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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1933



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Legislative Assembly.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 4th September, 1933.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMBINATION OF OIL COMPANIES.

460. *Sardar Sant Singh : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the result of the investigation into the question whether the oil companies have a combine or not, as promised by them in reply to my starred questions No. 159, dated 8th September, 1932 and No. 1668 of the 14th December, 1932 ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Government have made enquiries into the matter but they have been unable to secure evidence which proves the existence of any combination to raise prices in India.

ORGANISATION AND CONTROL OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

461. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that on the formation of Travelling Ticket Examiners' cadre in 1912 its organization and control was entrusted to the Audit Department ? If so, will Government please state :

- (i) What were the duties performed by the Travelling Ticket Examiners under the Audit Department at that time ?
- (ii) Why was the organisation and control transferred to the Traffic in 1915 ?

(b) Is it a fact that its re-transfer from the Traffic control to the Audit control in 1916 was effected owing to the reason that it could run more efficiently and economically under the Audit Department only ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 461 to 475 together. These questions involve a considerable amount of research, sometimes into circumstances in existence twenty years ago. I doubt whether I shall be able to give a complete or exhaustive reply, but I have asked the Agent, North Western Railway, to let me have whatever information is readily available, and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

CREW SYSTEM ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†462. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that in 1922 the Crew System was started on the North Western Railway in Lahore Division

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 461.

under the Chief Auditor but was abolished very soon, as it proved a failure ?

(b) Is it a fact that subsequent to the abolition of the Crew System, a system, whereby two men in a group checked trains, was started, but this also fell into the back-ground for similar reasons as the Crew System ?

ORGANISATION AND CONTROL OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†463. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that no transfer of the organisation and control of the Travelling Ticket Examiners' cadre was made between the years 1916-1928 ? Is it a fact that the working of the Travelling Ticket Examiners remained very satisfactory and was highly spoken of by the authorities during that period ?

(b) Is it a fact that at the Divisional Superintendents' Conference in 1925, it was unanimously resolved to bring the Travelling Ticket Examiners under Traffic control, and is it further true that this proposal was highly supported by Colonel Walton, Agent, who then recommended to the Railway Board this change ?

(c) Is it true that the Railway Board turned down this proposal in view of the fact that this Branch could run more efficiently and economically under the Audit Department ? Is it further true that the Board finally decided that this Branch should continue to remain under the Audit Department till such time when Audit would be separated from Accounts and that when this event occurred, the Travelling Ticket Examiners would be placed under the Accounts Department ?

ORGANISATION AND CONTROL OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†464. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board doubled the strength of the Travelling Ticket Examiners after the failure of the Crew and the two-men systems in 1926 ? If so, why ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners' Branch was abruptly taken over by the Traffic Department in 1928 ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons which made this step expedient despite the final orders of the Railway Board prohibiting such a transfer ?

(c) Is it a fact that the authorities appointed a committee of Messrs. Cammeron, Phillipps, and Callaghan to devise ways and means which would enable the authorities to cut down the emoluments of these employees ?

(d) Is it a fact that this committee gave a verdict that the emoluments of these employees could not be cut down in view of paragraph 362 of the Open Line Code, Volume II ? If not, will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the aforesaid Committee's report ?

ORGANISATION AND CONTROL OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†465. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that ever since the transfer of Travelling Ticket Examiners from Audit to Traffic, two classes

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 461.

of employees, *viz.*, the Travelling Ticket Examiners and Special Ticket Examiners worked simultaneously on the North Western Railway ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

(i) what were the circumstances that led to the appointment of Special Ticket Examiners on North Western Railway before the abolition of Travelling Ticket Examiners' cadre ;

(ii) how far did these Special Ticket Examiners fulfil the purpose for which they were recruited ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Lahore, after making a comparison between the work of Travelling Ticket Examiners and Special Ticket Examiners, abolished the posts of the latter ? If so, why ?

ABOLITION OF THE CADRE OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†466. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that the authorities took an opportunity in 1931 to abolish the whole cadre of Travelling Ticket Examiners, attributing this measure to the stringency of funds ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether this measure was adopted after the findings of the Divisional Personnel Officers' conference ?

(b) If stringency of funds necessitated the abolition of the Travelling Ticket Examiners' cadre, will Government be pleased to state where lay the justification for appointing 30 more Special Ticket Examiners in Lahore Division in 1933 ?

SPECIAL AND TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†467. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that the working of Special Ticket Examiner was economical and useful ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

(i) Why did the Agent accord his sanction to Divisional Superintendent, Lahore, to bring under reduction all Special Ticket Examiners in his Division ?

(ii) Did the Agent consider at this instance the desirability of doing away with the Travelling Ticket Examiners instead of the Special Ticket Examiners in Lahore Division since the Travelling Ticket Examiners were considered superfluous, *vide* the Government of India reply to my question No. 225 in the Assembly on 11th September, 1931 ?

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY DIVISIONAL PERSONNEL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.

†468. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table of this House a statement showing the names of the officers who attended the Divisional Personnel Officers' conference ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many and which of these Divisional Personnel Officers were Commercial officers ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 461.

ABOLITION OF THE CADRE OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†469. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that after the abolition of the Travelling Ticket Examiners' cadre, groups of five Special Ticket Examiners, hitherto called Travelling Ticket Examiners, were formed for checking purposes, whereas previously as Travelling Ticket Examiners, one man did this work ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether it did not mean that the checking of the trains was reduced to one-fifth of what it was previously ?

(b) Is it a fact that checking on running trains was completely abolished on the North Western Railway ?

GROUP SYSTEM OF TICKET CHECKING ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†470. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it not a fact that during the prevalence of the Group System of checking on the North Western Railway, the number of trains checked remained low ?

(b) Is it a fact that serious cases of fraud mentioned below were brought to light by Special Ticket Examiners (old Travelling Ticket Examiners) :

- (i) Re-issue of tickets between Badami Bagh and Nankana Sahib ;
- (ii) Re-use of tickets between Lahore and Delhi ; and
- (iii) Jaitu Ticket case.

(c) Is it a fact that the authorities later on gave up this system after holding a conference of Divisional Commercial Officers at Lahore on 21st, 22nd and 23rd November, 1932, and unanimously agreed to work on the system of one man per train to cope with illegal travelling, and sanction to this was accorded by the Agent, *vide* his letter No. 173-M.C., dated 27th November, 1932 ? If not, will Government be pleased to place on the table of this House a copy of the minutes of the conference, together with the Agent, North Western Railway's letter No. 173-M.C., dated 27th November, 1932 ?

ORGANISATION AND CONTROL OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†471. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Examiners prior to their coming under the control of the Commercial Department on the North Western Railway were under the control of the Chief Auditor ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) What were the duties they performed under the Audit Department ?
- (b) On what grounds were they treated as running staff ?
- (c) Who compiled the programme of their working the trains ?
- (d) What mileage allowance was given to them and in what consideration ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 461.

ORGANISATION AND CONTROL OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†472. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners after their transfer from Audit to the Commercial Department remained performing the same duties as under Audit from 1st June, 1928 to 31st May, 1931 ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) What change in the policy of the Administration made them stop their mileage allowance ?
- (b) What change in their duty has been created ?
- (c) What is the difference between running and stationary duty ?
- (d) What is the difference between a Travelling Ticket Examiner and a Special Ticket Examiner ?

DENIAL OF CERTAIN CONCESSIONS TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†473. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners who are now called Special Ticket Examiners have still to run with the trains under a set programme, now fixed by Group Inspector, similar to the one previously made by Head Travelling Ticket Examiner ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) Why they are not treated as running staff ?
- (b) Why their mileage allowance has been stopped ?

REDUCTION OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†474. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that these Travelling Ticket Examiners were given no alternative of discharge for not accepting the cadre of Special Ticket Examiner ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) what is their practice in bringing a member of the running staff to a stationary appointment ;
- (b) whether these men were fixed up according to that practice in Special Ticket Examiners' grade ;
- (c) how far the emoluments of these men have decreased by independently fixing their pay and cutting down their emoluments ;
- (d) is it a fact that these men's emoluments have gone down by about 50 per cent. ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :
 - (i) in what other Department of service have Government made such drastic reduction ;
 - (ii) how far the permanent reduction of these men compares with the temporary emergency cut and other reduction in staff ;
 - (iii) what other temporary reduction in their pay has been made under the financial stringency scheme in addition to lowering their grades and cutting down their mileage allowance ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 461.

NON-ADOPTION OF THE MODY WARD SCHEME OF TICKET CHECKING ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†475. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that Mody Ward Scheme approved of by the Railway Board as well as by the Public Accounts Committee was meant for adoption on all State Railways ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons why this scheme has not been introduced on the North Western Railway ;
- (b) whether the Agents of State Railways were given the option of accepting or rejecting it ;
- (c) if the answer to (b) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take against the North Western Railway Administration for setting aside a measure which cost the Government of India labour and finance ;
- (d) what are the main features of the scheme followed on the North Western Railway ?

ALLOWANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

476. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that the Railway Board in their letter No. 822/E.G., dated 22nd December, 1932 to the Agent, North Western Railway, have admitted that there has been a large fall in the emoluments of Travelling Ticket Examiners by stopping their mileage allowance ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) How far the consolidated travelling allowance granted to them in lieu of mileage has been reasonably compensated ?
- (b) Whether the consolidated allowance substituted for mileage allowance is considered as a part of pay for all purposes like the mileage allowance ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have considered the whole question very carefully and come to the conclusion that there is no justification for treating ticket inspecting or examining staff as running staff and continuing to them the mileage allowances they were formerly in receipt of. There was therefore no question of compensating them for the loss of their allowance, but purely as an *ex gratia* measure and in order to mitigate the loss entailed, they decided to grant them a consolidated travelling allowance at rates higher than those they would have been entitled to if the ordinary rules had been applied to them. This allowance is not considered as part of pay.

SELECTION OF JOURNEYMEN FOR THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, MUGHALPURA.

477. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the selection of ten posts of Journeymen for the North Western Railway (Mughalपुरा) Workshops, Loco. and Carriage Department, took place on the 2nd June, 1933 ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 461.

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government aware that there were four departmental qualified trained Sindhis amongst the forty applicants for these ten posts ?

(c) Is it a fact that not one of these ten posts was given to a Sindhi ?

(d) What is the total number of Journeymen in all the North Western Railway Workshops ?

(e) What is the percentage of Sindhis working as Journeymen ?

(f) Is it a fact that out of these ten appointments, four were required for Turner Trade (for machine Shop) ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why claims of these senior Sindhi candidates were ignored ?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state when they intended to right the wrong done to these Sindhi candidates ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information, but have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, North Western Railway, for any action he may think fit to take.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES, INDO-CHINA AND SIAM.

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

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to a summary of a speech, published in the *Hindu* of Madras of July 14th last, by Dr. Lanka Sundaram regarding his tour experiences among Indians in the Federated Malay States, Indo-China and Siam ? If so, what measures do they propose to take in the subject-matter of his grievances ;

(b) whether they are in receipt of Dr. Lanka Sundaram's promised memorandum containing his opinions and recommendations for the removal of the grievances among Indians in those places ? If so, what steps are Government going to adopt in the matter ?

Mr. B. J. Glancy : (a) and (b). The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the summary of Dr. Lanka Sundaram's speech published in the *Hindu* of Madras of July 14th, 1933, but his promised Memorandum has not yet been received. As regards the measures Government propose to take in the matter, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 152 on the same subject.

SENDING BACK OF REPATRIATED INDIANS FROM NATAL AND OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THEIR HOMES.

479. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that of late a scheme has been set afloat for sending back some of the repatriated Indians from Natal and other parts of South Africa to their original homes ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to give the details of such a scheme ?

(c) How many of such repatriated Indians have so far been dealt with under that scheme ?

(d) Are Government aware whether any sort of trouble is being experienced on account of the bonus not being restored with the return of the repatriates ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) It is regretted that the question is not understood.

SUSPENSION OF A CANDIDATE FROM THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAMJAS COLLEGE CENTRE, DELHI.

480. *Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) if it is a fact that one, Om Parkash Aggarwal, Roll No. 162, Intermediate (Arts) was suspended from the examination by the Superintendent, Ramjas College Centre, Delhi, on the 12th of April, 1933 ;

(b) if it is a fact that on the 13th of April, 1933, his father, L. Joti Parshad, Advocate (Ambala City), sent a reply pre-paid telegram (No. 75) from Delhi to Mr. H. V. Thadani, the Superintendent, asking him if he would allow the candidate to appear in the next paper ;

(c) If it is a fact that in reply to the above telegram, the Superintendent on the 15th April, 1933, telegraphed to the guardian at Jagadhri to refer the matter to the Registrar or the Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 480 to 482 together.

Some of the information required for answering these questions has to be obtained from the Superintendent of the Ramjas College centre and is still awaited. On receipt of this, replies will be laid on the table of the House.

SUSPENSION OF A CANDIDATE FROM THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAMJAS COLLEGE CENTRE, DELHI.

†481. *Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : (a) Are Government aware that under the rules the Superintendent of a centre can suspend the examinee only for the day and no more ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how the Superintendent justifies himself in asking the guardian to refer the matter to the Registrar or Vice-Chancellor, and thus continuing the suspension ?

(c) Is it a fact that the answer book of the said candidate in Mathematics (a) (on the day of suspension) was not sent by the Superintendent to the examiner for marking ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 480.

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to quote the rules under which the Superintendent was empowered to do so ?

(e) If there exists no such rule empowering the Superintendent to withhold the answer-book, do Government propose to direct the University to get it examined and marked now ?

(f) Is it not a fact that 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th of April last were holidays and the guardian of the student had to get the matter set right by sending telegrams to the Superintendent, Registrar and Vice-Chancellor on the 15th of April from Jagadhri ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state what action has so far been taken against the Superintendent ? If no action has yet been taken, will Government be pleased to state what they propose to do in the matter to prevent a repetition of such mistakes ?

SUSPENSION OF A CANDIDATE FROM THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAMJAS COLLEGE CENTRE, DELHI.

†482. *Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the said candidate, Om Parkash, and some others were disqualified from passing this year's examination and debarred from appearing at any University examination for the next two years under notification No. 658, dated the 6th June, 1933, in accordance with the decision of the Executive Council of the Delhi University ?

(b) Are Government aware that there exists no rule framed by the University and duly sanctioned by Government under the Indian University Act empowering the Executive Council to pass such orders, as is the case with other Universities ?

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESERVE BANK IN INDIA.

483. *Sardar G. N. Mujumdar : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the probable date when the proposed Reserve Bank is likely to be established ;

(b) whether the work done by the Currency Offices will be carried on by the Reserve Bank ? If so, do Government propose to see that the present staff employed in the Currency Offices is not affected in any way ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) and (b). Pending the decision of the Legislature on the proposed Reserve Bank Bill, the whole question is hypothetical.

CENSORSHIP OF CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS.

484. *Shajkh Sadiq Hasan : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that there is a great resentment among the Muslim public when scenes of Harem life are depicted in films and especially when historic Muslim queens and princesses are shown making love ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 480.

(b) Are Government prepared to order a stricter censorship in the case of types of films mentioned above ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) and (b). I have received no recent complaints from any Muslim bodies in this matter. Government are however fully alive to the importance of ensuring that the censorship of films is efficiently conducted and only very recently they addressed Local Governments on the subject generally. The existing position is that there is a Muslim representative on each of the Censorship Boards (except the Burma Board) constituted under the Act and these Boards have power to refuse to certify any film in whole or in part if they consider this necessary. Apart from this, the District Magistrate, or, in a Presidency Town the Commissioner of Police, may, under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, suspend the Certificate granted by a Board if he considers the exhibition of any particular film is open to objection. A Local Government also has power under the Act to declare any film passed by a Board to be an uncertified film in the whole or any part of the province.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : Would it not be advisable to have on such Boards Mussalmans who know about the sentiments of the Muslim public ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have no reason to suppose that the Muslim members of the Censorship Boards are other than those described by the Honourable Member.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : May I know who are the members at present ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have not got their names. The main Boards sit at Bombay and Calcutta. Except in Burma, every Censorship Board has a Muslim representative.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : Are you aware of the fact that in the case of many films a hue and cry has been raised among the Mussalmans and that they had objections to such films ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I can only repeat what I said at the beginning of my answer, that I have received no recent complaints from any Muslim bodies in this matter.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : Are you aware that a film called *Hur-i-Haram* was shown in Amritsar and that there was a great deal of trouble about it ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have no information on that point, but I wish once more to explain that the Government do realise very fully the importance of ensuring proper and efficient censorship of films and, in view of the elaborate arrangements which I have described in my answer, I think that it should be possible to secure that censorship.

BOMBARDMENT OF CERTAIN VILLAGES OF INDEPENDENT TRIBES ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER BY BRITISH AEROPLANES.

