Chair would ask him to address himself to the subject.

**Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** I am only saying, Sir, that the Honourable Member was trying to swallow something which was unpalatable to him.

I now come to the real subject. I find that it has become customary to make a general survey from Himalayas to Cape Comorin, but I do not propose to do so. I shall try to confine myself only to a few points and shall not waste the time of the House by being a bore.

The Budget, Sir, which has been presented to us, which I read and re-read on going back to my quarters, cannot be better described than in the words of my esteemed friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant. He called it dull, dreary and disappointing. If I might add one word more, I would call it insulting also, and I shall show you how it is so. We find that a surplus budget has been presented to us. But we all know, and know bitterly, how these surpluses have been possible by a policy of ruthlessness in adding to the burdens of the taxpayers in periods of the great economic distress that has affected all classes of people of this country. It is due to the indirect taxation, Sir, on such articles as sugar, cotton fabrics, salt, petrol and kerosene oil. All these commodities are used by an ordinary middle-class man, whose condition is really very deplorable in these days of depression. Sir, let us now examine how this ill-gotten surplus is going to be utilised. One crore, we find, has been set apart for provinces on the scheme for the economic development and improvement of rural areas. After the rule of 160 years, I wonder, Sir, how, all on a sudden, this Government's conscience, if it has any—I doubt that very much—has been awakened in the year of 1935, to do something for the uplift of the down-trodden masses. Sir, it is seriously doubted that the sum has been allotted with a sinister purpose behind, namely, to counteract the work of the Village Industries Association sponsored by that great man of India, Mahatma Gandhi. (Hear, hear.) The views of the Government were fully exposed the other day in that connection in this House when its secret circular was discussed. Sir, the doubts and suspicions of the people are well-grounded. We are convinced, Sir, that this Government never like the moral, social and economic uplift of the people of the country, much less political. (Cries of "Shame", "shame".) The reason is not far to seek. It is only on our weaknesses that this foreign Government is based. The day we shake off our weakness and effect improvement, they will have to wind up their shop and go back to their own country. (Hear, hear.) How, Sir, can you expect, human nature being what it is, that this Government will sincerely want our improvement? If the intention of the Government is *bona fide* and honest, I want to put it to one test. Will they form non-official committees in each province or in each district and invite some members of the Village Industries Association to serve on them, because, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi has made it perfectly clear that it is absolutely a non-political organisation, so much so that a man connected with it will not take any part in the Civil Disobedience Movement when, and, if, in future, that movement is launched. Not only, Sir, that, but a member of the committee will not be allowed to become an office-bearer of the Congress Committee. But I am afraid they will not do it. The money will be

wasted on the travelling allowances of the local officials, over publications of pamphlets and brochures, as, we all know from the bitter experience of the past, has been done during the earthquake relief work.

**An Honourable Member:** "Aman Sabha."

**Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** Yes, I would add that word also. The other item on which the surplus is going to be spent, Sir, is the restoration of the five per cent cut. The Honourable the Finance Member said in his speech:

"In accordance with the pledge of my predecessor, relief must come first in restoring the emergency cuts in pay."

During the voting on the demands for grants of the railway budget, we made it perfectly clear that we are opposed to the restoration of cuts of those officers who get more than Rs. 250 or Rs. 800 per month. When the prices of foodstuffs have gone down considerably, is there any justification, Sir, that the pay of those who are already drawing such fat salaries, as were never known in the history of the civilised world, should be restored to the old level? Sir, I find that this Christian Government is following the dictum of the Bible, namely, "to those who have much, more shall be given, and from those who have little, that little shall be taken away". (Laughter.) (Hear, hear.) Sir, when they talk of the pledges, our blood boils. We on this side of the House very well know what value we should attach to their pledges! Sir, the British rule in India is strewn broadcast with fragments of broken pledges and unredeemed promises—promises that were made to the ear, only to be broken to the heart! (Hear, hear.) Sir, the plighted words of Queen Victoria downwards have been dishonoured times without number. Now, if a member of that fraternity stands up and talks of pledges and promises, it is nothing short of impudence or hypocrisy on his part. (Loud Applause.) We know, Sir, that when it suits their purpose, they trot out the argument of pledges given and promises made! Why do they not openly and frankly confess that they have to pamper the already-pampered heaven-born services, as, otherwise, there would be a cry of old coats here and rotten trousers there? (Loud Applause.) The third item on which the surplus money is going to be spent is civil aviation. Now, Sir, when there are departments more important and more beneficial from the point of view of the taxpayers, and they are starving for want of funds, can there be any justification for spending money over it? The fourth item, Sir, really concerns the constituency of the province which I have the honour to belong to. I mean the transfer of the Pusa Institute. Sir, the history behind the subject. I presume, is not known to many of the Honourable Members of this House. Ever since the question was broached regarding its transfer, there was a very strenuous and persistent public agitation against it. The question was discussed in the local Council also. Sir, I am aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa and the local officials were all dead against this transfer of the Institute, but the Great Mughal in the Government of India decided that his will must be done, and, therefore, this money out of this surplus is going to be spent to suit and satisfy the whim of that one man! During the terrible catastrophe, I mean the earthquake, which visited our part, the buildings of the Institute were damaged, but, Sir, the repairs of the

[Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha.]

buildings would cost much less than the amount which is now going to be spent on the new Institute near Delhi, whose foundation stone was laid the other day. As crores and crores of money were sunk in making New Delhi, similarly there will be other feats of criminal waste of the poor taxpayer's money over this Institute! This, in short, is the proposal of utilising the surplus. Of course, the allotment for the reduction of debt and for road development I failed to mention.