485. ***Shaikh Sadiq Hasan :** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that villages of independent tribes of the North-West Frontier were bombarded by British aeroplanes ?

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham : The facts have already been given to the House. A single village was bombed, after due warning had been given to enable the inhabitants to remove themselves to a place of safety.

†486*—545*.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE HAJ ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

546. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House or to keep in the library a copy of the confidential report submitted by the Haj Inquiry Committee ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : In case there is a confidential report, my Honourable friend will agree that it could not be laid on the table of the House.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Is there any such report ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : You will remember, Sir, that since the beginning my Honourable friend has been repeating questions on that point. I have nothing to add to the answers I have been giving him.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I do not want to know the information. I only want to know whether there is such a report. I want to know from Government whether they are aware that there is such a report ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I answered not in my personal capacity, but on behalf of Government.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : May I take it that there is no confidential report ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : If my Honourable friend knows, he need not ask and, if he does not know, I cannot enlighten him.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I have not seen all the contents of the report and so I do not know. May I take it that there is no confidential report at all ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have nothing to add to the answer which I have given.

Mr. Uppi Sahib Bahadur : Is there any supplementary report ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I am not aware of any supplementary report.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I want protection from the Chair. I have put a simple question and the Honourable Member can say " Yes " or " No ".

Mr. Uppi Sahib Bahadur : I want to know whether there is any report other than the report of the Haj Committee which has been published.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The report of the Haj Committee has been published.

Mr. Uppi Sahib Bahadur : Is there any other report ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : That is the only published report.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Is there any report which is confidential ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have already given such facts as I know.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : What objection has the Honourable Member to say that he is not prepared to say, instead of giving evasive answers.

†For these questions and answers thereto, see Legislative Assembly Debates, dated the 1st September, 1933.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : My Honourable friend says that my reply is evasive. I have already given the information that I have.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Does the Honourable Member know that there has been so much protest on this side ? If it is confidential, he should say that it is confidential.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : My reply was that if there is a confidential report, it could not be laid on the table of the House.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : What is the meaning of " if there is " ? I want to know if there is such a report ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I told my Honourable friend that if he knows, he need not ask, and that if he does not know, I cannot enlighten him.

Kunwar Hajeer Ismail Ali Khan : Has he seen any confidential report ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : In my private capacity, I have seen confidential report once, but, not as a member of any committee, and I do not know all the contents of the confidential report.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the Honourable Member's reply was evasive or not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : My Honourable friend tried to seek protection from you. I think I have a right to say that when Members come into possession of confidential information in the capacity of Members elected by the House, they cannot, with propriety, disclose that information on the floor of the House.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I have not seen the report in that capacity.

PURCHASE OF GRAIN FOR THE MILITARY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPOTS.

547. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state :-

(i) The period for which the agency for purchasing grain for the military and for managing the depots has been under the control of Messrs. Owen Roberts & Co., Ltd. ?

(ii) The total amount paid up to date to this private limited firm in commission and in remuneration ?

(b) Is it a fact that vast sums were paid in commission and remuneration to this private firm during a long period without ever calling for a public tender ?

(c) Is it a fact that, as a result of grave dissatisfaction existing among prospective Indian tenderers, the military authorities have now called for public tenders ?

(d) Is it a fact that the conditions attached to this tender are such as would give an advantage in tendering to the present holders of the contract, principally on the following grounds :

(i) the tenderers are expected to show experience of purchasing, crushing and handling grain for a number of years ;

(ii) the tenderers are expected to take over and work with the existing establishment set up by the present holders ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) (i). About seven years.

(ii) It would be improper, especially at the present juncture when new tenders are being invited, to disclose the amounts paid to the present Agent.

(b) No, the agency for grain purchase was given as a result of open competitive tender and was followed, after a probationary period, by the grant of the agency for the management of the depots.

(c) Tenders have been invited for the usual reasons.

(d) No. Tenderers have been asked to explain the nature and extent of their special knowledge and experience of the grain trade and to state the establishment which they propose to employ and the estimated cost thereof. Until information on these points is forthcoming, it cannot be stated whether the present agents have an advantage over other tenderers.

Mr. Gaya Parasad Singh : May I know if Messrs. Owen Roberts and Company were given the contract after calling for a public tender in the usual manner ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Yes, they were.

PURCHASE OF GRAIN FOR THE MILITARY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPOTS.

548. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the facts relating to the experience possessed by the present holders, Messrs. Owen Roberts & Co., Ltd., in purchasing and handling grain before the contract was privately handed over to them ?

(b) Have Government considered whether all this work could be handled by an officer of the Indian Stores Department, thus effecting a saving of several lakhs to the Exchequer ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) As already explained, the purchase and handling of grains was not privately handed over to Messrs. Owen Roberts and Company, Limited.

Before the firm secured the agency Mr. Owen Roberts was the manager of the up-country organisation of Messrs. Clements Robson and Company, one of the principal grain exporting firms in India. He possessed a wide and intimate knowledge of the Northern India grain trade.

(b) No. The Indian Stores Department do not undertake the purchase of foodstuffs.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I know why the Indian Stores Department cannot undertake this work ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I do not think I am in a position to answer that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I am asking the Member of Government in charge of the subject.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I do not think the Department have either the staff or the experience.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether Government will consider the desirability of having an organisation in the Stores Department to do this ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government consider that the present arrangements are the most suitable for the purpose.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Is it not a fact that the Stores Department want more work and that they pressed upon the Retrenchment Committee the desirability of the Army and the railways purchasing through them ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : That is so, but it does not want this particular business.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Is there any statutory disability against their doing this business ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : None.

PURCHASE OF GRAIN FOR THE MILITARY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPOTS.

549. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal :** (a) Is it a fact that in the published tender a condition is laid down that the Director of Contracts is not bound to accept the lowest tender ? Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for laying down such a condition ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for demanding from the tenderers a heavy security of 2½ lakhs of rupees for purchasing and handling grain ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) This clause appears in most invitations for tenders, for the very obvious reason that the lowest tender may not always be suitable.

(b) The deposits of 1½ lakhs in respect of grain purchase and of 1 lakh in respect of depot management have been demanded with reference to the volume of business and the responsibility which devolves on the agents owing to the fact that large sums of Government money are advanced to them for the purchase of grains and much valuable Government property is entrusted to their charge.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I know whether in those cases where the tender is not accepted, there is any special supervision exercised by Government ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The officer who receives the tender, if he does not propose to accept the lowest tender, has to give a full explanation of his reasons for doing so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Is there any system by which Government closely examines those cases ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I must ask for notice of that question.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE SURVEY OF INDIA DEPARTMENT.

550. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal :** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that at the time of retrenchment in the Survey of India Department in the year 1931, the Surveyor General in his departmental order No. 2718, dated the 3rd November, 1931, laid down that men for retrenchment had been selected from those who (i) volunteered to accept

compensatory terms, or (ii) were already entitled to full or substantial pensions, or (iii) were below the average in efficiency, or (iv) were young enough to make a fresh start in life ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Yes.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE SURVEY OF INDIA DEPARTMENT.

551. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal :** (a) Is it a fact that in Class II service of the Survey of India Department four officers with less than 10 years' service were selected for retrenchment and the remaining with the exception of one with over 25 years service ?

(b) Is it a fact that these four young officers have been paid gratuities for their satisfactory service and will also be entitled to draw pension under the new rules ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government are now holding a competitive examination for filling of seven vacancies in the same service ?

(d) Is it a fact that out of these officers two had stood first in the competitive examination ?

(e) Is it a fact that of these two officers mentioned in part (d) above, one Mr. Seth Ram Gupta has received an all-round training, i.e., in plane tabling (both plains and hills), traverse, triangulation, rectangulation, and air surveys, and has held charge of camps and sections ?

(f) If the answers to parts (d) and (e) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why they are not taking those trained officers back who are still on leave, instead of recruiting new hands whom they will have to train afresh ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Four of the officers selected for retrenchment had less than 10 years' service, two between 10 and 25 years' service and the remainder more than 25 years' service.

(b) Yes, except one who is not entitled to a pension.

(c), (d) and (e). The reply is in the affirmative.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (c) of question No. 346 in this House on 1st September.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROBATIONERS FOR CERTAIN POSTS AT THE RAILWAY SCHOOL, CHANDAUSI.

552. ***Mr. A. Das :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following advertisement which appeared on page 6, of the *Pioneer*, dated the 29th July, 1933 :

“ Wanted Probationers for Assistant Station Masters and Signallers training at the Chandausi School. Candidates must be Muslims and have passed the Matriculation or equivalent examination, they must hold a diploma in telegraphy from a recognised telegraph training institution.

Application with copies of certificates should be addressed to the Office Superintendent, Divisional Superintendent's Office, Howrah, and reach him before the 15th August, 1933.

Applications are to be forwarded in a cover superscribed ' Application for appointment as probationer '.

Divisional Superintendent, Howrah,
E. I. R.”.

If not, will Government be pleased to state why only applications were invited from a particular community to the exclusion of others ?

(b) Was the advertisement referred to in part (a) above put in under the direction of the Railway Board ?

(c) What is the policy of the Railway Board for the filling of new posts in future ?

(d) Was a similar advertisement issued for the employment of non-Muslims for any post ?

(e) What step do Government propose to take to put a stop to such communal advertisements ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

EMPLOYMENT OF TWO SPECIAL SQUADS OF TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

553. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities have recently engaged two special squads of ticket examiners, consisting mostly of Anglo-Indians, who were in the surplus list, on the plea that in three months (January to March last) no less than four lakhs of passengers were detected travelling without tickets on the East Indian Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that most of these Anglo-Indians have been recruited from the cleaner class, who were drawing Rs. 15 per month and are now getting Rs. 75 per month, with free furnished quarters and consolidated allowance amounting to 50 per cent. of their pay ; and that the estimated cost of this establishment is nearly Rs. 45,000 per annum ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Indian Travelling Ticket Examiners who are doing the same jobs are given allowances of Rs. 13 and Rs. 17 only, and no quarters or house allowance is given to them ?

(d) Are Government aware that these newly appointed Anglo-Indians have already made themselves prominent by their rough behaviour with the public, so much so that the travelling public in certain areas have decided to take to buses ?

(e) Do Government propose to take any action in the matter ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

INDUSTRIES GIVEN PROTECTION UNDER THE SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES ACT.

554. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many industries have been given protection under the Safeguarding of Industries Act of 1933 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of additional customs duty leviable on the articles which have been protected under the Safeguarding of Industries Act of 1933 ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state which industries have applied to them for protection under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933 ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the industries the application for whose protection under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933, is being examined by them and in respect of which questionnaires have been issued for answers ?

(e) Do Government propose to keep in view the interest of the public who consume the articles ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) None.

(b) None.

(c) A statement giving the required information is laid upon the table.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the statement which has been laid upon the table.

(e) Yes.

List of Industries that have applied for protection under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933.

<i>Name of Industry.</i>	<i>Article specifically mentioned.</i>
1. Wire and wire-nail	.. (a) Wire. (b) Wire-nail.
2. Woollen mill .. ..	.. (a) Woollen piecegoods. (b) Woollen hosiery. (c) Woollen blankets and rugs.
3. Straw board	Straw Board.
4. Pottery ..	.. (a) Porcelain— (i) insulators. (ii) stoneware jars. (b) Earthenware— (i) tea and tableware. (ii) inkpots table. (iii) gallipots. (iv) dolls-toys. (v) sanitaryware. (vi) glazed tiles.
5. Iron and steel pipes	.. (a) Cast iron pipes. (b) Steel pipes. (c) Asbestos cement pipes.
6. Cotton braid	Cotton braids.
7. Soap .. ..	.. (a) Toilet soap. (b) Household and Laundry soap.
8. Beer .. ..	.. Beer.
9. Paper .. ..	.. (a) White printing paper. (b) Cream-laid paper.
10. Cement .. ..	.. Portland Cement.

<i>Name of Industry.</i>	<i>Article specifically mentioned.</i>
11. Hosiery	(a) Cotton— (i) underwear. (ii) socks and stockings. (iii) garments. (b) Woollen.
12. Cotton textile ..	(a) Cotton wicks, tapes, webs, nivar, etc. (b) Cotton listerings (belting).
13. Cotton handkerchiefs	.. Cotton handkerchiefs.
14. Enamelled ware ..	.. Enamelled iron ware.
15. Cotton piecegoods	(a) Artificial silk piecegoods. (b) Cotton towels.
16. Glass	(a) Sheet glass. (b) Globes and chimneys. (c) Tumblers. (d) Stoppered jars. (e) Bangles.
17. Rubber-soled canvas shoes	.. Rubber-soled canvas shoes.
18. Cotton yarn .. ..	.. Cotton yarn.
19. Wood-screws .. ..	.. Wood-screws.
20. Mother-of-pearl buttons	.. Mother-of-pearl buttons.
21. Leather and leather shoes	(a) Leather tanning. (b) Canvas shoes. (c) Rubber shoes. (d) Boots and shoes (in general). (e) Imitation leather suit cases, purses, etc.
22. Silk .. ..	.. Silk and silk goods.
23. Vegetable oil .. ..	.. ..
24. Pencil .. ..	.. Pencil.
25. Chemicals	(a) Potash. (b) Alum. (c) Coal tar products.
26. Paints . . .	(a) White lead. (b) Red lead. (c) Zinc white. (d) Coloured paints. (e) Enamels. (f) Water paints. (g) Dry colours. (h) Varnishes.
27. Fruit growing ..	.. Apples.
28. Playing cards .. ..	.. Playing cards.
29. School slate .. ..	.. School slate.
30. Hurricane lantern	.. Hurricane lanterns.
31. Leather belting ..	.. Leather belting.
32. Bobbin manufacturing	.. Bobbins.
33. Umbrella making	.. Umbrellas.
34. Sugarcandy .. ..	.. Sugarcandy.
35. Ink industry .. ..	.. Writing and stamping ink.
36. Agricultural implements industry	.. Pumps, etc.
37. Indian handloom industry	.. Artificial silk products.
38. Indian Cable Co. ..	.. Electric wires and cables.
39. Iron and steel cast foundering	.. Castings, etc.

EXPIRY OF THE INDO-JAPANESE TRADE CONVENTION OF 1905.

555. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state the date on which the Indo-Japanese Trade Convention of 1905 will expire ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : The Indo-Japanese Trade Convention will expire on the 10th October, 1933.

IMPENDING VISIT OF A JAPANESE DELEGATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TRADE CONVENTION.

556. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : (a) Are Government aware of any impending visit of any Japanese delegation for negotiations for a trade convention ?

(b) Have Government received any information from the Japanese Government ?

(c) Have Government received any correspondence from the Secretary of State in this connection ?

(d) Before accepting any proposal of the Japanese delegation, do Government propose to place it before a select committee of this House ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) A Delegation representing the Government of Japan will shortly arrive in India for the purpose of negotiating a trade agreement. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the communiqué published on the 10th August, 1933.

(b) I regret that the Honourable Member's question is not quite clear to me.

(c) Yes.

(d) If the acceptance of any proposal involves legislation, it must to that extent necessarily come before the Legislature.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will these delegates come here in their official capacity as representatives of the Japanese Government ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : In what other capacity does my Honourable friend suggest they will come ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : They may come in their private capacity to discuss this question with the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : No, Sir. It is a formal official deputation representing the Japanese Government that is on its way to India to negotiate a trade agreement.

Mr. B. Das : Will Government kindly say whether all the interests will be represented on the side of the Indian Government ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : No interests will be represented in the Conference for the simple reason that the Conference is between the official representatives of the Indian Government and the official representatives of the Japanese Government. But the Government are taking all steps in their power to ensure that they will, during the conduct of negotiations, be kept in the closest touch with industrial, commercial and other interests concerned so that they may not leave any consideration out of account in coming to their conclusions.

Mr. B. Das : May I ask if the interests of labour, the consumer, and the cotton growers will also be represented and will be taken as advisers to the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : Government will take into account all these interests.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask what steps have been taken to get the representation of labour interests in these matters ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : I am quite sure that the Government will not neglect labour interests. As my Honourable friend knows, my colleague, the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, is a member of our official delegation and, I am sure, that the interests of labour will be perfectly safe in his hands.

An Honourable Member : What about the consumer ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Labour will represent the Government or labour interest ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : He will represent the Government undoubtedly, but I have not the faintest doubt that he will also represent the interests of labour as well.

An Honourable Member : And of industries !

ORGANISATIONS INVITED FOR GIVING EVIDENCE BEFORE THE JOINT
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

557. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** Will Government be pleased to place on the table of this House a statement giving :

- (i) the names of the organisations which applied formally or informally, for giving evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee ;
- (ii) the names of organisations which were allowed to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee ;
- (iii) the names of organisations which were invited by the Joint Parliamentary Committee for giving evidence before them ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : It was entirely at the discretion of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to decide what witnesses it would hear, and its procedure in dealing with applications. Beyond the provisional list of associations and persons contained in the communiqué of 1st June, which I lay on the table, the Government of India have no information on the points put by the Honourable Member.