I shall be failing in my duty, Sir, if I do not say a few words regarding the God-forsaken part of this country—I mean the area visited by the Quake disaster of January 15th, 1934. The Honourable the Finance Member, during his speech, has said that "one of the four reasons for the surplus of Rs. one crore and 43 lakhs is the fortunate non-realisation of our expectations of a reduction in receipts from income-tax in the areas affected by the earthquake of January, 1934". The other day, I put certain questions regarding the concession of income-tax granted to the afflicted people of the quake area, and, in reply, I was told that the law itself provided for relief in the levy of the tax since it requires the assessment to be made on the income. I know, Sir, and I believe, that it is the experience of all those who come from that area that no concession whatsoever was granted to the people. I personally know of several instances where income-tax was realised with the greatest severity and callousness and the people had to sell their ornaments in order to pay the tax. It is due to the absence of any concession which the law allows in the circumstances, and the severity in realisation which is responsible for the non-realisation of the expectation of the Government of India. The other question which I want to bring to the notice of the Government, Sir, of that area is in regard to the so-called loans granted to the sufferers. In the first place, the amount of loan which has been given is less than even a drop in the ocean. When one considers the extent and magnitude of the disaster, the amount of loans granted can safely be characterised as almost nothing or very little. But even that small amount has been granted so arbitrarily that if I begin describing it, I am afraid, on the ground of time you will not allow me to do it. So I shall be content by making only a brief reference about it. Whatever loan has been given has been given in the urban area alone. The people of the rural area, who are less vocal though they have equally suffered, if not more, filed a large number of loan applications and they had high hopes in the beginning, but they are sorely disappointed now. The Commissioner of the Tirhut division, Mr. Scott, who is well known in my province for his whims, once ordered that all the applications for loans of the rural area should be scrapped. But I am told that it was at the intervention of Mr. Brett, the Relief Commissioner and who is now the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, that that order was reversed and people are still hanging on hopes that loans would be granted to them. More than a year has elapsed since the catastrophe visited our part, but today also if you visit Munghyr, one of the worst affected towns of the area, you will find that for two miles long and two miles broad there is nothing but debris and ruins. Not a single house has been built in that area up till now. I shall quote one instance of the village of Bakhri in the district of Munghyr. There is one zamindar whose houses had collapsed in the quake and the unfortunate

man was living in temporary huts. It so happened that the huts caught fire and all his belongings including the currency notes worth Rs. 50,000 were burnt to ashes. The case of that man, when it was recommended for loan by my esteemed friend, Babu Shri Krishna Sinha, an Honourable Member of this House, and who commands the unique respect in his district, was rejected by the authorities concerned. One example, Sir, I think, is quite enough to illustrate the point, and this clearly shows how the granting of loan has been and is being transacted in our part.

I would like to say a few words on the army budget which is sitting like an octopus sucking our life blood. But, for want of time, I leave the subject which, I hope, will be very ably dealt with by experts in the course of the next few days. But I must say a few words in connection with the household expenditure of the Governor General. I confess, Sir, that, before reading this year's budget, I did not know that even the money given in charity when the Viceroy goes out on tour is not his private money, but of the taxpayer's. Sir, when I go through the long list of pompous expenditure over gardens, services, aeroplanes, motor cars and other miscellaneous charges, to name only a few, and when I remember the poor condition of the masses of the country, amongst whom more than 80 millions do not know what two meals mean in a day, when hunger and destitution, plague and pestilence are stalking over the country, I am painfully reminded, Sir, of the old days when Rome was burning and Nero was fiddling.

In the end, Sir, I must tell you that we know that our criticisms are of no avail. Whatever we say does not matter, with whatsoever vehemence,—those who are sitting on the opposite side will not care to listen. We know our helplessness. We also know that when we are speaking and condemning the Government for their several acts of omission and commission, there is a girlish giggle, if I may use the words of the correspondent of the *Statesman*, on the faces of several Members who adorn the Treasury Benches, because they think that we are crying in the wilderness. I know, Sir, they are blinded with power. They have no imagination. They will not heed our warning, but none the less I warn them that the last point has been reached. And if they persist in the attitude in which the Czar of Russia persisted, the same fate, if not worse, awaits them, sooner rather than later. We know, Sir, we are weak, because we are divided today. But we believe in the Divinity which shapes the destiny of human beings, and we hope that the day is not far off when we will all combine under the pressure of the common unbearable ill, and the strength generated out of that union will shatter the Government to atoms. I am living on that hope and am eagerly looking forward to that day.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for giving us the well-balanced and a generous budget which contains generosity in many directions even during these days of economic depression. It is impossible for any man to prepare such a budget, which under the economic depression, is likely to please every party or every community. I know well that it is very easy to criticise anything or any budget, but it is very difficult to produce one as good as the present one, or if as bad as the one which is being criticised.

**An Honourable Member:** Then you admit that it is bad.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** No. If others think that it is bad, they cannot produce one like it. It is easy to criticise a thing when you do not produce any better constructive scheme. None of the speakers who have criticised the budget has said that in place of such and such proposals such and such proposals should be inserted.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury** (Bengal: Landholders): What is your constructive proposal?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** I will show you my constructive proposals later on. I want you to have a little patience, because I have got only 20 minutes to talk on many subjects.

We are very thankful to the Government and to the Finance Member for giving us one crore of rupees for the uplift of villages and villagers, and I venture to suggest in a very friendly spirit that the money which Mr. Gandhi has got for the same purpose may kindly be transferred to the Government. (Ironical Cheers and Laughter.)

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Why not send over to Mahatma Gandhi the Government money?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** That, in my opinion, Sir, is the best way of utilising the money which Mr. Gandhi has raised. I know it from my own experience that the Congress never published the accounts of the funds that were collected by it. (*Voices of "Question" from the Congress Party Benches.*)

**An Honourable Member:** Did you ever subscribe to Congress funds?

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** Sir, it will be a better way of cooperation between Government and Mr. Gandhi. Let them both work together for the uplift of the villagers and the villages.

**An Honourable Member:** You will be appointed a Director.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** Sir, it is wrongly supposed or believed in some quarters that the Government have started just now or for the last two or three years the scheme for the uplift of villages and the villagers. I know about the Punjab and my own province, the North-West Frontier Province, where the Government have been doing this kind of work for the last 20 years. It should not be doubted that it is against the scheme of Mr. Gandhi that the Government propose to spend this sum of money on village uplift. You know very well, Sir, that the Government machinery is very heavy and it moves slowly. It cannot move so rapidly as one individual person can. You know that the elephant walks slowly and it cannot fly like a bird. It is always the fate of every Government to receive criticism, but Governments never pay much attention to silly or destructive criticism which is made only with the object of paralysing the Government, but they always take much care of their duty. I say, therefore, most respectfully and without any bad intention that many Honourable Members in this House are very learned and highly educated, but they lack in administrative experience. Therefore, many of their criticisms are due to want of knowledge.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** You are the only wise man in the House.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** I had a very good example of it.

I heard it myself that several Honourable Members were criticising our most able and very patriotic Law Member. They <sup>4 P. M.</sup> said that he was holding one opinion while he was a free man, and that he changed his opinion after he began to hold office. They criticised him without trying to know the reason for it. I can explain that having seen the things with his own eyes inside the Government machinery, he got the real knowledge of affairs, and he realised his responsibility which became all the greater. . . .

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House):** May I just ask for the edification of the House what is the point in which I have changed my opinion?

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhamadan Rural):** Or increased your knowledge.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** I never said that the Honourable the Law Member changed his opinion. I said that some Honourable Member who was quoting his opinion was thinking that he had changed his opinion, without realising that the man who acquires greater knowledge and experience always does according to such knowledge and experience. That is the important point to be borne in mind. All that I like to say is that if Honourable Members, who are now sitting on the other side of the House and who are always criticising the Government, will go and sit on the Treasury Benches, that is, will exchange places with the Treasury Benches, then they will also be criticised as the Government are now criticised and perhaps much more than what the present Opposition Members are doing. But I know if Honourable Members get more experience and acquire greater knowledge, they will see things in real conditions. Several of my friends who were criticising the Government, when they were non-officials, have told me, after they have accepted office, that their criticisms were all wrong on account of want of a sound knowledge of the Government machinery. I can give you another instance. On the 5th February last we were discussing a Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, about the removal of the ban on Red Shirts in my province. I think he moved his Resolution without having a proper knowledge of the actual state of affairs. I may inform the House that in reality there is no ban, and, therefore, there is no case for removal of the ban. The only relevant points that should have been discussed that day were, "What is the ban" and, "Why is the ban imposed" and "When should it be removed"? But none of the Honourable Members touched on those points. For the sake of argument, let us suppose that there is a ban on Red Shirts. Many Honourable Members of this House, especially the Congress Members, who have newly entered this House, do not know much about the real state of affairs in the North-West Frontier Province. To know the real state of affairs in my province, they must first have a knowledge of the mentality of the people there and the situation of that province. The frontier people have been quite free from a very long time. They enjoyed full freedom there. From time immemorial, they have been known as independent tribes or independent people. My Honourable friend, Dr. Khan



[Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan.]