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List of associations and persons invited by the Joint Select Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform to attend and give evidence before them. This list is provisional and may still be added to :—

1. Chamber of Princes,
2. Kashmir,
3. Cochin,
4. Group of Southern Mahratta States,

5. Hindu Mahasabha,
6. All-India Varnashram Swarajya Sangha,
7. Central Hindu Committee of Legislature,
8. South Indian Liberal Federation,
9. All-India Muslim Conference,
10. { All-India Landholders' Association,
British Indian Association, Calcutta,
Madras Landholders' Association,
Agra Zamindars' Association,
Bihar Landholders' Association,
Bengal Landholders' Association,
Taluqdars of Oudh,
Bombay Sardars and Inamdars.
11. Sind Separation Conference,
12. Sind Hindu Sabha,
13. European Association,
14. Associated Chambers of Commerce,
15. { Merchants Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore,
U. P. Chamber of Commerce,
Bengal Mahajin Sabha,
16. { Indian Trades Union Federation,
Bengal Trade Union Federation,
17. All-India Women's Conference, National Council of Women and Women's Indian Association,
18. Mahila Samiti (Ladies' Association), Bengal,
19. { Central I. C. S. Association,
I. C. S. Retired Association,
20. All-India Association of European Government Servants,
21. Indian Police Association,
22. Indian Officers' Association (Calcutta),
23. Indian Empire Society,
24. British Committee for Indian Women's Franchise,
25. Shipowners' Parliamentary Committee,
26. Manchester Chamber of Commerce,
27. British Insurance Association,
28. Colonel Wedgwood,
29. Miss Rathbone,
30. Wing Commander James, M.P.,
Dr. Hutton,
31. Pandit Nanak Chand,
32. Mr. Sachidananda Sinha,
33. Field Marshal Sir Claud Jacob,
34. Sir Francis Griffith,
35. Sir M. O'Dwyer,
36. Mr. Douglas Dewar,
37. Sir Louis Stuart,
38. The Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association (Sir H. Gidney delegate).

REFORMS OFFICE,

Simla, the 1st June, 1933.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : It means that the Government of India are not aware of the names of organisations which applied formally through the Reforms Office to the Joint Parliamentary Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I am laying a statement on the table and my Honourable friend would do well to consult that statement.

AMOUNT PAID TO EACH WITNESS INVITED TO GIVE EVIDENCE BEFORE THE
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

558. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what amount has been given or is to be given to each witness of the different organisations who went to England to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the money which has been paid or is to be paid to the witnesses has been paid or is to be paid from the Indian exchequer or from the British exchequer ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to his question No. 131 on the 29th August, 1933.

KEEPING OF THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION ON
DIFFERENT FOOTING FROM THAT OF OTHER HIGH COURTS.

559. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** Is it a fact that Government have recommended to the Secretary of State for India that the Calcutta High Court should under the new Constitution be kept on a footing different from that of the High Courts of other provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The position of High Courts under the new Constitution is before His Majesty's Government and I am not in a position to state what recommendations the Government of India have made in the matter.

RENTING OF THE LONG CORRUGATED IRON SHED TO THE SUMMER HILL
COMMANDANT.

560. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the particular purpose for which the long corrugated iron shed which was rented to the Summer Hill Commandant, with "E" Barrack, for the storage of coal, etc., is now used ?

(b) What is its assessed value ?

(c) Is it used now as a carpenter's workshop, and if so, will Government be pleased to justify accommodating the carpenter there ? Is a carpenter engaged on daily wages entitled to use free Government servant quarters or such buildings ?

(d) Have Government considered whether this shed can be converted into a rickshaw shed and be given to a rickshaw chauthari ? If not, why not ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the number of buildings lying vacant at Summer Hill ?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the question of renting them to the public, whenever asked for, in order to get a return of the capital invested therein ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state if any offer to rent the long corrugated iron shed was received this year? If so, will they be pleased to state why it was not rented? Have Government considered whether buildings such as (i) the coffee shop near "A" Barrack, (ii) the whole of "E" Barrack consisting of 40 rooms, and (iii) the carpenters' old workshop, next-door to the Overseer's office at Summer Hill can be used as a workshop?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the old workshop was vacated and shifted to the long corrugated iron shed?

(i) Is it a fact that the old workshop was rented to a draughtsman by the Executive Engineer? If so, how much rent was realised?

(j) Will Government be pleased to state the name of the person who is responsible for the loss of rent of such vacant buildings, built from public funds, and the reason why public offers were refused?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The shed is used for storage of materials and plant required for maintenance of Summer Hill quarters, and also as a shelter for departmental labour when the necessity arises.

(b) Its assessed value is Rs. 882.

(c) No; the carpenter does not live in the shed and the remaining part of the question does not arise.

(d) No; the shed is required for the use of the Central Public Works Department.

(e) Barrack 'C' (7 rooms), Barrack 'D' (3 rooms) and Barrack 'E' (all the rooms, i.e., 32).

(f) The buildings are rented to suitable persons when demands arise, provided they are not required by entitled officials.

(g) Yes, an offer was received to rent this shed, and it was not accepted as the shed was required for the purposes mentioned in part (a) above. The reply to the latter portion is in the negative.

(h) No information is available. It is understood that a workshop never existed in the shed referred to.

(i) No. A draftsman while working there temporarily occupied a portion of the office building while carrying out his official duties.

(j) The question does not arise. Every endeavour is made to rent residential accommodation as far as it is compatible with the rules.

SALE OF THE SURPLUS LAND AT SUMMER HILL CALLED THE FOOTBALL GROUND.

561. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Asim :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rate, per acre or bigha, at which the surplus land at Summer Hill called the football ground, has been sold to Mr. Gauga Ram Kaula?

(b) How many similar offers for other surplus and waste land lying at Summer Hill have been received and refused by the Executive Engineer, Simla, and for what reasons?

(c) Is the surplus land at Summer Hill public property ?

(d) Why was it not sold by public auction ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A rate of Rs. 507-14-0 per bigha, as assessed by the Civil Revenue authorities at Simla, was fixed in connection with this sale.

(b) No other offers for surplus and waste land have been received or refused by the Executive Engineer. One application from Sardar Sahib Bur Singh was received for a plot of land, neither surplus nor waste, which was not considered available for sale.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government do not consider it desirable to sell land in this vicinity by public auction.

PERMISSION TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES TO PAY THEIR INSURANCE PREMIA FROM THE PROVIDENT FUND.

562. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Is it a fact that Railway employees are not allowed to pay their insurance premia from their Provident Fund ?

(b) Are Government aware that a representation on the subject was made in 1932 to the Agent, North Western Railway, without any reply from him ?

(c) Are Government aware that the Railway employees are greatly handicapped for want of this facility ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to consider this matter satisfactorily for the benefit of the Railway employees ? If so, when ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The State Railway Provident Fund Rules do not grant such a concession.

(b) The Agent, North Western Railway, has brought this matter to the notice of Government.

(c) and (d). The question is at present under consideration.

CREATION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES IN INDIA.

563. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Is it a fact that the Government Actuary expressed in the 1931 Year Book that creation of more insurance companies is undesirable (*vide* page 10, para. 19) ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to stop the creation of more insurance companies ? If not, why not ?

(c) Are Government aware that the public of India are losing confidence in insurance companies—Indian companies in general—and that well-established Indian Assurance companies are therefore losing business ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) The Actuary referred to life assurance companies only.

(b) No. Government have no power to do so under the existing law.

(c) No. New business increased steadily (except for a slight check in 1930) from 5,64 lakhs in 1922 to 17,76 lakhs in 1931.

Mr. R. S. Sarma : Do Government realise that the time has now come for a more stringent insurance legislation and that failure to do so would involve a large number of people in utter ruin ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : The question is under the general consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. B. Das : Is it not a fact that the Government have been shelving the amendment of the Insurance Act for the last seven years and that Government have been considering all these years ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I cannot state exactly what the period of time involved is, but I can only endorse the latter part of my Honourable friend's question, namely, that the Government are still considering.

Mr. B. Das : Have not the Government taken an inordinate time since 1929 to consider this question ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I cannot admit that the time is inordinate considering the intricacy of the subject.

AERIAL BOMBARDMENT AT KOTKAI ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

564. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances which led them to believe that *Kotkai* in the tribal country was completely evacuated before the aerial bombardment was begun by the Royal Air Force machines ?

(b) Is it a fact that two tribal women carrying water pitchers from a distance and children in their arms while on their way back home to *Kotkai* were among the many victims of this bombardment ?

(c) Is it a fact that a mosque with three copies of the Holy Quran was set on fire and completely burnt down by this bombardment ?

(d) Is it also a fact that no fewer than seventeen old men, women and children who were unable to carry arms, were the victims of this bombardment from the air ?

(e) What were the means adopted by Government to meet similar situations in the tribal country when the aerial service did not exist as a weapon of war ?

(f) What is the probable cost of the present expedition into the tribal country, both by land and air, separately ?

(g) Do Government propose to appoint a commission of enquiry, composed of official and non-official members, to enquire into the above allegations ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The House has already been placed in possession of the main facts relating and leading up to the incident to which the Honourable Member refers. The answers to the various parts of his question are as follows :

(a) Forty-eight hours notice was given before the bombing took place and the village presented a deserted appearance when it was bombed.

(b), (c) and (d). The Government have made the closest possible enquiries both from military and civil sources, and so far as they have been able to ascertain, not a single human being was killed and only one man was injured. It is reported that two beams were damaged in a small mosque, the existence of which was previously unknown, but it is still standing, and it was certainly not completely burnt down. There is no reason to believe that any copies of the Koran were left in the mosque when the village was evacuated, still less that any of them were damaged in any way.

(e) In the absence of the Royal Air Force, the only alternative would have been an expedition by land forces. As Kotkai is 30 miles from the nearest road across very mountainous country, and another 45 from rail head, such an expedition would have been a long and costly business and would almost certainly have involved a considerable number of casualties on both sides.

(f) The cost of the air expedition amounted to under Rs. 15,000. No land operations have been, or are being, undertaken in Bajaur, but a land expedition would have cost several lakhs of rupees a month.

(g) In view of the explanations given the Government do not consider that any such enquiry is necessary.

CLERICAL STAFF OF THE CURRENCY OFFICES IN INDIA.

565. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the clerical staff of the Currency Offices in India is divided into two parts, *viz.*, pensionable and non-pensionable ? If so, how many are pensionable and how many non-pensionable in each Currency Office ;
- (b) whether the whole staff of the Currency Offices will be required if the Reserve Bank is started ? If not, do Government propose to see that in these hard days of depression and unemployment none from the Currency Offices is thrown out of employment owing to the creation of the Reserve Bank ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) It is correct that the clerical staff of the Currency offices is partly pensionable and partly non-pensionable. Information regarding the exact number of each class is not immediately available.

(b) Pending the decision of the Legislature on the proposed Reserve Bank Bill, the whole question is hypothetical.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the Currency Office will remain in existence when the Reserve Bank comes into force ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : Is there any Currency Office to remain in existence, is that the Honourable Member's question ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : The present one.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : It is impossible to state in answer to a short question exactly what the arrangements will be when the Reserve Bank comes into operation. But obviously Currency Offices as such will practically disappear.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Does the Honourable Member know whether in the proposals for the Reserve Bank anything has been decided about these Currency Offices ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : We have not reached that stage yet.

ABOLITION OF THE POST OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

566. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** (a) Is it a fact that since an Indian has been appointed as Civil Surgeon at Bareilly, United Provinces, the District Medical Officer's post on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway has been abolished and his salary given to the Chief Medical Officer, Gorakhpur, United Provinces ?

(b) Are Government aware that cases of urgent and serious nature cannot be attended to by the Medical Officer of Gorakhpur, United Provinces, thus causing great inconvenience to the public concerned ? Do Government propose to do anything to relieve the public of this inconvenience ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 566 and 567 together. I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

HALF PAY GIVEN TO THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ON SICK LIST.

†567. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** Are Government aware that the employees of Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, when placed on the sick list, are (i) given half-pay, and (ii) no average overtime is allowed by the Agent (*vide* Circular No. 50 of 1920) ?

GRIEVANCES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

568. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** Are Government aware that men on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway are compelled to do 300 hours of work during the busy season and during the slack season are placed on compulsory leave for three months without pay ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : If the Honourable Member would specify the period in which the staff of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway are supposed to work 300 hours, I will consider calling for information from the Railway Administration concerned.

DUTY OF ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS AT ROADSIDE STATIONS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

569. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** Are Government aware that Assistant Station Masters at roadside stations on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway are compelled to do 24 hours duty every day, and that the late Assistant Station Master, Baluri station, was punished for refusing to work for 24 hours ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 566.

Mr. P. R. Rau : No, Sir. I have not been able to trace a station of that name in the alphabetical list of Railway stations in India prepared by the Indian Railway Conference Association.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT MALA, ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

570. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : Are Government aware that the accident that took place at Mala on the 7th of July, 1933, was due to (i) the Assistant Station Master being overworked, (ii) a probationer pointsman with only 14 days' service, and with absolutely no knowledge and experience of his work, having been posted at that station, and (iii) the station not being inter-locked ? What steps do Government propose to take to remedy such evils in the Company's management ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information. I am, however, sending a copy of this question and its reply to the Agent, Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, for any action he may consider necessary.

POSTING OF EUROPEAN *ex*-SOLDIERS WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF RAILWAY WORKING ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

571. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : Is it a fact that European *ex*-soldiers with no knowledge of Railway working are being posted on a starting salary of Rs. 85 a month, while Indians who are fit and qualified are only given Rs. 24 per month on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, with your permission I propose to deal with this and the next question together. I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS GIVEN BY THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

†572. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House a statement giving the figures regarding educational grants given by the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway to (i) Indians, and (ii) Europeans and Anglo-Indians ?

(b) Is it a fact that only Rs. 2,500 is given for 20,000 Indian employees ?

(c) Is it also a fact that Members of Educational Committee only can get grants, while sons of station staff and others are deprived of the privilege ? In case the latter are given any grant what is the percentage of both ?

TENDERS FOR CATERING ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

573. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : Will Government be pleased to state why tenders for catering on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, are not advertised ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Administration reports that the catering contractor has held the contract for many years, and that as no change is considered necessary there is no need to call for tenders.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 571.

REST HOUSES AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

574. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : (a) Are Government aware that Rest Houses on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, are not given for occupation to Indian staff at Mailani, Kasganj, Lucknow and Moradabad and that they are thus compelled to occupy waiting rooms and thereby inconvenience the travelling public ?

(b) Are Government aware that the waiting rooms on the State section of this Railway between Lucknow junction and Bhojjeepura are used as lamp rooms and Station Master's offices ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information but a copy of the questions is being sent to the Agent, for such action as may be necessary.

REFUSAL BY THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY TO SUPPLY ELECTRIC POWER TO INDIAN EMPLOYEES.

575. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : (a) Are Government aware that where electric power has been installed on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, the Company refuses to supply electric current on the ground of the employees being Indians ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state (i) if any Indians are supplied with electric current, and (ii) their percentage as compared with European staff ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information but consider it unlikely that a railway worked on business principles like the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway would adopt such an attitude. I am, however, enquiring into the matter and shall lay a further reply on the table in due course.

PURCHASE OF THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

576. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : (a) Are Government aware that the policy of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, has been to hold up all improvements ?

(b) Have Government considered the question of the inadvisability of opening new sections in Southern India—where the Members of the Board have recently been touring for that purpose—for which loans will have to be raised and of not raising loans for the purchase of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Government are not aware of any such policy, nor have they any reason to suspect its existence.

(b) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension in believing that Members of the Railway Board have been touring for the purpose of opening new sections in Southern India. I may add that the question of starting new constructions in Southern India or elsewhere depends entirely on whether they are likely to be remunerative and whether funds can be provided for the purpose at the present. The earliest date on which the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway can be bought out is December, 1937, and the purchase of that railway has therefore little to do with the other question.

CONSTRUCTION OF PLATFORMS AND OVERBRIDGES AT MAILANI AND BHOJEEPURA STATIONS ON THE ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY.

577. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : (a) Are Government aware that at Mailani and Bhojeepera stations passenger trains are admitted amongst a lot of goods wagons, thereby endangering the lives of the public and staff ?

(b) Are Government prepared to advise the Agent, Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, to build overbridges and platforms at those places ? If not, why not ?

(c) Are the orders of the S. G. I. regarding the above being treated with contempt ? If so, why ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Information is being obtained from the Railway Administration and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

GRANT OF BENEFIT OF ENJOYING THE OLD SCALES OF PAY TO THE RETRENCHED STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT ON RE-EMPLOYMENT.

578. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that the new scales of pay will be applied to the staff who were in service prior to 15th July, 1931, and retrenched after 16th July, 1931, on account of economy in the Secretariat and its Attached Offices ?

(b) Will Government please state the number of such men who were retrenched and subsequently employed and are likely to be affected by the new scales of pay ?

(c) Are Government aware that many of these men would have been confirmed in the old scales of pay if there were no retrenchment ?

(d) Do Government propose to grant an option to the departments to allow the retrenched staff the benefit of enjoying the old scales of pay ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Yes, the new scales of pay will apply to all who entered the Secretariat and its Attached Offices on or after 16th July, 1931, including re-employed retrenched personnel.

(b) Government have not the information readily available and do not think the result of its collection would justify the labour and time involved.

(c) This is possible, but the question is too hypothetical for Government to give a definite answer.

(d) No. The retrenched personnel re-employment rules apply not only to the Secretariat and Attached Offices but to all other services under the Government of India and it would be impossible for Government to make an exception in the case of these two particular classes of offices.

HOLDING UP OF CONFIRMATIONS OF SUBORDINATES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

579. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India have imposed an embargo on all confirmations of subordinates in the Secretariat and Attached Offices ?

(b) Will Government please state how many cases have been held up for confirmation in the various Divisions in the Secretariat and Attached Offices as the result of this embargo ?

(c) When do Government propose to lift this embargo and will Government please state why this restriction has been imposed in the case of retrenched staff and whether they are prepared to set it aside in the case of retrenched staff since employed on permanent posts ?

(d) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling in this House against this hard and unjust order ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not got the information readily available and do not think the result of its collection would justify the labour and time involved.

(c) The retrenched staff, when re-employed, are in the same position as new entrants to Government service and the embargo on confirmation automatically applies to them. The embargo will be removed on the issue of the new scales of pay which are now under publication.

(d) Government have no information.

PROMOTIONS OF ASSISTANT SURGEONS AND SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

580. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, separately for each year, the strength in the Indian Medical Department during the last five years, of (i) Assistant Surgeons, and (ii) Sub-Assistant Surgeons ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the system under which special supernumerary promotions are granted to members of the Indian Medical Department mentioned above ?

(c) How many such special supernumerary promotions have been granted during the last five years, (i) to Assistant Surgeons, and (ii) to Sub-Assistant Surgeons ?

(d) Has promotion been given to these two categories of the Indian Medical Department in the ratio of their existing strength ? If not, why not ?

(e) Is it a fact that proportionately more promotions have been given to Assistant Surgeons than to Sub-Assistant Surgeons ? If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of making good this shortage in future ?

(f) Is it a fact that when a Viceroy's commissioned officer in the Indian Army is given the honorary King's commissioned rank he is made to retire after four years of that promotion ? Does a similar rule exist in the Indian Medical Department for Sub-Assistant Surgeons ? If not, why not ?

(g) How many officers in the Indian Medical Department are holding the honorary King's commissioned rank, and for how long ?

(h) Is it a fact that by allowing such officers to continue in service for a considerably longer period than four years, the chances of promotion of

other deserving officers are retarded? If so, do Government propose to remedy this defect in the rules, so as to bring it into conformity with the practice that obtains in the Indian Army?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the information desired by the Honourable Member.

(b) Special promotions are made under the provisions of paragraph 10 of Appendix XXVII to the Regulations for the Army in India.

(c) Two Assistant Surgeons.

One Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

(d) and (e). Promotions are given for individual merit alone; the question of ratio therefore does not arise.

(f) No, Sir. There is no tenure for an Honorary King's Commissioned officer as such. The second and third parts of the question do not arise.

(g) Seven—one 5 years, two nearly 3 years each, and the rest less than one year each.

(h) In view of the answer to part (f) this question does not arise.

Statement showing the strength in the Indian Medical Department of certain Officers.

Year.					Assistant Surgeons.	Sub-Assistant Surgeons.
1928	..	..	..	..	592	895
1929	..	..	..	..	585	854
1930	..	..	..	..	569	877
1931	..	..	..	..	556	862
1932	..	..	..	..	530	829

ARREST OF MR. DEVIDAS GANDHI AT DELHI.

581. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that as soon as Mr. Devidas Gandhi, accompanied by his wife, arrived at Delhi about the 6th August, 1933, in the night, he was served with a notice at the station under section 3 of the Punjab Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1932, asking him "to depart from the Delhi Province immediately, and remain outside its limits", until further notice?

(b) Are Government aware that Mr. Devidas Gandhi at once sent a reply to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, in the course of which he said: "I have absolutely no intention of participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement in Delhi. I have chosen to come to Delhi not with any intention of taking part in politics, but with a view to settling down here in private life for at least a few months"; and requested the Chief Commissioner to withdraw the order? Was this letter delivered to the Chief Commissioner?

(c) Are Government aware that in spite of the above disavowal, Mr. Devidas Gandhi was arrested at once, and taken to the Jail? If so, why? And what is the evidence in the possession of the Chief Commissioner, on which he is "satisfied" that there were sufficient grounds for

taking action under the law referred to in part (a) above ? Did not Mr. Devidas visit Delhi many times during last winter, and did he take part in the Civil Disobedience Movement at the time ?

(d) Are Government aware that in the course of his statement before the Delhi Magistrate during his trial, Mr. Devidas Gandhi reiterated that he had come to Delhi with no intention of committing any breach of the law ? And are Government aware that the trying Magistrate held that so far as the question of satisfaction of the Chief Commissioner is concerned in regard to the possible activities of Mr. Devidas in Delhi, the court had no jurisdiction to question the Local Government's authority, and no evidence on that point was adduced by the prosecution ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Devidas Gandhi thereupon wrote a letter addressed to the Chief Commissioner, which contained the words quoted in the Honourable Member's question. He also said " I have decided to take no active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement for some months at least." He expressed the hope that the Chief Commissioner would see his way to withdraw his order ; but if he did not do so, Mr. Devidas Gandhi went on to say that it was his clear duty, as he conceived it, cheerfully to suffer the consequences, pointed out in the text of the order, for not complying with it.

Before handing this letter to the police Inspector he wrote a similar document which he gave to the representative of the *Hindustan Times* for publication.

(c) He was arrested two hours after the order was served upon him. He was given ample time for deciding whether he would comply with it by leaving Delhi. In view of the history of Mr. Devidas Gandhi's previous activities in Delhi, the Chief Commissioner was not satisfied by the qualified assurances of Mr. Devidas Gandhi that in fact his presence in Delhi would not act as an encouragement to the revival of the Civil Disobedience Movement there. Mr. Devidas Gandhi paid several visits to Delhi during the early months of the year, ostensibly in connection with the Anti-Untouchability Bill. But even during that period he was also engaged in activities in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement.

(d) The words in his statement before the trying Magistrate are :

" I imagined that they (the police) were aware of the fact that I was this time coming to Delhi with no intention of committing any breach of the law, for the time being at least."

Later in the same statement he mentions having written to inform the Chief Commissioner that :

" On this particular occasion I was coming to Delhi with no intention of participating in the civil disobedience movement for some months at least."

As regards the latter portion of the question, regarding the finding of trying Magistrate, the answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Was this letter written by Mr. Devidas Gandhi delivered to the Chief Commissioner ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have already answered that in the affirmative. But I am not sure at what time it was delivered.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member what kind of civil disobedience Mr. Devidas Gandhi was engaged in ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I did not say he was engaged in civil disobedience at the time.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Then, may I know what he was suspected of ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The position of the Chief Commissioner was that his presence in Delhi would, he was afraid, act as an encouragement to the revival of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Was his presence only in Delhi considered to be harmful or was there any overt act ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : It was his presence in Delhi, in view of his very marked previous activities in Delhi in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government kindly state the nature of the very marked previous activities of Mr. Devidas Gandhi to which reference has been made in the reply ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I cannot give details of it, but of the fact there is no doubt.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Were any steps taken against Mr. Devidas Gandhi if he engaged himself in objectionable political activities in Delhi on previous occasions ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I think, Sir, on various previous occasions it had been necessary to take action against Mr. Devidas Gandhi. I do not think this is the first time on which he has been imprisoned.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : My question was, what were the activities of Mr. Devidas Gandhi on previous occasions in Delhi on which the Chief Commissioner felt justified in issuing this order ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have already explained to the Honourable Member that I am not prepared to give the details, but, if he looks at the history of 1930, I rather think he will find that Mr. Devidas Gandhi was convicted in connection with his activities in Delhi. I am not quite sure.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : May I take it that Government trusted in Mr. Devidas Gandhi's words that he would not take any active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement, but that they were merely afraid of his presence ? Is that so ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : It is a very equivocal statement to say " I am not prepared to take an active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement ". I do not know what it means.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : I wanted to know whether Government trusted his words that he would not take part in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : My answer is that the words themselves are not clear.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it not a fact that the Chief Commissioner referred to Mr. Devidas Gandhi's activities about the beginning of this year while he was in Delhi in connection with the *anti-untouchability* movement and not to the activities of this gentleman in 1930 to which the Honourable Member has made reference ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The Chief Commissioner took into account the whole series of activities of Mr. Devidas Gandhi in Delhi starting from the year 1930.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Am I to understand that people who have taken part in the Civil Disobedience Movement previously will be arrested if they go to Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir. The position of Mr. Devidas Gandhi in Delhi was a very special one.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it not a fact that Government want to have disavowal of the intentions of these people who have taken part in the Civil Disobedience Movement to the effect that they will not participate in such movement, before they are released ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir ; that is most certainly not the case. And, in proof of what I say, I may mention that the day after Mr. Devidas Gandhi was sentenced to imprisonment, the Chief Commissioner sent an officer to him and said that his only object was that Mr. Devidas Gandhi should not remain in Delhi, and that even then if Mr. Devidas Gandhi was prepared to give an undertaking to go away from Delhi, he could be released the next day.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : But why should Mr. Devidas Gandhi give an undertaking to go away from Delhi when he has distinctly stated that it is not his intention to take part in any unlawful activities ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : My Honourable friend's question was whether Government wished to obtain from Mr. Devidas Gandhi a disavowal of his beliefs. I said, that was not so. The only object of Government is that Mr. Devidas Gandhi should not be in Delhi, and, in support of that, I said that even now if Mr. Devidas Gandhi is prepared to absent himself from Delhi, he can have his freedom at once.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask what is the object of Government in issuing an order against a person that he should not live in one city when they know very well that he will have to live in some other city or in some other place in this country ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Government, Sir, have no objection, as far as I know, to Mr. Devidas Gandhi living in any city in the whole of India except Delhi.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I ask the Honourable the Home Member whether Mr. Devidas Gandhi gave an undertaking to give up civil disobedience ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No : he did not. As I have mentioned in my reply, what he said was that he had decided to take no active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement for some months at least.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Did not Mr. Devidas Gandhi in his letter say " I have absolutely no intention of participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement in Delhi. I have chosen to come to Delhi not with

any intention of taking part in politics, but with a view to settling down here in private life, for at least a few months" ? There is no qualification in this statement.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have just quoted Mr. Devidas Gandhi's own words used in the same letter.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I have also quoted from Mr. Devidas Gandhi's own letter which he wrote to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Quite so : and I think the words I have quoted convey a slightly different impression from the words the Honourable Member has quoted.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I have not received a reply to this part of my question—what is the evidence in possession of the Chief Commissioner on which he is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking action under the law ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : For the third time I attempt to answer the question : I am not prepared to give details.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask why Delhi was considered to be particularly unsuitable for his residence and why some other towns are considered suitable ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Because of the very special contacts with the Civil Disobedience Movement in Delhi that Mr. Devidas Gandhi has established.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

582. ***Shaikh Sadiq Hasan :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the number of candidates that appeared at the last competitive examination for recruitment to the Indian Army Service Corps held in March last ;
- (ii) the total amount of fees realised from the competitors and the entire Government expenditure on that score ;
- (iii) the total number of successful candidates which were duly awarded qualifying certificates which stated that they were qualified to hold the posts of store-keepers, checkers or clerks in the above service ;
- (iv) the steps which the controlling officers are contemplating for the absorption of the so-called qualified hands ?

(b) Do Government contemplate (i) holding shortly any other competitive examination before the already successful candidates are provided for and (ii) calling on these qualified candidates to re-appear therein in order to re-qualify themselves ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what are the justifications for such treatment of the successful candidates ?

(d) Are Government prepared :

- (i) to issue some instructions to the controlling officers to the effect that they should not hold examinations until the already qualified hands are fairly provided for ; and

(ii) that the already qualified candidates are not made to re-qualify themselves ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) (i) 903.

(ii) Fees realised—Rs. 4,555.

Expenditure (excluding cost of supervision)—Rs. 2,291.

(iii) Storekeepers—112.

Clerks—104.

Checkers—103.

(iv) While only 16 clerks' and 12 storekeepers' vacancies were offered for competition, it is anticipated that 27 clerks' appointments, 21 storekeepers' and 22 checkers' will be given to candidates who qualified.

(b) (i) Yes, in March, 1934.

(ii) In accordance with the usual practice followed by the Public Service Commission, qualified candidates who are not absorbed before the date of the next examination will not receive appointments unless they are successful at that examination.

(c) The examination was competitive, and the number of vacancies to be filled on the result of the examination was known to candidates ; those who were not placed high enough on the list to obtain one of the vacancies offered have no reason to complain.

(d) No, Sir.

PAYMENT OF PREMIA ON INSURANCE POLICIES FROM THE PROVIDENT FUND BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

583. ***Shaikh Sadiq Hasan :** (a) Are Government aware that Government servants who contribute to the General Provident Fund are permitted to make use of that fund for the payment of premia on insurance policies ?

(b) Are Government also aware that the State Railway Provident Fund, governed by the Act of Legislature of 1925 as amended by the 1930 Act, provides that the compulsory deposit can be made use of for payment of premia of an insurance policy by the employees ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many of the Indian Railway employees have so far been allowed to benefit by this rule ?

(d) Are Government prepared to issue instructions to the effect that the Indian Railway employees are allowed to borrow money out of the Fund for the use of payment of premia towards the insurance policies ?

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

(b) and (c). The State Railway Provident Fund Rules do not allow this concession. Consequently only the few pensionable employees who are under the General Provident Fund Rules are at present allowed it. The amendment of the Act referred to made no change in the legal position.

(d) The question is at present under consideration.

COST OF MEERUT CONSPIRACY CASE.

584. ***Shaikh Sadiq Hasan** : Will Government be pleased to state (a) how much money was spent on the Meerut Conspiracy case and (b) what was the result ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 21st February, 1933, to part (a) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's question No. 396 and to the statement laid on the table on the 14th March in reply to Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's question No. 474. Since the 31st January, 1933, the case has cost the Government of India approximately a further Rs. 48,000 mainly in connection with the appeal.

(b) The results of appeals preferred by the accused to the High Court is as follows :

Three were sentenced to three years, one to two years, eight to one year and one to seven months rigorous imprisonment. Five were sentenced to the period which they had undergone in jail and nine were acquitted.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Do the Government regard the results as quite satisfactory and commensurate with the amount of expenditure involved ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I am not prepared to express an opinion of the Government on the decision of the legal tribunal, but I would like to mention, though I have not got a copy of the judgment with me, that the High Court in their judgment said that the prosecution was justified : they complimented the police and they expressed the opinion that the offence was a serious one and ordinarily they would have imposed a very heavy and long sentence of imprisonment.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask, in view of the fact that the trial was a very long one, whether Government will give some compensation to those people who have actually suffered unnecessary annoyance and loss ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No : the position of Government is that the blame for the very long period occupied by the trial was to a large extent on the accused themselves.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Is it not a fact that the High Court did not pronounce unmistakably that the accused alone were responsible for the delay ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : That may be so : it was a very elaborate case and it was necessary to put forward a great deal of evidence and a large number of documents : that inevitably occupied a considerable amount of time ; but, at the same time, there is no doubt that the tactics pursued by the accused, or a certain number of them, did delay the case very seriously.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask the extent to which Government were responsible for the delay, and whether it will give compensation in part at least ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No : I do not admit that the Government were responsible for the delay

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Is it not a fact that a good deal of the address of the Crown Counsel was taken up with a statement of the doctrines of communism and so on, which the High Court held to be entirely unnecessary ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Government, after entrusting the prosecution case to Counsel, cannot interfere with his opening address.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Is it not possible to look back and feel sorry for having embarked on these conspiracy cases at such expense ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No : most emphatically not ; and I do hope that the House will realise that, at the time this case was instituted, we were faced with a very serious menace of development of communist activities in India and that in fact the arrest and prosecution of these men gave a great set-back to what was at the time a very menacing development.