Sahib, knows very well that the frontier people love their rifles so much that they would part with anything, even their near and dear ones, but they will not part with their rifles. They have a keen sense of self-respect. They love their liberty and freedom and their cliques so, they are treated by the British Government according to their own sentiments. I may say that instead of being depressed or suppressed or oppressed, as some Honourable Members seem to think, the frontier people are really treated very well. I can give you one instance of the mentality of the Pathans. One brother is fighting for the Government. . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really wandering from the budget.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** I respectfully submit that the practice is to allow an Honourable Member during the general discussion of the budget to discuss any question. That has been followed in the past.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must really confine his remarks to the budget.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** I shall very briefly refer to the point that I wanted to make, because my time is very short. The other day, my Honourable friend, Mr. Sherwani, said that some Frontier officer told him that brutes should be treated brutally, and, he added, by brutes. I am here to inform the House that neither are we brutes, nor are we treated brutally, nor the British officers who govern the Frontier Province are brutes. They treat us very generously and very liberally, and we move in the most friendly spirit, and the British officers treat the Frontier Province much more liberally and in a better spirit than they do in any other part of India. I say that even if my Honourable friend, Mr. Desai, whose Party is now criticising the Government for their action in the Frontier Province, should go personally to the North-West Frontier Province, not only to Peshawar, but in all other districts and agencies, and see things for himself, and if he privately meets his Hindu brethren, whether Nationalists or Congressmen, and others belonging to no party, and he comes back to this House and tables a Resolution to redress the genuine grievances of the Frontier people, then I will be the first man to support him. It is on account of want of knowledge that his Party now tells the House that there are many grievances under which the people are suffering, they are treated harshly, and so on. I may tell this House that the Government have spent nearly three or four crores of rupees for the irrigation of the people of Peshawar (Laughter), I mean the Government have spent in irrigating the land belonging to the people in Peshawar district, they have spent all this money in the uplift of the villages in the Peshawar district. In that district, the Government have made many roads, created offices and Cantonments in which people get all kinds of employment. There is one big college which it is proposed now to be converted into a University. There are three colleges in five districts and many hospitals. The Government are giving liberal aids to education in that district. On the contrary, our general complaint is that Government are giving everything to the people of Peshawar and very little to other districts of Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Kohat and Hazara. I

can also say that for the last 20 years all titles, honours, concessions, grants and monies have been going to one district, that is, Peshawar. Is this a brutal treatment? Certainly not. Peshawar must remain very grateful to Government.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das** (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): All for watch and ward.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** But this watch and ward is confined not only to the Peshawar district, but it is spread throughout the land. The only point that I want to lay stress on is that Government are treating the Peshawar people very generously and very liberally. Sir, about the position and situation of the North-West Frontier Province, there seems to be a misapprehension that if a revolutionary speech is made there as here, or if anything is said there or in Delhi or Lahore, it will have the same effect or it will have no repercussions in the tribes of the Frontier Province. I may assure the House that it is not the case. The Frontier Province is surrounded by independent tribes who are all equipped with first class weapons. It is not so with any other province of India. Any revolutionary question or movement which is spreading in the tribal area causes Government to send an expedition to suppress that which brings a very great loss of life as well as of money to the Indian exchequer and in the Indian army. A man may make a revolutionary speech in Delhi, and there is no effect upon the public. But if it is made there and the whole tribe gets up in arms against Government or against any town or village, then Government have to send a great air force and land force and everything else. Once in the High Court of Lahore, for instance, in the case of Rangila Rasul. . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks the Honourable Member is really straying much too far. If he has nothing more to say about the budget, he should bring his remarks to a close.

**Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan:** Sir, I wanted to say all the more in this connection. But about the budget, as I have said before, I think it is well balanced and very good, and I congratulate the Finance Member on it. But if you confine me only to the budget, then I think I will resume my seat.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi** (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I was not present when the Honourable the Finance Member presented his budget the other day. When I read it in the papers, it struck me as a frank and a candid statement of the position of the Government of India, and I could not read in it anything which I may describe as insincere.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

I could find that the Finance Member has been trying his best to understand the situation in which he has been placed. But bound as he is by the bureaucratic chain, he feels the difficulty of the situation. I could very easily see that he could not touch the ever-condemned military budget. I could also find that he could not reduce the duties and taxes which were levied on the commodities which are consumed by the poor people in the villages. Even the postcards were left at nine pies

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi.]

and not reduced to six, as has been the cry of every section of the House, and I believe some hopes were also held out last year. And, in the second paragraph of his speech, he has stated that the surplus of 2,72 lakhs has been more than anticipated, and he gave four reasons for it. The fourth reason, as was said by my Honourable friend just now, relates to a matter which concerns the Government of Bihar and Orissa. I could at once see how the Finance Member has struck the right note. He is perfectly right in saying that there has been non-realisation of their expectations of a reduction in receipts from income-tax in the areas affected by the earthquake of January, 1934. My Honourable friend, over there, has levelled his criticisms in his own way, but I would tell the Finance Member that no less than a dozen attempts were made last year to lessen the severity in the matter of realising income-tax from the people who suffered in the earthquake area. But the reply was the same stereotyped one that the local officials were doing their best.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Surely some concession was made in the matter of income-tax to people in the earthquake areas?

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** I do not believe that concessions were made.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** But I do.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** That may be, but my point is about the way in which the money was realised from the people; and that is what we saw with our own eyes. The point is not that some amount was realised here and some amount was realised there. The point is that people who had suffered greatly in the earthquake area were very severely dealt with for the purpose of realising income-tax; and my experience at that time was that not only this tax, but many other demands of Government were realised with the same severity. The landholders wanted some concession in the payment of their land revenue, and that would have given some relief to the poor tenant who has to pay in turn his share to the landholders; but nothing of the kind could be secured in that part of the country. My friend, over there, is bitter; he has used very strong language with which I do not agree, but I must confess that he has painted a true picture of the place by saying that the officers there were ruthlessly dealing with the people.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** May I get this right? Is the Honourable Member suggesting that there was undue harshness applied in the collection of income-tax in the earthquake area?