Mr. S. G. Jog : In view of the experience gained in these conspiracy cases, have Government devised a plan for simplifying the procedure with a view to saving costs ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : That is a matter which, I believe, will come under our consideration in connection with the High Court judgment which, as I have said, I have not yet seen in its full detail.

COST OF THE DELHI CONSPIRACY CASE.

585. ***Shaikh Sadiq Hasan :** Why was the Delhi conspiracy case withdrawn, and how much did it cost the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : As regards the first part of the question, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Communiqué issued on the 3rd February, 1933. The total cost of the case was Rs. 3,74,988.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : Is it not a great waste of money ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : It was a very great expenditure of money.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : And what was the result achieved ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The result achieved, so far as the particular case was concerned, I am afraid, was nothing. But action has subsequently been taken against the principal accused.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : Have Government any intention of not launching any more conspiracy cases in future ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No : but the Government certainly hope that they will not be under the necessity of launching a case which is likely to take, as this Delhi Conspiracy Case would have, five years.

BAD CONDITION ON ROADS IN INDIA.

586. ***Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Roy :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the bad condition of roads in India and the paucity of funds for improvement thereof ;

- (b) what the functions, scope and duties of the Standing Committee on Roads are ;
- (c) what the amount of income available for improvements with the Standing Committee on roads is and wherefrom it is derived ; and
- (d) whether the Roads Committee deals with the construction of bridges also ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The condition of roads in India varies considerably. Government are, however, aware that the road system of India needs development and improvement, that considerable funds are required for this purpose and that such funds are only available to a very limited extent.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to clause (7) of the Resolution on road development adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 4th February, 1930.

(c) and (d). The total amount credited to the Road Development Account up to the end of the last financial year is Rs. 4,05,83,125 and it is the proceeds of the additional duty on petrol of two annas per gallon up to September, 1931, and with 25 per cent. general increase of duties, two and a half annas subsequently. Improvement of roads as well as construction of new roads or bridges may be financed from this account on the advice of the Standing Committee on Roads.

RUNNING OF DINING CARS FOR INDIAN PASSENGERS IN MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAINS.

587. ***Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Roy :** (a) Are Government aware that the portion of European passengers is infinitely small compared to Indian passengers on railways in India ?

(b) Is it a fact that special dining cars for Europeans are run on important trains on each railway but there is no arrangement for Indians on those trains ?

(c) Do Government propose to run decent dining cars for the benefit of Indian passengers in mail and express trains in the near future ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The number of European passengers on Indian Railways is naturally much smaller than the number of Indian passengers.

(b) Special dining cars are not run for Europeans only but are open to all higher class passengers who desire to use them.

(c) Dining cars for Indian passengers or separate compartments for Indian catering are already run by various Railways where experience has shown that there is a demand for such amenities for the benefit for Indian passengers, and Railway Administrations are always willing to consider additions where necessary. This is a matter which, I have no doubt, the Local Advisory Committees look into.

FACILITIES TO MAHATMA GANDHI FOR UPLIFT OF HARIJANS.

588. ***Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Roy :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to give the same facilities to Mahatma

Gandhi for uplift of Harijans as were given to him when he was in jail last time ?

(b) What is the general policy of Government with regard to the treatment to be meted out to him in future ?

(c) Has there been any communication between the Government and Mahatma Gandhi on this subject ? If so, what ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I would refer the Honourable Member to the communiqué issued by the Government of India on the 18th August, 1933.

BOMBING OF TRIBAL AREA ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

589. ***Rai Bahadur Sukhray Roy :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for and the circumstances under which the bombing of tribal area was begun on the North-West Frontier ;

(b) how the rebellion originated and why precautions were not taken beforehand to prevent it ;

(c) how many persons were killed or wounded in the operation ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the statement made in this House by His Excellency the Viceroy on August 30th.

(b) As the Honourable Member will have gathered from the statement referred to above, no rebellion has taken place.

(c) No persons were killed and so far as can be ascertained, only one man was injured.

RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR LADIES ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

590. ***Seth Liladhar Chaudhury :** (a) Are Government aware that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway complies with section 64 of Indian Railways Act only in the case of Mail trains and not in that of Express or Passenger trains ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether section 64 of the Indian Railways Act makes it obligatory on the Railways to reserve accommodation for ladies whilst Rule 101 of the Coaching Tariff, Part 1 (a) of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway makes it permissible ? If so, how do Government justify this ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what would be the consequences if a lady after giving 24 hours notice, as per Rule 101 of the Coaching Tariff, Part 1 (a), Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is unable to travel on the particular day due to unforeseen circumstances ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Government are informed that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway complies with section 64 of the Indian Railways Act in every respect in every train that is run by that Railway.

(b) Section 64 of the Indian Railways Act makes it obligatory on Railways to reserve for the exclusive use of females one compartment at least of the lowest class of carriage forming part of the train. There is

nothing in rule 101 of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway's Coaching Tariff which is inconsistent with section 64 of the Indian Railways Act. Rule 101 (a) quoted by the Honourable Member refers to upper class accommodation ; under rule 101 (b) it is stated that a third class carriage or compartment is reserved for women travelling third class in every train booked to carry third class passengers. On the only train on which third class passengers are not carried, *viz.*, the Deccan Queen, ladies reserved compartments are available both for first and second class.

(c) I am afraid, Sir, I am quite unable to say what would be the consequences to the lady missing her train. That would depend on the object of her journey and its urgency. I can quite imagine that, in certain circumstances, the consequences might be very serious.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the Honourable Member is aware of the practice that if the family of a passenger is travelling by this exclusive carriage and if there is no other lady passenger in that compartment, that passenger is permitted to travel along with his family who is occupying the ladies' compartment ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Does the Honourable Member refer to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Any railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I think he had better put a question on the paper.

LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES. INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

591. ***Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghbir Singh :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the period of leave on full field service rate of pay and allowances which was admissible to military employees invalided to India during the currency of the Great War, 1914-18, and the regulations or Army Department letters concerning the same ;
- (b) whether invaliding of military employees to India was followed by immediate and simultaneous striking their names off the field service rolls, or all invalidings in general were at first made only to reduce congestion in hospitals on field service without striking their names off the field rosters ;
- (c) if it is a fact that generally all military employees on being invalided to India were at first kept on field service rolls and remained so until their medical examination approximately three months after their return to India by the convalescent depot or hospital to which they came in India from field service ;
- (d) if it is a fact that names of military employees were only struck off the field service rosters from the date of receipt of intimation from India by the field authorities about the unfitness of the said employees' for field service ascertained by medical examination ;
- (e) if it is not correct that according to the latest orders regarding disability pensions of non-combatants of the Indian Army and

allied departments, as given in paragraph 224-A, Pension Regulations for the Army in India as corrected by correction slip No. 13 of May, 1930, the disability pensions claims are to be based on the rate of pay drawn on the date of contracting the disease or disability or on the rate of pay drawn on the date of final removal from the service, whichever of the two is more favourable to the individual ;

(f) if it is a fact that the relative military ranks of non-combatants for the purposes of disability pensions are defined in paragraph 239 of Pension Regulations, and that these relative ranks progressively rise from a sepoy to a Subadar according to the comparative salaries drawn by individuals dealt with in the paragraph ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Under India Army Orders Nos. 75 and 518 of 1915 the period of leave admissible was 3 months for officers and Indian soldiers, and 4½ months for Gurkha soldiers.

(b), (c) and (d). A person invalided to India was struck off the strength with effect from the date on which the Force to which he belonged received official intimation that he would not return, or on the expiry of 3 months after his embarkation from the Force, whichever was earlier.

(e) Yes, but paragraph 224-A does not apply to those non-combatants whose claims to wound or other extraordinary pensions are governed by the Civil Service Regulations, i.e., those receiving more than Rs. 200 a month.

(f) Yes.

LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

592. ***Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghbir Singh :** (a) Keeping in view the provisions of paragraph 224-A of Pension Regulations, as corrected by correction slip No. 13 of May, 1930, will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House a statement showing, with reference to paragraph 240 and the last sentence of 239, Pension Regulations, the relative military ranks that will be assigned for the purposes of their respective disability pensions to civil subordinate non-combatants of the Indian Army Departments as per particulars given below ?

Substantive pay on Field Service in 1914-18 when disease was contracted.	Pay on final retirement from the service in 1928, 1929 and 1930.
A. Rs. 30 per mensem.	Rs. 155 per mensem.
B. Rs. 30 per mensem.	Rs. 175 per mensem.
C. Rs. 30 per mensem.	Rs. 199 per mensem.
D. Rs. 50 per mensem.	Rs. 200 per mensem.
E. Rs. 50 per mensem.	Rs. 250 per mensem.
F. Rs. 50 per mensem.	Rs. 350 per mensem.
G. Rs. 60 per mensem.	Rs. 450 per mensem.
H. Rs. 60 per mensem.	Rs. 700 per mensem.
I. Rs. 60 per mensem.	Rs. 900 per mensem.

(b) With reference to part (a) above, supposing all the five individuals referred to at items A to E retired after a service of full 29 years and all with one hundred per cent. disability contracted on field service, will Government be pleased to state what aggregate pension (service and disability pension both combined) will they respectively be eligible for per month ? (The average of their last three years salaries is given below for information.) For ordinary pensions they all served under the Civil Service Regulations :

- A. Rs. 145 per mensem.
- B. Rs. 165 per mensem.
- C. Rs. 190 per mensem.
- D. Rs. 192 per mensem.
- E. Rs. 240 per mensem.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

				<i>Statement.</i>
(a)	A, B, and C.	..	..	.. Subadar.
	D.	..	..	.. Sub-Conductor.
	E.	..	..	.. Conductor.
	F.	..	..	.. 2nd Lieutenant.
	G.	..	..	.. Lieutenant.
	H.	..	..	.. Captain.
	I.	..	..	.. Major.
(b)	A, B, and C.	..	..	.. Rs. 150 a month.
	D.	..	..	.. Rs. 96 a month as service pension <i>plus</i> 33 shillings a week as disability addition under the War Warrants.
	E.	..	..	.. Rs. 120 a month as service pension <i>plus</i> 33 shillings a week as disability addition under the War Warrants.

LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

593. ***Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghbir Singh :** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact or not that the men senior in all respects, *viz.*, senior in retiring pay, senior in grading, senior in length of service and senior in the quality of services rendered will be eligible for higher relative military ranks and a higher amount of aggregate pension as compared to their juniors referred to in the preceding questions ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 593 and 594 together.

No such principles have been enunciated but this would certainly be the ordinary effect of the rules.

LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

†594. *Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghbir Singh : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact or not that it is an established principle and practice of Government that no man senior in all respects, *viz.*, length of service, amount of monthly pay, departmental grading and quality of services rendered will rank junior in relative rank and earn less aggregate pension than his junior in all respects ?

LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

595. *Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghbir Singh : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the provisions of paragraph 224-A, Pension Regulations, in their original form as well as when corrected by correction slip No. 13 of May, 1930, were intended for general application without any limitations of pay or restrictions of any other kind ? If not, will Government be pleased to explain the general application of those provisions ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 595 and 596 together.

The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to starred question No. 591 (e). Government are not aware of any case of the kind referred to at the end of starred question No. 596.

LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

†596. *Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghbir Singh : Is it not a fact that the concession and privilege allowed in paragraph 224-A, Pension Regulations, as corrected by correction slip No. 13 of May, 1930, are freely given by the military pension authorities in the case of people drawing Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 per month when on field service in 1914-18 and retiring on salaries below Rs. 200 per month, say, between Rs. 150 and Rs. 199 per month, whereas the same concession and privilege are totally denied to individuals drawing the same rate of pay, *viz.*, Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 per month when on field service in 1914-18, but who were promoted to Rs. 200 per mensem and over by the time of their retirement ? Is it a fact that this resulted in juniors in pay, grading in service and service, etc., getting higher relative military ranks and higher rate of aggregate monthly pension than their seniors in pay, grading and service, etc. ?

STATUS OF TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN SCHOOLS.

597. *Mr. A. Das : (a) Are Government aware that in the replies given in this Assembly on 8th February, 1933, to question No. 296 (a), (c) and (e) by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad, and on 9th February, 1933, to

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 593.

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 595.

question No. 319 (a), (c) and (e) by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen, Mr. P. R. Rau, Financial Commissioner, Railways, affirmed that :

“ teachers of the Indian Schools maintained by the East Indian Railway administration are Government servants ” ;

“ that teachers should receive pay on about the same level as they would receive if they were employed in a school run by the Local Government. ”

“ In the opinion of the Railway Board teachers employed in schools maintained by the Railway administration for the education of Railway children are *Railway employees* even though the teachers may actually be employed by the local committees of the several schools ” ?

(b) Is it a fact that similar statements were made on behalf of Government in replies to questions by Pt. Hirday Nath Kunzru on 1st February, 1928 and 12th September, 1929 and in the course of the Railway Budget Debates on 25th February, 1928 and 21st February, 1929, and in the replies of the Railway Board to the reference made by the Agent, East Indian Railway, in June, 1928, and also in the replies given on behalf of Government to question No. 21 in the United Provinces Legislative Council on 19th February, 1932 ?

(c) Are Government aware that against the aforesaid statements of the Government, the East Indian Railway Administration do not treat the teachers of the East Indian Railway High Schools for Indians as Railway servants and the Agent, East Indian Railway, has recently written to the Income-tax Commissioner, Bengal “ that teachers of the East Indian Railway Indian Schools are *not* Railway employees within the meaning of item 10, para. 4 of the Income-Tax Manual, but are employees of the various school committees ” ?

P. R. Rau : (a) No, Sir. I affirmed nothing of the kind. I merely said that the questions contained in certain questions were substantially correct.

(b) As regards the first part of this question I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen's question No. 274. Government have no information about the replies given in the U. P. Legislative Council.

(c) Government have no information but are enquiring into the matter.

Mr. A. Das : Are these passes granted to Anglo-Indian teachers of the Oakgrove School ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have already explained more than once on the floor of this House that these first class passes were granted to certain staff of the Oakgrove School by the late Board of Directors of the East Indian Railway, and Government have decided that this concession should be treated as personal to themselves and not applicable to their successors.

Mr. A. Das : What is the reason behind it ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Behind what ?

Mr. A. Das : Behind the decision of the Government to give this sort of unfair and special treatment in granting first class passes to Anglo-Indian teachers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am afraid my voice has not reached the Honourable Member. It is not a decision of the Government, but of the late Board of Directors.

Mr. A. Das : Are there any special privileges attached to Anglo-Indian and European teachers of the Oakgrove School ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No, Sir ; Government have already decided that these concessions will not be granted to the successors of these teachers.

ISSUE OF PASSES TO THE TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN SCHOOLS.

598. ***Mr. A. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether letter No. 2740/T.A., dated the 31st March, 1933, from the Director, Railway Board, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, providing uniformity of Free Pass Rules in Indian Railways, includes the teachers of the East Indian Railway Indian Schools also ? If not, why not ? Has any other Department of the East Indian Railway been similarly left out ? If so, which ?

(b) Are there any employees of the East Indian Railway in the officers' grade who get second class passes under Supplementary Rules 17 and 34 on account of drawing salaries below Rs. 750 p. m. ? If so, will Government please lay a list of such Railway officers on the table of this House ? Does this condition apply to the Principal, the Headmaster, the Headmistress and other assistant masters and mistresses of the East Indian Railway Oakgrove School for Anglo-Indians also ? If not, are Government aware that such a condition has been made applicable to the Headmasters of Indian Schools maintained by the East Indian Railway, and will Government please state the reasons for this exceptional treatment and distinction ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The letter in question applies to all staff to whom privilege passes are granted under the pass rules.

(b) Employees in the officers' grade are ordinarily granted first class passes on all Railways.

I have already explained that the first class passes granted to certain staff of the Oakgrove School by the late Board of Directors of the East Indian Railway Company have been treated as personal to themselves.

STATUS OF TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN SCHOOLS.

599. ***Mr. A. Das :** Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway, has ruled that teachers of the East Indian Railway Schools are not Railway servants in the same sense as other Railway servants are ? Will Government please state what this ruling signifies and how is it reconciled with the replies given in this House to questions already referred to and the decision of the Railway Board arrived at in June, 1928 ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : As I have already stated in reply to question No. 274 put by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen, Government have not seen the ruling referred to, but are obtaining information from the Agent, East Indian Railway, on the matter.

STATUS OF TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN SCHOOLS.

600. ***Mr. A. Das :** (a) Is it a fact that in reply to question No. 324 (d) by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen it was stated in this House

on the 9th February, 1933, by Mr. P. R. Rau, Financial Commissioner, Railways, that :

“ Teachers have a right of appeal to the Agent. If a subscriber to Provident Fund is dismissed with forfeiture of the bonus contribution to his provident fund, an appeal lies to the Railway Board ” ?

(b) Are Government aware that appeals of the teachers of the East Indian Railway Indian Schools are not forwarded to the Agent at all but are disposed of by his secretary, in spite of the fact that the appeals are against his own decisions arrived at by him or confirmed by him in his capacity as Superintendent, East Indian Railway Schools ? Are Government prepared to order that in future the appeals be duly considered by the Agent and not left to be disposed of by his very same subordinate against whose decisions they are made ?

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

(b) I am sending a copy of this question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any action that may be considered necessary.

STATUS OF TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN SCHOOLS.

601. ***Mr. A. Das :** (a) Are Government aware that the Headmasters of all Local Government schools in all provinces are gazetted officers ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Principal, the Headmaster, the Headmistress, and several assistant masters and mistresses of the East Indian Railway Oakgrove School for Anglo-Indians are gazetted officers ?

(c) Is it a fact that in the reply given to question No. 793 (c) and (d) on the 20th March, 1933, Mr. P. R. Rau stated that “ it has been decided that the Headmasters of the Railway High Schools will be treated as First Class Officers for purpose of travelling to the same extent and under the same conditions as Headmasters of High Schools under the Provincial Government concerned with whose pay their pay has been assimilated ” ?

(d) If the replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) if the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools have been gazetted as railway officers. If not, why not ;
- (ii) if they are now actually granted first class passes like all railway officers ? If not, why not ;
- (iii) if they are actually treated as first class officers in the day to day administration and allowed to exercise the same powers and enjoy the same status as the Headmasters of Provincial Government schools for Indians or the Principal and the Headmaster of the East Indian Railway Oakgrove School for Anglo-Indians ?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why is this distinction made in the case of Headmasters of East Indian Railway Schools for Indians only, and when will Government be pleased to remove these distinctions ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Government are not aware of the position in all provinces but they are aware that in certain provinces Headmasters of High Schools belong to the Provincial Educational Service.

(b) The Principal is a gazetted officer. As I have explained in reply to another question certain other posts in that school were declared by the Board of Directors of the late East Indian Railway Company to be equivalent to the officers' grade.

(c) Yes.

(d) (i) No, but the matter is under consideration.

(ii) and (iii). I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to part (e) of question No. 275.

(e) Does not arise.

STATUS OF TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN SCHOOLS.

602. *Mr. A. Das : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reply given on behalf of Government to question No. 55 (a) by Rao Krishnapal Singh, in the United Provinces Legislative Council on 13th June, 1932, that :

“ in respect of leave the position is as follows :

- (1) for those members of the teaching staff of the Oakgrove School who were in service on March 31st, 1930, and
- (2) for the teaching staff of all other schools maintained by the East Indian Railway in the United Provinces, there are no prescribed rules. The members of the teaching staff who were engaged after March 31, 1930, are governed by the New Rules published under the Railway Board's resolution No. 8373-E. of February 20, 1930. Teachers who are in the Officer's grade, are ordinarily allowed the same leave privileges as are admissible to other officers of the Railway under the East Indian Railway Leave Rules. Teachers of this class are to be found only in the Oakgrove School ” ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the reasons for these distinctions ;
- (ii) why the East Indian Railway Leave Rules apply to teachers in the “ officers' grade to be found in the Oakgrove School ” only and not to the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway High Schools also, keeping in view the reply of Mr. P. R. Rau to question No. 793 (c) and (d) of the 20th March, 1933 ;
- (iii) if there are any other class of Railway employees on the East Indian Railway for whom there are no prescribed leave rules ? If so, which class of employees ? If not, will Government be pleased to state why there are no prescribed leave rules for Headmasters and teachers of the East Indian Railway Indian Schools in service on March 30, 1930 ;
- (iv) whether the old East Indian Railway Leave Rules are more liberal than the new East Indian Railway Leave Rules ;
- (v) whether under the present arrangement teachers engaged after March 31, 1930, are not in a position of much greater advantage than their seniors in service, viz., those who were in service on March 31, 1930. If so, why ;
- (vi) whether it is a fact that under clause 4 of the agreement for teachers, enforced in all East Indian Railway Indian Schools,

all the rules of the East Indian Railway apply to the teachers equally with the other employees of the East Indian Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) No. Sir : but I am quite content to accept the Honourable Member's statement on the point.

(b) I am obtaining certain information to enable me to give a complete reply to this question and shall lay a reply on the table in due course.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Short Notice question by Mr. James.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ASSASSINATION OF MR. BURGE, DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF MIDNAPORE.

Mr. F. E. James : Will Government be pleased to make a statement giving full information as to the assassination of the District Magistrate of Midnapore ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The circumstances of this dastardly outrage, so far as they have been ascertained at present, are as follows. Mr. Burge was assassinated at about 5-15 P.M. on Saturday on the police football ground at Midnapore. He was about to play football for the Town Club. Both assassins were on the field with players of the opposite side, the Muhammadan Sporting, who were practising before the match. As several of the players of the Muhammadan Sporting side wore *dhoties*, the assassins were unnoticed. Mr. Burge walked on to the field leaving his personal guards on the touch-line. As Mr. Burge approached the goal, the assassins separated from the players and attacked. One fired five shots with an automatic pistol into Mr. Burge's back from two or three yards range, the other fired three shots from the front at about the same range. Mr. Burge fell and expired within one minute. Mr. Norton Jones, Additional Superintendent of Police, who was also about to play and was a short distance away, immediately tackled the second assassin and was fired on. He struggled with the man who was shot by Mr. Burge's personal guard and secured. The name of this man was Mrigendra Datta, and he died at 8-30 on Sunday morning. The other assassin was named Anath Panja. He was tackled by Reserve Inspector Smith and was shot dead on the spot by the personal guards. Both assassins belong to Midnapore, and were political suspects. A cordon was formed round the ground within a few minutes by the police and troops, and four men were apprehended. Mrs. Burge was not present when the assassination took place.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing on behalf of the Government of India their profound regret at the loss of this fine officer at the hands of assassins and their very deep sympathy with Mrs. Burge.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Have the antecedents of these three Bengalis been ascertained ?

12 Noon.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have given the information in my possession.

Mr. F. E. James : May I ask two questions arising out of the answer ? First, is it not a fact that two of the predecessors of Mr. Burge were murdered in the Midnapore district during the last two or three years and, secondly, will Government make a suitable provision for the dependants of Mr. Burge ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : It is true, Sir, that two District Magistrates of Midnapore have been murdered within the last three years and that this is the third. I think the Honourable Member may be quite assured that suitable provision will be made for the dependants of Mr. Burge.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Mr. President, I desire on behalf of my party and myself to associate ourselves with the remarks just made by the Honourable the Home Member that the Civil Service has suffered a great loss by the death of Mr. Burge and I may say that India has also suffered. Sir, the assassinations in certain parts of India have become frequent as has just been said by my friend, Mr. James, and I am certain that none regrets these incidents more than the Members of this House. I also feel confident that these acts, far from helping this country towards the goal which we have in view, act as a definite setback to our ambitions, our desires and our life-long ambitions that this country should ultimately, if not immediately, attain Dominion Status. Many Englishmen also feel that acts of this kind will not help us. We regret it not for that reason only, but, again, I may mention for the more substantial reason that it is the loss of a gallant officer.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, it is with deep regret that we have heard of the outrage in Midnapore, putting an end to the life of an officer who was doing his duty and who was going to play football. The depths to which revolutionary criminalism could descend could not go further than this and I believe the time has come not only to express our genuine regret against such dastardly outrages, but also to organise a campaign in Bengal and the country as a whole to put an end to the unseemly atmosphere detrimental to the better understanding between India and England and Englishmen in India who, according to their best light, are serving this country as well as their country. Sir, it is with a sense of horror that we view these outrages and it is time that we backed our words by some kind of active propaganda so that the fair name of India will no longer be disgraced and our fair traditions no longer polluted by the foul hand of the assassin. We deeply sympathise with the bereaved family and we do hope that Government will make every provision for the unfortunate widow.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Sir, I desire to associate myself and my friends with all that has fallen from the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party and the Deputy Leader of the Nationalist Party. I do not think it is necessary for me to say that we deeply abhor such dastardly crimes and that our deepest sympathies go out to Mrs. Burge and other relations of the deceased.

Mr. B. S. Sarma : Mr. President, I wish to associate the Central Party and myself with the feelings of horror and expressions of sympathy expressed on this occasion by the Leaders of the Parties in this House.

Sir Leslie Hudson : I wish to associate myself, Sir, with the remarks that have fallen from the Honourable Members of the other side

of the House and also from the Honourable the Home Member on this horrible deed. Mr. Burge was known to more than one of the Members of our Group here and, therefore, the feelings with which the news was received by us yesterday can be imagined. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Burge in this tragedy which has fallen upon her.

Major Nawab Malik Talib Mehdi Khan : Sir, I associate myself with all the sentiments that have been expressed on the floor of this House on the death of Mr. Burge. Sir, the time has come—I think it came long ago—when some drastic action should be taken to preserve the life of those who come out to this country to teach us the ways of good citizenship. Our deep sympathies go to Mrs. Burge in her bereavement.

Sir Abdulla-al-Māmūn Suhrawardy : Sir, as a Member from Bengal, as one closely associated with Midnapore as the first elected non-official Chairman of its District Board and one who had the privilege of the acquaintance of Mr. Burge, I rise to associate myself and the Members on this side of the House with what has fallen from the Honourable the Home Member. Whilst our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Burge and the Government of Bengal, we desire to give expression to our feelings of horror and indignation at the dastardly outrage and act of insensate folly perpetrated by thoughtless youths which retard the attainment of India's freedom which is nearest the heart of all true Indian patriots.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Sir, I wish to associate myself wholeheartedly with what has fallen from the Leaders on this side as well as the Honourable the Home Member. Sir, it is in defiance of the culture and religion of our race that this cult of bomb and murderous outrages have been introduced in India and the sooner this cult of assassination disappears from our sacred land, the better. I think every one in this House will try to co-operate to eliminate this deadly poison from our land, and thus ensure the progress of civilization on constitutional lines. Our sincerest sympathy goes to the bereaved widow and other members of the family of this gallant officer, who laid down his life at the altar of duty.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : Sir, I also associate myself with the remarks that have been made by all the previous speakers. Besides that, I wish to appeal to all the elected Members and the Leaders that they should give wide publicity in the Press to their feelings of hatred and horror for such crimes so that in future the public should know what a harmful thing this is.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I wish to associate the Chair with the expressions of regret and sorrow at the assassination of a faithful public servant. I have no doubt that what has fallen from the lips of the various Leaders of Parties in this House would show to India and the outside world in the most unmistakable terms the unequivocal condemnation of such acts by the better minds of India as represented in this House.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

AERIAL BOMBARDMENT ON KOTKAI IN THE TRANS-FRONTIER.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I have received a notice from Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi that he

proposes to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House today for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance as follows :

“ The unsatisfactory reply given by Government to the short notice question put today in regard to the aerial bombing of Kotkai.”

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

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Leader of the House) : Sir, if I take objection to this motion, it is not because Government desire to burke any discussion on this matter, but purely because it raises a question which may be of very great importance to the practice and procedure of this House. What the Mover wants to do is to discuss the bombing of Kotkai and not any answer that was given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham, on the 1st September. You, Sir, were pleased to rule on the 31st August that this matter had ceased to be a matter of urgent importance within the meaning of rule 12 of the Legislative Assembly Rules. I submit, Sir, that a matter which had ceased to be of urgent importance or of recent occurrence on the 31st August cannot again become urgent on the 4th September merely because Government, as a matter of courtesy, replied to a short notice question in anticipation of another question which appears on the notice paper. If, Sir, it is argued that though the matter itself has ceased to be urgent, the reply of Government has conferred on it a fresh urgency, then, Sir, I submit that if that argument were accepted, it might lead to serious consequences for this House. It would mean that any motion of this kind which refers to a matter of any distant date should be admitted, simply because a question has been asked and answered and a Member of this House considers that the answer was unsatisfactory. It follows that any Member of this House, who has lost his opportunity to move the adjournment of the House, would revive that opportunity by simply putting a question, obtaining an answer and then saying that it was unsatisfactory. In this particular case, Sir, I would bring to the notice of the House that the would-be Mover of this motion obtained no further relevant information from the reply given to him by Mr. Tottenham on the 1st, I say he obtained no more information than was available in His Excellency's address to both Houses on the 30th August. It, therefore, follows, I submit, that the position today is exactly the same as the position on the 31st when you were pleased to hold that the matter was not a matter of recent occurrence. The point, in short, that I wish to make is this. If a motion for adjournment is to be based on an answer to a question given in this House, the question itself must relate to a matter of recent occurrence.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division : Muhammadan) : I am surprised to hear the Honourable the Leader of the House taking objection to this motion for adjournment. I find that he treats the subject as one which is of ordinary importance and as if it was a subject in which no great interest has been evinced in the country. The Honourable Member ought to know that there is intense feeling in the country and I would, therefore, urge upon the Government that they should allow all opportunity to discuss the *pros* and *cons* of the question, all sides of the questions, in order to show to the public what the viewpoint of the Government is and in order that the Government may learn

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

from us, the representatives of the people, what people think of their action at Kotkai. If they do not allow a discussion at this stage, I do not know whether they will have to face something more serious and, for that reason, I would again urge that the technical objection that has been taken on a matter of this vast importance should be dropped and the matter should be allowed to be discussed on the floor of the House. The other day, of course, we derived much knowledge from the reply given by our Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham. It was obviously beyond the scope of supplementary questions to elicit more definite and accurate reply from the Honourable Member. We, at any rate I and many of my friends here interested in the question, had no knowledge that supplementary questions were going to be put that day. Whatever the Honourable Member said on that occasion was unsatisfactory, because he took shelter on many questions under the confidential nature of the thing and we could not elaborate our arguments, which we feel the public want us to put before the Government. Now, the urgency which arose after the reply of Mr. Tottenham was this that Mr. Tottenham's reply showed that there was no justification whatsoever for the military operations at Kotkai, much less for the bombing operations and, therefore, I say that the matter should be elaborately discussed in this House so that the people may know the whole facts.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadian) : I want to ask one question of my Honourable friend.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House is discussing a point of order and the Honourable Member cannot ask questions. On the 31st August, the Chair gave the interpretation on the rule relating to urgency with regard to motions for adjournment, an interpretation which is borne out not merely by the language of the rule itself, but by the well established precedents in this House. Today the Honourable Mr. Shafee Daoodi asks for leave to move the adjournment of the House on the ground of the unsatisfactory answer given by the Honourable the Army Secretary to a short notice question on that subject. The Chair takes it that it is the intention of the Honourable Member not simply to censure the Government for giving an unsatisfactory reply, but to avail himself, if he gets the leave of the House, of that opportunity to discuss the main question, that is, the bombing at Kotkai.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Also to censure the Government for the military operations which they took at Kotkai without any justification much less for bombing by air.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : It has been in the past the practice in this House to move the adjournment of the House on the unsatisfactory reply given by a Member of Government to a question. The Chair has now to decide whether, in the light of all the circumstances connected with the present case, the motion sought to be moved by the Honourable Member is in order. The Chair must say that the general line of argument adopted by the Honourable the Leader of the House in taking an objection to this motion is valid. There seems to be an impression in the minds of certain Honourable Members, at any rate, that the mere fact that the answer to a question is unsatisfactory is in itself a sufficient ground to make a motion for

adjournment on that point *ipso facto* in order. The Chair should distinctly rule that by itself the answer to a question is not a sufficient ground for moving a motion for the adjournment of the House. In deciding the admissibility of such a motion, the Chair has always to take into consideration the subject-matter with which the question is connected and, if the subject-matter itself is in violation of the rules and Standing Orders relating to the motion for adjournment, no manner of unsatisfactory answers would make such a motion in order. But, in this particular case, there are other factors to be taken into consideration. So far as the Chair has been able to gather, the Honourable Members, whose attention had been drawn to the bombing at Kotkai, took what, in their opinion, were necessary steps to get the full facts of the case. For that purpose they entered into correspondence with the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor General and also entered into conversations with the Honourable the Army Secretary. In doing so, the Chair is convinced that they were under a genuine misapprehension that that act of theirs would keep this question alive and will not bar their moving an adjournment motion on the ground of urgency. Since the Chair is convinced that Honourable Members were in this case under a genuine misapprehension with regard to their rights, the Chair is prepared, as a measure of equity, to hold that this motion is in order, but the Chair would make it perfectly clear that the ruling of the Chair that in this particular case this motion is in order would not be taken as a precedent because the Chair wants it to be distinctly understood once again that by itself the answer to a question cannot be sufficient ground for moving the adjournment of the House unless the subject-matter of the question itself conforms to the rules and regulations relating to adjournment motion. As, however, objection has been taken in this case to the granting of the leave, the Chair has to ask Honourable Members, who are in favour of leave being granted, to rise in their places. (Some Honourable Members rose.) As not less than 25 Members have risen, the Chair declares that leave is granted and that the motion will be taken up for discussion at 4 P.M. this afternoon.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 1st September, 1933, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Select Committee on the amendment of Standing Orders, eight nominations were received, out of which one candidate has since withdrawn his candidature. The number of candidates is, therefore, equal to the number of vacancies and I declare the following Members to be duly elected, namely :

Mr. S. C. Mitra,
 Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi,
 Mr. F. E. James,
 Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal,
 Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad,
 Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, and
 The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 127 to 140, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 6th February, 1933.