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** Yes, Sir.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** Then let me tell him that if he will bring to my notice any instances of that harshness, I will certainly have them investigated.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** Thank you.

**The Honourable Sir James Grigg:** But they must be real instances and not mere hearsay.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** There is no question of hearsay; I am giving you my own experience of the place.

It is not only that. The House is aware that, last year, the Honourable Sir George Schuster was not only just but generous to the earthquake-stricken people and he made a good gesture at the time by giving the province three crores and a half in one way or another for the relief of the distressed. The Honourable the Finance Member may take it from me that these three crores and a half were utilised in a manner which has left some rancour in the hearts of a large majority of the people rather than satisfaction in that respect. That is the situation which now exists in the Tirhut Division of Bihâr and Orissa from where I come.

Take one amongst many examples. To build sheds in localities where people did not want to go, lakhs and lakhs were spent. I believe in Muzaffarpur alone, four or five lakhs were spent in building hundreds of sheds in places where the people would not like to migrate. Each block was made at a cost of about Rs. 770, and, when no one occupied it, it had to be resold. At the time of resale, the price fixed was Rs. 280 per block. But even this Rs. 280 could not be had and it had then to be sold for Rs. 100 or so.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** What did it cost?

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** It cost Rs. 770 per block,—a total of Rs. four to five lakhs in all. When people did not occupy them, they had to be resold to the contractors, and the price fixed was Rs. 280 per block. But even for Rs. 280 nobody would buy it. It had to be reduced, and I believe it has been sold for about Rs. 100 per block: so a hut built for Rs. 770 remained unused and had to be sold for about Rs. 100 some months after. That has been the way in which money has been wasted. The same was the case in Durbhanga.

We have not been lacking in our duty towards the distressed: we have been trying to approach the officials and we have told them to their face that the money is being wasted and that the money should not be spent in that way and that, if persisted on, it will only leave rancour instead of satisfaction in the hearts of the people which was the object of the Government of India at the time they made this generous offer. This is a matter pertaining to this budget, because the money came from the Government of India: therefore, I deal with it at some length, for which I hope I will be excused by this House. Although my remarks relate to one province alone, it shows how the money given by Government of India is spent. For that reason I would stress the point a little more. So far as the loans are concerned, we know what a generous offer was made by the Government of India, but people are dying for loans in the afflicted area. Thousands of petitions were put in before the local authorities, and the people were told to come one day or another and they, with the exception of some fortunate few, hang on for months and months, and, at the end, they get nothing whatsoever for their petitions and have got to go dissatisfied. Distribution has been very bad in that locality which has suffered severely on account of the earthquake.

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi.]

Now, that the Finance Member has found a crore of rupees for rural uplift, I believe it is a very welcome sign for which I heartily congratulate him, and I hope and believe this will be continued all along the line so that the step may bring its fruit in the long run. The Honourable the Finance Member might be aware that our province of Bihar and Orissa is an ultra-rural province, because there are more than a lakh of villages in it and about 96 per cent. of the population is agriculturist, and no less than 78 per cent. of the population lives on agriculture. Therefore, it is all the more necessary that the money given for the rural uplift should be utilised to the best advantage. But I am afraid the same fate awaits this money if precautions are not taken at the very outset.

I may make one humble suggestion of mine, that there must be a committee of Government officials and non-officials, in intimate touch with the peasantry, who should sit together and put their heads together and devise ways and means as to how they should utilise the money to the best advantage. Unless this is done, I believe no good result will come out of this money again. As the Honourable Member might be aware, our province is a fertile province, but it does not yield sufficient to feed the people of the place. They have to emigrate out of the province for earning their bare necessities. The primary need of the province is the creation of an elaborate system of irrigation in the part of the country where there is no such arrangement. The poor people have to depend upon the rains: they find themselves in a very difficult situation every year. I believe for the last four or five years they have had no good crops at all. For that reason, if the money is spent on irrigation, I believe it might bring its reward in the long run, and people might feel a bit satisfied. But, simultaneously with it, steps should be taken to launch an intensive system of agricultural development in as many selected areas of the province as funds permit. If the two together are taken up in right earnest, then the object of giving this money for the rural uplift could be well attained.

I find that some money has been allotted for broadcasting; but that scheme seems to have been ignored altogether in the province of Bihar and Orissa: although this method of educating the masses has been accepted as the best in this century. The province of Bihar and Orissa has, so far as I know, no such scheme before it. I do not think the Government of India would take no account of the province as it has been done by the authorities in that locality. I hope that they will see that Bihar also gets its share and gets the full advantage of this broadcast system.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi**: The third suggestion I have to make is in regard to the Co-operative Department. In that direction too, I find that our province has been doing the worst. I feel sure that Mr. Darling will tell the Government of India all that he has seen in the province. But what I find is that there is stagnation in the province: they have not allowed any society to be opened up for the last four or five years. I myself believe in the weeding out of diseased societies, but that does not mean that societies which are to be established on sound and

right lines should not be opened. All these complaints I am making are due to the unimaginative nature of the rulers of the province of Bihar and Orissa. If the Government of India want that province to profit, they should take particular care to see that the money that may be given for these purposes is utilised to the best advantage. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Bhai Parma Nand** (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, at the very outset, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Sir James Grigg on the production of this budget, which is somewhat different from the budget we had in the last Assembly. As Sir James Grigg himself has remarked in his speech, the credit for this surplus budget really goes to his predecessor, Sir George Schuster. Unpopularity was his, while praise goes to Sir James for his labours in producing such an excellent budget. Sir, I wish to confine myself only to one aspect of the budget which has been dealt with by several speakers in this House, and that is the setting apart of one crore of rupees for rural uplift. Some of my friends think that the Honourable the Finance Member is really going to take away the wind from Mahatma Gandhi's movement. I am afraid I cannot agree with this view, as Mahatma Gandhi himself has said, he wants the Government to help the cause of rural uplift and that he would be glad to have the co-operation of the Government in this matter.