FORGED TEN-RUPEE NOTES IN THE CURRENCY NOTES PRESS, NASIK.

*127. (a) The notes were forgeries of the Series E 23. The stolen notes so far recovered were of the Series G 45 to 52, 66, 67, and 69.

(b) Yes. They were printed on paper which was a good imitation of the genuine paper and had a well executed forged watermark put on afterwards.

STAR WATER-MARKED CURRENCY NOTES PRINTED IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.

*128. One hundred and sixty notes have so far been recovered. It is not possible to state definitely how many notes were stolen, but as only three were recovered in 1931 and two in 1932, it is probable that few, if any, now remain untraced.

VERIFICATION OF SPOILED OR REJECTED CURRENCY NOTES IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.

*129. (a) The verification and destruction of the notes not issued and of the balance of partly printed paper was carried out under the supervision of the Master, Security Printing. Government are satisfied with this arrangement. In the circumstances the second part of this question does not arise.

(b) and (c). The answer to the last part of (c) is No. The system has not been objected to by the audit authorities, and Government do not consider that any useful object would be served or that it would be in the public interest to describe in detail the methods they employ to check unused paper and spoiled notes.

CONVICTION AND SENTENCE OF THE PERPETRATORS OF THEFTS IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.

*130. (a) Reports of thefts are not made to the courts but to the police, who take the matter to the courts in accordance with the ordinary procedure. The case in question was tried in the court of the Second Class Magistrate, Nasik, and the sentence was notified to the Master, Security Printing, by the police. Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by laying these voluminous documents on the table of the House, but they are available in the Finance Department for perusal by the Honourable Member if he so desires.

(b) Yes. Including the case referred to in part (a) there have been three court cases involving four accused.

(c) In his judgment on case No. 116 of 1928 the Magistrate held that there had been negligence on the part of the Assistant Supervisors. The matter was investigated by the Master, Security Printing, who found that only one Assistant Supervisor was concerned. He was reverted to a daily-paid post on the technical side.

SHORTAGE OF FIVE-RUPEE NOTE SHEETS IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.

*131. (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 1328 asked on the 21st of November, 1932.

(b) Two sheets of Rs. 5 notes were temporarily missing owing to their being mixed up with other sheets, the temporary shortage being detected by the Chief Supervisor. Mr. Patel's fault in this connection was his failure to report the shortage at once and this was punished by his increment being withheld for three months. One Rs. 5 un-numbered sheet was stolen by an employee. This theft was rendered possible owing to careless searching by a search peon who was duly punished. No Supervisor was responsible.

**DEPARTMENTAL ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE SUPERVISORS RETAINED OR
RETRENCHED IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.**

*132. (a) Two Supervisors, who were found to have exercised insufficient supervision, were removed from their appointments; the Chief Supervisor was reverted to his previous employment as a letterpress printer and the Assistant to the daily-paid establishment. Mr. Mainkar's increment was postponed for three months during the investigation into the theft of the notes. The increment was granted at the end of the investigation without retrospective effect, but the period of postponement was allowed to count for further increments under Fundamental Rule 24.

(b) One of the retrenched Supervisors had his increment withheld on one occasion and on another occasion he received a reprimand which was entered in his service book. As previously stated in reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 1332 (a) of the 21st of November, 1932, the most efficient were retained. The service of those retrenched was in all cases not so satisfactory as that of those retained.

**APPOINTMENT OF ADYA GAUD BRAHMANS IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS,
NASIK.**

*133. (a) The latter reply is correct, the earlier one being based on the erroneous assumption that Savantwadi formed part of Ratnagiri District.

(b) No.

**ASSISTANT SUPERVISORS OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES APPOINTED IN THE
CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.**

*134. The following is the list showing by communities the appointments to the fifteen posts :

Hindus	..	Eleven, of whom nine are Brahmins and two Kshatriyas.
Anglo-Indian	..	One.
Parsee	..	One.
Indo-Portugese	..	One.
Indian Christian	..	One.

**SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE POSTS OF THE MASTER AND
DEPUTY MASTER OF NASIK PRESSES.**

*135. The qualifications required for the posts of Master and Deputy Master of the Nasik Presses are special administrative ability and a sound training in engineering. As regards the Indianisation of these posts and the training of Messrs. Kapur and Das Gupta there is nothing to add to the answer which was given to question No. 1334 asked by the Honourable Member on the 21st of November, 1932.

**EUROPEAN STYLE QUARTERS FOR INDIANS IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS,
NASIK.**

*156. (a) Mr. Das received some training in Europe. Mr. Das lives in Indian style and therefore occupies an Indian quarter. He was not offered a European quarter.

(b) Mr. Bose took ordinary leave to England and when there studied some aspects of printing. As he also lives in Indian style he occupies an Indian quarter.

(c) One Indian Officer who occupies a European quarter has been to England. The remaining Indians who occupy European quarters have not been to England but live in English style. There appears no necessity for Government to define a difference which is well understood by all concerned.

(d) The charge for water consumed beyond the free supply is eleven annas per 1,000 gallons. The free supply referred to was sanctioned by Government in order to put the Press employees on the same footing as those of the Bombay Government Central Distillery in the same compound, who had enjoyed the concession for many years. The total value of the concession to all officers and staff, excluding only the daily-paid labourers, on the present occupancy is Rs. 3,205-8-0 *per annum*. It would be invidious to terminate this concession to the Press employees unless the Bombay Government withdraws it from the Distillery employees.

ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS IN THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.

*137. (a) The Master and certain other employees who enjoyed free or nominally rented quarters either in previous appointments or under agreement, have been granted allowances in lieu on being brought on the rent-paying list. The allowance in some cases covers the rent, in others only partially.

(b) Miss Griffin could not be allotted a third grade quarter since these are bachelor quarters for men, with common bathing and sanitary arrangements. The second grade quarter which she occupies is under existing reduced working not required for others, and failing her would be unoccupied.

(c) The post of Master, Security Printing, would normally fall in Class 'B' in New Delhi and the average cost of this class is about Rs. 36,000. The Honourable Member is also referred to the reply given to part (d) of his question No. 1336 on the 21st of November, 1932.

RESULTS OF THE AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF ARCHITECTS OF NASIK BUILDINGS.

*138. (a) to (e). There is nothing to be added to what was stated in the reply given on the 5th of September, 1932, to the Honourable Member's question No. 11, and the reply given on the 21st of November, 1932, to his question No. 1327.

TECHNICAL APPRENTICES EMPLOYED IN THE PRESSES AT NASIK.

*139. The list is as follows :

Apprentices "A" Grade.				
			Per day.	
			Rs. A. P.	
Mr. S. V. Upadhye	..	..	4 1 0	Hindu.
Mr. F. T. Jones	..	..	4 1 0	Statutory Indian.
Mr. V. T. Rege	..	..	3 7 0	Hindu.
Mr. Shafi Ahmed	..	..	3 12 0	Muslim.
Mr. T. Bessent	..	..	3 7 0	Statutory Indian.
Apprentices "B" Grade.				
			Per day.	
			Rs. A. P.	
Mr. B. S. Chitnis	..	..	2 0 0	Hindu.
Mr. Karam Singh	..	..	2 0 0	Hindu.
Mr. B. Nandlal	..	..	1 12 0	Hindu.

APPLICATION OF THE FACTORY RULES TO THE CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASIK.

*140. (a) to (e). Factory inspection is a provincial matter. The Presses are, however, regularly inspected by Factory Inspectors of the Bombay Government and no criticism of the ventilation has ever been made by them. The ventilation is scientifically

designed to give a sufficient inflow of fresh air and a maximum outflow of hot and ventilated air, and is far in advance of the arrangements existing in most factories in India in this respect.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table—

- (i) the information promised in reply to a supplementary question to starred question No. 348, asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 20th February, 1933 ;
- (ii) the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 836 to 838 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 21st March, 1933 ;
- (iii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 931 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 27th March, 1933 ;
- (iv) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 932 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 27th March, 1933 ; and
- (v) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 1106 asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin on the 1st April, 1933.

**ENTRY OF SOME SOLDIERS OF THE DORSETSHIRE REGIMENT INTO THE
Dacca UNIVERSITY CENTRAL BUILDING WITH FIXED BAYONETS.**

*348. I am informed that a youth who was arrested on another charge was identified as one of the two persons who assaulted the soldier. It was decided not to prosecute him for the assault as the evidence of identification was not considered strong enough to ensure a conviction.

**PENSION OF CERTAIN MILITARY MEN INCREASED BY RE-EMPLOYMENT DURING
THE GREAT WAR.**

*336. (a), (c) and (f). The points raised in these questions were dealt with in the note on the conditions of re-employed service prepared for the informal committee on War Pensions, and were discussed at the meeting of the committee held on the 10th June. The note and a record of the proceedings of the Committee will be found in Volume II of the Report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

(b) No.

(d) No attempt has been made to lay down what records are necessary. The character of a man's service can normally be deduced from the records ordinarily maintained. It is unlikely that any inquiry held fifteen years after the war would elicit reasons for the non-existence of certain documents now.

(e) No.

(g) Government agree that service should be presumed to have been satisfactory in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

(h) No period was or is prescribed. The natural conclusion to be drawn from the fact that a man was discharged shortly after he was re-engaged is that he was not worth retaining.

(i) No ; the Pension Controller is chiefly concerned with the re-admission of the pensioner, on ceasing to be employed, to his original authorised rate of pension. It is

the responsibility of interested persons to approach their commanding officers for a re-assessment of their pensions.

DISABILITY PENSION TO DISCHARGED MILITARY MEN.

*837. (a) A pensionable disability is one attributable to military service assessed by the Medical Board at not less than 20 per cent.

(b) The actual words were not used but Rule 1058 of the 1915 rules required that a disability should affect a man's earning capacity before it could be deemed pensionable.

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT *re* PAYMENTS ON CERTAIN CURRENCY NOTES.

*838. The claim has been admitted with effect from the 24th January, 1924.

OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS AND THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE EMPLOYED ON SPECIALIST DUTIES.

*931.

Statement showing the nature of Research work on which I. M. S. Officers in the Medical Research Department are at present engaged.

Name of officer.	Nature of work.
1. Lt.-Col. J. Taylor ..	(a) The study of the influence of the factors of toxicity and virulence of vibrio stains on their immunising value, and the effect of various procedures on the antigenic value of vaccines prepared from them as estimated by protection experiments. (b) The basis for the selection of vaccine strains. (c) The preparation of a novarsenobenzol toxicity curve for Indian-bred mice.
2. Lt.-Col. J. Morison ..	(a) The various types of cholera and dysentery bacteriophage and their effects on the virulence of cholera vibrios and dysentery bacilli. (b) The best conditions for the production of bacteriophage for cholera and dysentery. (c) The study of outbreaks of cholera in the field with special reference to their origin in Assam and to the effect of vaccination and the different treatments on mortality on the spread of the disease. (d) The use of bacteriophage on a large scale in the prevention of cholera epidemic in two large populations.
3. Major K. R. K. Iyenger ..	(a) Studies in Comparative Antigenic Value of Carbolic and Formalinised antirabic vaccines prepared from the infected brains of rabbit and sheep. (b) Preparation of a potent antirabic serum.

Name of officer.	Nature of work.
4. Lt.-Col. H. H. King ..	<p>As Director of the King Institute he takes part in all researches that are going on, not only in the initiation of several but also in giving advice and guidance on all.</p> <p>The most important of the present researches are :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cultivation of the vaccine virus in vitro. 2. Minor researches on the improvement of vaccine lymph. <p>These include :—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Alteration of the seed passage cycle. (b) Alterations in the technique of vaccination on calves to lessen bacterial contamination. (c) The effect of antiseptics designed to kill contaminations without damaging the lymph. (d) The value of heat resistant strains of the virus. (e) An attempt to separate the living virus from the dead material of lymph by the action of digestive enzymes on the latter. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Researches on cholera bacteriophage. 4. Cultivation of the bacillus of Trachoma. 5. The investigation of the pollution of sub-soil water. 6. An extensive series of investigations on water purification with experimental filters both at Madras and Guindy. 7. Experiments on the comparative value of various scents in attracting mosquitoes either into a trap or on to a bag containing a poisoned solution.
5. Lt.-Col. H. E. Shortt ..	<p><i>Rabies Researches.</i></p> <p>(i) Human Experiments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Experiments on a fixed proportion of the most severely bitten cases treated with antirabic sheep serum, as an adjunct to the routine vaccine treatment to determine whether the negative phase may be counteracted. (b) Serological researches on treated human cases. <p>(ii) Animal Experiments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To test the pre-infectious immunising value of various vaccines. 2. To test the post-infectious immunising value of immune serum as an adjunct to vaccine treatment and when used alone. 3. To test the duration of immunity in immunised animals.

Name of officer.	Nature of work.
5. Lt.-Col. H. E. Shortt— <i>contd.</i>	<p>4. To test the post-infectious value of various chemical agents in preventing rabies.</p> <p>5. To test the duration of potency in the antirabic vaccine now in use.</p> <p>6. Serological researches on rabies.</p> <p>7. A study of the morphology of the brain and salivary glands in rabies.</p> <p>Protozoal Parasites Enquiry into :</p> <p>(i) The life-history of the parasite of tick fever in dogs, viz., <i>Babesia</i> and its treatment.</p> <p>(ii) Avian trypanosomes and their transmission by ectoparasites.</p> <p>(iii) Other minor work.</p>
6. Lt.-Col. J. A. Sinton ..	Researches in Malaria.
7. Lt.-Col. L. A. P. Anderson ..	<p>An investigation into the Serological Diagnosis of Enteric fevers in its relation to the special conditions of a tropical country where these fevers are prevalent.</p> <p>(b) Work in connection with the antigenic constitution of certain strains of the typhoid-paratyphoid organisms.</p>
8. Major G. C. Maitra ..	The study of the effective fraction of antivenomous serum. The methods of preparation of Pseudoglobulin concentrates applicable for large scale production and the duration of potency of sera concentrated and preserved by different methods.
9. Major A. C. Craighead ..	The study of Indian strains of pneumococcus, meningococcus, and <i>Hæmophilus influenzae</i> and the preparation of type sera for their classification.
10. Colonel R. MacCarrison ..	Nutritional Research.
11. Lt.-Col. S. S. Sokhey ..	Studying the biology of <i>B. pestis</i> with special reference to chemical and immunological reactions in correlation with animal experiments.
12. Major S. D. S. Greval ..	Ditto
13. Major G. Covell ..	On leave at present.
14. Captain H. W. Mulligan' ..	Researches on Malaria.
15. Major W. J. Webster ..	<p>Researches on improvements in the testing of water samples.</p> <p>They are :</p> <p>(a) The best and most economical method of conveyance of water samples without alternation of the bacterial flora.</p> <p>(b) An investigation into the presence and significance of streptococci in drinking water.</p>

Name of officer.	Nature of work.
15. Major W. J. Webster— <i>contd.</i>	(c) The applicability of the Eijknam test under local conditions. (d) Researches on media for the differentiation of <i>B. coli</i> from <i>T. B. ærogenes</i> .
16. Captain M. L. Ahuja ..	The study of the relative value of different bacterial strains used for the preparation of typhoid vaccines and the comparative value of stock strains and recently isolated strains. (b) The antigenic properties of strains of vibrios cholerae from different parts of India and their value for the preparation of diagnostic sera. (c) The standardisation of <i>Novo-arsenobillai</i> under Indian conditions.
17. Captain S. M. K. Mallick ..	On leave at present.

MILITARY HOSPITALS IN INDIA.

*932.

British Military Hospitals.