But, Sir, my objection is based on quite different grounds so far as the reservation of this one crore is concerned. Every one of us here knows that there is very great agricultural distress, the agriculturists and the villagers are suffering a great deal, but the question is what is the remedy to be adopted for the removal of their sufferings and distress. When a person is suffering from a serious and chronic disease, it is not enough for a doctor to merely treat the symptoms, but he will have to find out the root cause of the disease and then try to remove the disease permanently. In this case I doubt very much if this distress can be removed by making a few grants to the agricultural classes and poor villagers. How can you go on making these grants to these poor people for ever? By so doing you practically tax these people, you take a portion of their income by way of taxes and give it back to them in another shape.

Sir, we find that it is not only the poor agriculturists who are suffering, but there is a large army of unemployed people, mostly educated middle class people, who are manufactured in our educational factories. Millions of youngmen are every year coming out of our colleges and Universities having nothing to do, and who can doubt that they are in very great need of assistance. Wherever you go, you will find unemployment and starvation. How can the Government try to remove the distress of the villagers and agriculturists without paying any attention to the unemployment problem that is practically destroying the middle class people of this country? Therefore, I would make a humble suggestion for the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member, and it is this. We should certainly try to relieve the burden on agriculturists who cultivate the soil, and this can be better done by helping and encouraging both the principal and subsidiary industries in this country. I think it is an universally admitted fact that without protection no industry can flourish in this country. Protection is the only way by which we can develop our industries, and it is a great pity that sufficient attention is not being paid to this matter.

[Bhai Parma Nand.]

We were all extremely glad when Sir George Rainy started the protection policy on behalf of the Government of India, but, then, only a year later, we were surprised to find that the very industries, which were started as a result of the protection that was afforded to them by the Government of India, were being killed in their very infancy. Sir George Schuster, of course, had said that the sugar industry, which had secured protection, had made large profits, but I think if he were present here, today, he would have seen that those very sugar factories, of whose profits he felt so jealous, are today working under heavy losses. The cane is diseased, it does not yield a large percentage of sucrose, and it is hardly possible for these sugar mill owners all over the Meerut and Saharanpur line to make any profits at all, as they have to pay a very heavy excise duty too. It is a great pity that such is the case with an industry that has given an occupation to agriculturists and educated middle classes.

I say, Sir, if the land is relieved of the burden of heavy taxation, if new methods of cultivation are introduced, and if new commodities or varieties of various articles of foodstuffs are introduced, it will surely give employment to a large class of people, educated as well as uneducated, and there will also be a chance for capitalists to invest their capital in fresh fields. Therefore, I think that instead of applying quack remedies to remove the rural distress or help the villagers as a matter of doling out charity, Government should introduce industries in this country on a vast scale. We have before us the example of Japan. Japan is not giving out every year charity to her village people, but she is helping her people to foster and develop her industries in all manner of ways, to an extent that today even England and America are afraid of the competition from Japan in her manufactured goods. Of course, it is true that handsome bounties are given by the Japanese Government, but the real reason advanced for the industrial progress of Japan is that there is cheap living in the country, that labour is cheap, and labourers work for longer hours. These things are certainly true in the case of India as well, living is cheap here, and the labourers are paid a very small amount by way of wages; thus if the Government were to embark upon a generous programme of industrial development by training the people in industrial schools and produce skilled men in this country, I think our people, with their capacity to work for longer hours and with newly acquired general efficiency, would be able to produce much better things which would be able to compete with Japan. It is only by relieving the burden on agriculture and by providing subsidiary industries that you can really give help to agriculturists who will be able to get sufficient food to eat and live with some ease.

Let me turn to another point. The Honourable Member for Posts and Telegraphs increased the rate of the postcard first from one pice to two pice and then to three pice. The postcards are used by the poor. Thus, what you do is that you take away from the poor people money from their lean resources, and a portion of the income so derived, you want to give back to these very people for their uplift. It would have been much better if the Honourable Member in charge of Posts and Telegraphs had reduced the rate of the postcard for the benefit of the poor who use mostly postcards.

Again, Sir, the Government of India have allotted a crore of rupees for village uplift, the result is that Bihar would want a larger portion out of this sum, Assam might want an equally good portion, Bengal would also

want generous relief, and so every province will look for some relief out of this one crore. How can you divide this amount among all the numerous villages in India and give any substantial relief? My suggestion is that, instead of treating this disease superficially, we should go to the very root and encourage our industries and try to produce such articles that are in daily use among the people.

I take this opportunity to point out another thing. Our friends on this side are always talking of independence and self-government. But when they come to the real obstacle that is stopping us from advancing towards self-government or responsible government, they keep quiet. They have not got the courage even to be true to their own principles and convictions on the question of the Communal Award. They said, they did not want to reject it or accept it. They come here and sit in this Assembly representing a large proportion of the Hindu population, and when the motion for acceptance comes, they keep mum betraying the interests of the country . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** This is budget.

**Bhai Parma Nand:** Of course, it is budget. Everything can be talked on the budget. You cannot try to stop me as you have been trying to short down our Nawab Sahib. Of course, you betray the real cause of the country as you are afraid to go to the root of the disease. You do not want to root it out.

**Pandit Nilakantha Das:** We do not represent any Hindu or Muslim population here. We are Indians here.

**Bhai Parma Nand:** If relief for the earthquake sufferers is relevant, then my point is also relevant, there is no doubt about it.

**Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daud:** On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is complaining of the attitude of the Congress Party in respect of a different matter altogether. That cannot be relevant in a discussion like this.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The Chair hopes the Honourable Member will be more on the subject under discussion.

**Bhai Parma Nand:** I bow to your ruling, Sir. I have been here for four years and I have been talking about the Communal Award all this time. (Laughter.) In spite of the fact that Government would not listen to us and these Congress people would not listen to us, we have been talking, and this was never considered irrelevant at all. All the same, now that you have given a ruling, I must bow to it, although I think it is quite relevant. My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, the oldest Member of this House and the greatest constitutionalist, tells us that I can talk about anything on this occasion.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Order, order. The Honourable Member will please address the Chair.



**Bhai Parma Nand:** I would urge this very point as an argument for the rejection of the budget, because the Government of India have supported this, the Members of the Executive Council have by their votes, and our friends on this side by their silence, made this House accept the Award.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** It is not our budget.

**Bhai Parma Nand:** But you have been talking about it all the same. Therefore, I think these people have betrayed the real cause of the country, and still they talk of getting freedom and independence! They should be true to their principles and convictions. I do not want to say anything further on this point.

However, I wish to tell a story in connection with the position of the Nawab Sahib, I do not know whether time will allow me. Sir, when my Honourable friend, the Nawab Sahib of Dera, was speaking, he was ridiculed and laughed at. My friends over here thought that he did not understand the position of his own province. I beg to differ from that view. He is an old man, his family has been a ruling family in Dera and he understands the position most correctly. He is now in his grey hairs, if I may say so.

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

My story is: There was a Raja, who was told by an astrologer that, on a certain day and at a particular hour, a certain wind would blow and everybody whom this wind touched would become mad. The king called his ministers to find out how to protect himself from the effects of wind. A special kind of building was constructed for the purpose and the king concealed himself in one of the rooms where the wind could not reach. At the proper time, it is said, the wind did blow and touched all other people but the king. When the ruler came out of the house, everybody pointed to him, here is a mad fellow, whereas he was the only man who was saved from that wind and was in reality the person in his proper senses. (Laughter.)

**Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar (Madras: Nominated Official):** Sir, I am really thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in this House. I won't complain, as one previous speaker did, that I failed to catch your eye on two or three occasions before. This is my first appearance in this august Assembly, in fact, this is the first time that I address any public Assembly. I trust, therefore, that the House will bear with me for a few minutes. Let me, as an official, thank the Honourable the Finance Member for the removal of the salary cut. In removing it, he has only carried out the pledge repeatedly made in this House that the restoration of the salary cut would be the first act when the financial conditions improved. In 1931, Sir George Schuster stated as follows:

"A cut in pay must be regarded as a very exceptional measure which can only be justified in exceptional circumstances. It is nothing less than a variation of the conditions under which an officer enters Government service, and it must be remembered that the security of these conditions represents an essential attraction of service under Government. It would be fatal to the public interest if that sense of security were destroyed."

Enunciating the principles by which the Government should be guided in easing the burdens, he said:

“Relief must come first in restoring the emergency cuts in pay.”

As there seems to be a feeling that this cut should not have been removed, I have thought it necessary to remind the House of the principles which were once explained to the House, and I take it, were accepted by the House.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): Certainly not.

**Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar**: At any rate, there was no protest.

**An Honourable Member**: What protest?

**Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar**: The House, I take it, acquiesced in those principles, and now it is too late to say that that pledge should not be carried out. There is absolutely no excuse for continuing any portion of the cut now. As salaries of the new entrants in most of the services have been drastically reduced . . .

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: What about the Indian Civil Service?

**Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar**: “Most of the services” I said,—I have excluded some services there. As the salaries of the new entrants in most of the services have been drastically reduced, there is bound to be a considerable reduction in the cost of administration in due time in future. In this connection, I may express the gratitude of the services to the authors of the Joint Parliamentary Report for their handsome acknowledgment of the loyalty and faithfulness of the services, and for the just provisions which they have made for the security of their tenure and their immunity from political interference. These are the best guarantees for loyal and efficient service, and there is absolutely no reason to warrant any mistrust that the services will not continue to be as faithful and as efficient as they have been in the past. The fidelity with which they have discharged their duties under the present Ministers, to which ample testimony has been borne before the Lee Commission, is proof, if proof were needed, that there will be no falling away from the present standard and that the assurance as regards the conditions and tenure of service will make no difference whatsoever in their attitude towards the new Ministers.

Looking up some of the previous debates in this House, I came across an amusing controversy. It was once argued in this House that wheat produced loyalists and rice terrorists and agitators. Being a consumer of the latter grain myself, with probably an occasional admixture of wheat, I was very sorry for that condemnation of rice and was really wondering in what category I must put down my friends from Madras on the opposite side. I soon, however, derived consolation from the fact that if rice had really that deleterious effect on the mental attitude of its consumers, the importation of Burmese and Siamese rice would have been prohibited altogether even without any agitation for the levy of import duties and perhaps the cultivation of rice itself discouraged or even prevented. I presume, therefore, that that controversy has happily ended, not unfavourably to the rice eater.

[Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar.]

That reminds me, Sir, of the agitation to impose an import duty upon foreign rice. I do not at all wish to enter into the merits of this discussion. I have only to point out that there seems to be a clash of interests in this matter. We have had reports of meetings in the Madras Presidency, particularly recently, in which resolutions have been passed against the levy of any import duty on foreign rice. I do not for a moment suggest that we should not rehabilitate the position of the agriculturist or try to enable him to reap the fullest benefit from the internal market for his produce. I only mention these things to show that much care and caution are necessary both as regards the levy of the duty and the amount of the duty.

Passing now from the produce of the land to the land which produces it, there has been recently an acute depression, and I hope we have passed the worst phase of it. This, of course, has forced the question of the system of land revenue assessments to the forefront in view of the large percentage of the population that pay land revenue. Here, again, I only wish to mention in passing that the present land revenue systems are the result of a gradual evolution of the systems which were found to be in existence in pre-British days. These systems have developed on different lines in different provinces according to the different conditions prevailing in those provinces. The present system is an inheritance from the pre-British rulers, a fact which explains its development on divergent lines in different places. Considering, therefore, the history and the tradition behind land revenue, it is neither possible nor desirable to evolve any uniform policy. Uniformity undoubtedly exists in some respects, for instance, the limits which individual Governments have imposed on themselves in the matter of enhancement of land revenue and such like. The systems now in force have stood the test of time and are very well understood. I am aware that some time ago when prices ruled high, the agitation was that there should be no periodical revision of settlements and that a permanent settlement should be introduced even in areas which were under a ryotwari tenure. Now, the agitation is just the contrary way. They want to pull down the permanent settlements and want to make the holders under the permanent settlement share the burdens equally with the other ryotwari holders. I am not quite sure if my friend, Mr. Ranga, does not hold up the system of assessment in Government areas as a model by which the zamindars in South India should be guided. Turning to the Madras Government, he would say "Your system is open to condemnation. Abolish it" and to the zamindars "You copy the Government system which is the better system". I think that to attempt to evolve a uniform system will be to do away with the hoary traditions of the past, quite unsuitable to particular localities and injurious to the best interests of the ryots themselves and to the finances of the country. The agricultural classes are undoubtedly hard hit by the present economic depression. This hardship must be met and is actually met by other ways of relief than by an attempted revision of the land revenue policy, and the local administrations have not been slow to grant such relief as the present conditions of the agricultural ryots demanded. The provision of 100 lakhs which has been made available to Local Governments for the economic development and improvement of rural areas is particularly welcome at this time. I hope Honourable Members will bend their energies to formulating and suggesting plans for getting the maximum benefit possible to the rural areas from this grant. Grants for roads, broadcasting and civil aviation are of much potential benefit to the people.

Sir, we are on the eve of great constitutional changes. This is not the occasion to dilate on the several changes which are in contemplation, but I believe that in the provincial sphere there is much scope for gaining greater experience of administration in a larger sphere and thus proving our capacity for fuller reforms and for the removal of the present "paper safeguards", if I may use that expression. It is unfair and unjust to assume that future Governors will stifle all political progress. Surely no Governor will take a malignant delight in interfering with the administration, merely because he has the power to do so. It may be taken as certain that he will interfere only when it becomes absolutely necessary to do so and when his advice and persuasion have had no effect on the Minister. It has been made a point of criticism that the new Constitution implies a distrust of the people. It may perhaps be said with reason on the other side that the criticisms imply a distrust of the manner in which future Governors will exercise the powers which have been entrusted to them—a distrust for which there is no warrant from previous experience and which is not complimentary to the illustrious line of Governors the several provinces have had. I think, therefore, Sir, that autonomy in the provinces is as full as it can be, considering the existing conditions. Even the other day we had the spectacle here of two Honourable Members belonging to different religions—I think I must avoid the word "religion", because I have been told not to import religion into these discussions—belonging to different communities . . . .

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Don't do that either. We all belong to India.

**Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar:** . . . . two Honourable Members were anxious to be put at ease in regard to their future position. There has yet been no answer forthcoming to that. So, in view of these dissensions which have come to be familiarly known by the term "cleavages", I think there cannot be any fuller autonomy in the provinces than what has been granted.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Oh, oh, Sir Samuel Hoare speaking!

**Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar:** Let us, therefore, fix our gaze and attention on the stream, without being needlessly alarmed at the banks, which are only intended to ensure an easy, consistent and continuous flow. (Loud Applause.)

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 6th March, 1935.