Station.	No. of beds.	Number of patients on 1-1-32.	R. A.M.C. Officers.	No. of nurses employed.	R.A.M.C. other ranks.	Regimental Nursing Orderlies (British).		Indian Hospital Corps personnel.
						Trained.	Un-trained.	
<i>1st Class.</i>								
Lucknow ..	162	43	8	12	25	5	10	64
Poona ..	170	64	10	14	23	3	16	98
Quetta ..	236	45	6	12	22	9	21	115
Rawalpindi ..	219	140	16	17	31	12	19	152
Secunderabad ..	140	58	5	12	20	6	4	76
<i>2nd Class.</i>								
Bangalore ..	115	31	9	9	14	3	12	70
Calcutta ..	111	22	4	5	1	17	5	59
Jubbulpore ..	125	31	5	9	22	3	15	68
Karachi ..	174	23	5	6	9	13	8	70
Lahore ..	163	51	6	10	11	..	18	67
Meerut ..	174	87	6	17	26	14	2	64
Mhow ..	101	27	6	9	17	10	..	56
Mingaladon ..	70	28	4	4	4	7	12	52

Station.	No. of beds.	Number of patients on 1-1-32.	R.A.M.C. Officers.	No. of nurses employed.	R.A.M.C. other ranks.	Regimental Nursing Orderlies (British).		Indian Hospital Corps personnel.
						Trained.	Un-trained.	
<i>2nd Class—contd.</i>								
Nowshera ..	90	32	4	5	..	9	14	73
Peshawar ..	146	41	6	10	20	3	9	111
Ranikhet ..	140	1	1	..	2	..	..	58
Murree ..	136	Open during the summer months only.						
<i>3rd Class.</i>								
Agra ..	71	18	4	4	..	9	11	39
Ahmednagar ..	50	20	2	..	..	7	..	30
Bareilly ..	65	25	4	6	..	12	6	33
Belgaum ..	24	5	1	..	2	..	..	15
Benares* ..	15	4	1	..	..	2	..	23
Bombay ..	147	12	3	12	21	9	..	59
Cawnpore* ..	63	20	2	3	..	3	6	40
Chakrata and Kailana.	80	..	1	..	..	3	2	39
Cherat (in summer, 3rd class; in winter, 5th class).	45	..	1	..	..	3	..	30
Dalhousie (in summer, 3rd class; in winter, 4th class).	72	..	1	..	3	..	..	8
Delhi ..	102	33	4	6	..	11	9	64
Deolali ..	70	8	2	..	15	1	1	46
Dinapore* ..	61	5	1	..	..	7	2	39
Jhansi ..	80	18	4	7	5	4	8	36
Kasauli ..	87	15	1	2	..	4	..	32
Madras ..	54	31	2	..	2	5	..	38
Maymyo ..	65	60	4	5	6	10	..	49
Muttra* ..	26	6	1	..	..	4	..	25
Risalpur ..	50	23	2	..	..	6	..	39
Sialkot ..	103	41	3	5	13	8	..	58
Wellington ..	85	13	2	6	..	5	10	48

* Includes Indian Wing of British Military Hospital.

Indian Military Hospital.

Station.	Number of beds.	Number of patients on 1-1-32.	I. M.S.	Number of nurses employed.	T. H. C. (Nursing) personnel.	Other (I. H. C.) personnel.
<i>1st class.</i>						
Abbottabad ..	112	62	5	..	13	31
Bangalore ..	120	34	6	3	19	30
Bannu ..	220	45	4	4	20	42
Dehra Dun ..	146	36	4	3	19	50*
Ferozepore ..	80	38	5	..	18	33
Jubbulpore ..	70	29	4	..	18	31
Kohat ..	253	124	10	4	22	42
Lahore ..	160	74	9	4	25	47
Landi Kotal ..	270	36	3	..	17	36
Lucknow ..	135	38	9	3	26	47
Meerut ..	140	66	5	3	24	45
Nowshera ..	155	38	5	3	23	41
Peshawar ..	200	111	7	5	30	54
Poona ..	85	65	7	3	17	31
Quetta ..	450	96	9	7	57	107
Rawalpindi ..	220	102	11	5	32	75
Rashtak ..	300	107	8	..	26	60
Secunderabad ..	134	35	4	3	26	41
Sialkot ..	96	44	7	..	18	28
Wana ..	160	53	7	..	25	44
<i>2nd class.</i>						
Alipore ..	73	37	3	..	12	28
Ambala ..	85	52	4	..	17	33
Bombay ..	75	33	4	..	12	25
Delhi ..	75	26	4	..	9	27
Fort Sandeman ..	104	33	4	..	13	28
Jhansi ..	82	56	3	..	17	34
Jhelum ..	80	47	4	..	18	28
Jullundur ..	99	28	5	..	16	27

* Includes British Wing of I. M.A.H.

Station.	Number of beds.	Number of patients on 1-1-32.	I. M.S.	Number of nurses employed.	I. H. C. (Nursing) personnel.	Other (I. H. C.) personnel.
<i>2nd class—contd.</i>						
Karachi ..	75	28	4	2	14	28
Lensdowne ..	130	21	2	3	14	41
Mingaladon ..	60	108	5		8	18
Shillong ..	17	17	2		9	21
<i>3rd class.</i>						
Ahmednagar ..	30	12	1		7	14
Aurangabad ..	40	8	1		7	16
Bakloh ..	43	21	1		7	12
Bareilly ..	95	28	2		11	31
Belgaum ..	45	16	2		7	15
Chaman ..	100	4	2		12	25
Dharamsala ..	35	10	1		9	13
Loralai ..	79	4	3		8	25
Mandalay ..	75	28	3		11	30
Mardan ..	65	30	2		9	20
Maymyo ..	110	15	4		11	33
Manzai ..	48	14	1		7	16
Mhow ..	60	25	3		12	22
Mirali ..	15	6	1		6	12
Multan ..	60	16	3		9	19
Nasirabad ..	44	16	2		8	18
Risalpur ..	43	23	2	..	8	15
Roorkee ..	72	14	2		8	21
St. Thomas Mt. ..	45	11	1		6	18
Thal ..	40	9	1	..	3	11

Explanatory Note.

(a) *Number of patients.*—This does not include the numerous patients who are detained from day to day prior to admission or for minor complaints which, though not sufficiently prolonged to entail admission, nevertheless require medical treatment and nursing; nor does it include the large number of personnel treated in barracks. Families have also been excluded.

The date (1st January) conveys an erroneous impression of numbers, since Malaria is practically non-existent then.

(b) *Number of beds.*—This is the minimum number required to deal with the normal admission rate at the unhealthy season of the year, i.e., when Malaria and Dysentery are most prevalent. The number would not suffice for unusually severe epidemics.

(c) *Number of personnel.*—With the exception of Nursing Sisters, medical personnel have many other duties to perform beyond tending the sick in hospital. The primary role of the Military Medical Services is to prevent disease, and not merely to treat it after it has occurred.

Many officers are borne on the strength of hospitals whose full time preventive and other duties lie entirely outside hospital precincts.

(d) No Indian nurses are employed in the Indian Military Hospitals in India. Only three Indian ladies have applied for appointment to the Indian Military Nursing Service during the last three years. None of these ladies had the essential qualification of training in the nursing of male patients.

BUILDINGS IN THE AMBALA CANTONMENT.

*1106. (a) to (c). As a Cantonment authority cannot refuse, under Section 181 of the Cantonment Act, to sanction a building, on the ground that the applicant's title to the site on which he proposes to build is disputed, the Ambala Cantonment authority have, in a large number of cases, added to their resolution conveying Municipal sanction, a warning that the building will be an encroachment, and that the applicant will therefore build at his own risk. The object of this is to make it clear that Municipal sanction does not imply any admission of title in the land.

(d) Yes ; the land is claimed by Government.

(e) Government are considering the advisability of filing suits where necessary in order to obtain a declaration of their rights in the land.

(f) Government do not consider that the action of the member in question brings him within the mischief of Section 34 (2) of the Cantonment Act.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to supplementary questions to starred question No. 421 asked by Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon on the 21st February, 1933.

REDUCTION OF LAND REVENUE AND GRANT OF *Takavis* TO AGRICULTURISTS IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN.

*421. Land revenue is realised in all the tahsils in Baluchistan which are not under cash assessment at the rate of 1/6th of the produce except Sibi tahsil where it is realised at the rate of 1/5th.

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

(i) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 246 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 7th February, 1933 ;

(ii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 783 asked by Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal on the 20th March, 1933 ; and

(iii) the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1182, 1183 and 1184 asked by Mr. B. N. Misra on the 10th April, 1933.

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN MEN OF THE COMMERCIAL STAFF EMPLOYED IN THE QUETTA DIVISION ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

*426. (a) to (k). The Agent, North Western Railway, reports that the practice of transferring staff between the Quetta District and the other District of the North Western Railway was established prior to the introduction of the Divisional System to meet the needs of the North Western Railway to have a nucleus of staff available with experience of the working conditions in the Quetta Division who could be drafted up at short notice to the Quetta Division in the event of mobilisation. Under this scheme staff concerned were transferred for a period of 3 years after which they were sent back to their Home Divisions. It was decided in March, 1931, to hold this scheme in abeyance as a measure of economy. In consequence six commercial staff who were transferred from the Quetta to the Delhi Division remained on that Division.

It has been decided to introduce the three year scheme again. Three of the six commercial staff have already been transferred back to their Home Divisions and the other three are expected to be sent back to their Home Divisions at an early date.

CERTIFICATES OF SICKNESS PRODUCED BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

*783. (a) The Agent, North Western Railway, reports that medical certificates granted to staff by outside registered Medical Practitioners are generally accepted. Only in cases in which there are irregularities in the certificates or there is reasonable doubt about the genuineness of the certificates, medical certificates from outside registered Medical Practitioners may not be accepted. But such cases are very rare.

If a medical certificate is accepted, the employee concerned is granted leave admissible and due to him. In the rare cases when a medical certificate is not accepted each case is dealt with on its merits and the period of absence may be treated as leave without pay.

Government do not consider that any change in this procedure is necessary.

(b) No. Government are informed that this is not the case and that the granting of a certificate or not depends on the condition of health of the employee.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

DENIAL TO RAILWAY SUBORDINATES OF MORADABAD OF THE PRIVILEGE OF SEEING OFFICERS AT CALCUTTA.

*1182. (a) No. The staff are granted, on application, interviews with officers at Calcutta, if it is considered that an interview can serve any useful purpose.

(b) In this case the appeal lay to the Divisional Superintendent and it was not considered that any advantage would be gained by the appellant by an interview with any officer in Calcutta.

PUNISHMENTS GIVEN TO THE SUBORDINATES OF THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

*1183. Staff are not punished in anticipation of their explanation. The reference number quoted appears to be wrong as the letter is not traceable.

SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN SUBORDINATES OF THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

*1184. (a) Pay under suspension is regulated in terms of Fundamental Rule 54. Staff who are not honourably acquitted of a charge are granted such proportion of pay as is ordered by competent authority. In cases in which full pay has not been sanctioned, the staff concerned were justly put under suspension and the forfeiture of a part of their pay was considered sufficient punishment.

(b) These are of purely departmental interest and Government do not consider that any public purpose will be served by publishing them.

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I lay on the table the report of the Select Committee to which the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for certain purposes was referred.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to present the first part of the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1931-32.

Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1931-32 other than Railways.

I.—EXCESS VOTES.

1. *General summary.*—The following table compares the total grants voted by the Legislative Assembly with the total expenditure against those grants :

(In lakhs of rupees.)*

		Original grant.	Supplementary grant.	Final grant.	Actual expenditure.
Expenditure charged to Revenue .. ..	..	1,09.69	6.16	1,15.85	1,08.65
Expenditure charged to Capital .. ..	..	13.29	..	13.29	8.35
		1,22.98	6.16	1,29.14	1,17.00
Disbursements of loans and advances .. ..	..	9.15	6.78	15.93	14.21
Grand Total .. ..	..	1,32.13	12.94	1,45.07	1,31.21

2. The following table compares the non-voted appropriations sanctioned by the Government of India with the total expenditure against such appropriations :—

(In lakhs of rupees.)

		Original appropriation.	Supplementary appropriation.	Final appropriation.	Actual expenditure.
Expenditure charged to Revenue .. ..	..	1,20.10	70	1,20.80	1,19.76
Expenditure charged to Capital .. ..	..	13	6	19	20
Total Expenditure .. ..	..	1,20.23	76	1,20.99	1,19.90

* The figures in paragraphs 1 to 5 include Railway figures.

3. The position regarding total expenditure, voted and non-voted, is as follows :—

(In lakhs of rupees.)

	Original grant.	Final grant.	Actual expenditure.
Expenditure charged to Revenue	2,29,79	2,36,65	2,28,35
Expenditure charged to Capital	13,42	13,48	8,55
Total Expenditure ..	2,43,21	2,50,13	2,36,90
Disbursements of loans and advances.	9,15	15,93	14,21
Total ..	2,52,36	2,66,06	2,51,11

4. *Savings*.—There was thus a saving of 14,95 lakhs or 5.6 per cent. in the final grant. The percentage compares as follows with the results of previous years :—

	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Expenditure charged to Revenue ..	·6	1·1	1·4	·5	3·5
Expenditure charged to Capital ..	3·4	3·8	10·2	19·9	38·6
Disbursements of loans and advances	·1	—3	—3	—20·3	10·8
Combined percentage	1·0	1·4	2·4	1·2	5·6

5. The following table compares the percentage of savings under voted grants for expenditure proper (*i.e.*, exclusive of disbursements of loans and advances) with that of savings in non-voted appropriations :—

Year.	Voted.	Non-voted.
1927-28	—4	2·8
1928-29	2·4	·3
1929-30	4·0	·8
1930-31	4·0	—1
1931-32	9·4	·9

6. *Excesses*.—In the following cases the actual expenditure exceeds the voted grants and an excess vote of the Assembly is accordingly required :—

Item No.	Number of Grant.	Grant.	Amount voted by the Assembly.	Actual expenditure.	Excess.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	20	Stamps	2,000	7,762	5,762
2	26	Interest on Miscellaneous obligations.	47,78,000	48,90,238	1,12,238
3	74	Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	46,98,000	56,60,750	9,62,750
4	76A	Expenditure on Retrenched personnel charged to Revenue.		2,69,155	2,69,155
5	77	Refunds	84,43,000	90,31,307	5,88,307
6	80	Delhi	43,69,000	44,74,697	1,05,697
7	96A	Expenditure on Retrenched personnel charged to Capital.		1,42,779	1,42,779

7. A brief explanation of each excess is given below :—

Item 1.—The excess was due to the Security Printing Press having sustained a loss during the year as the result of a fall in the demand for the products of the Press.

Item 2.—The voted charges under this grant represent mainly payments to the Posts and Telegraphs Department for savings bank and cash certificate work. The excess was due to an increase in the number of savings bank transactions beyond that anticipated when the supplementary grant was obtained under this head.

Item 3.—The excess was mainly due to the abnormally large number of retirements towards the close of the year as a result of the retrenchment campaign and to the adjustment of Posts and Telegraphs Department pensionary liability at a lower rate than anticipated.

Items 4 and 7.—These items have been dealt with in paragraph 15 of this Report.

Item 5.—The excess occurs mainly under customs refunds and is partly due to the late adjustment of debits connected with the refund of excise duty on motor spirit and kerosene produced in Burma and exported to Kashmere and Afghanistan.

Item 6.—An unanticipated grant-in-aid made to the New Delhi municipality to meet expenditure on certain activities transferred to it from the Public Works Department caused the excess. This was largely counter-balanced by corresponding savings in the Public Works grant.

8. We recommend that the Assembly assent to the excess grants detailed in paragraph 6 above, which the Governor-General in Council will place before them in due course.

9. Rule 52 (2) of the Indian Legislative Rules requires that we should bring to the notice of the Assembly every reappropriation from one grant to another grant, every reappropriation within a grant which is not made in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by the Finance Department and all expenditure which the Finance Department have requested should be brought to the notice of the Assembly. We are glad to be able to report that there have been no reappropriations falling under these categories during the year, nor have the Finance Department requested us to bring to the notice of the Assembly any particular item of expenditure.

II.—COMMENTS ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS.

10. *Disposal of surplus stocks of quinine.*—We were informed that in accordance with the recommendations of the previous Public Accounts Committees arrangements had been made for the disposal of the surplus stock of quinine held by the Government of India after retaining 150,000 lbs. as a reserve stock in accordance with the advice given by the experts. In view of the impending constitutional changes and the introduction of Provincial Autonomy we do not think that the Government of India should at

its own expense maintain a large stock of quinine for supply to the Provincial Governments after the new constitution comes into being. We therefore suggest that if the arrangements now made for the disposal of the surplus stock are successful, the Government of India should reconsider the amount of the reserve stock to be maintained by them.

11 *Utilisation of unanticipated credits to cover excess expenditure.*—The Public Accounts Committee in paragraph 29 of their Report on the accounts of 1930-31 observed that unanticipated credits should not be utilised for the purpose of covering expenditure in excess of the grant and recommended that such credits should be treated in the accounts as receipts and not as deductions from expenditure. The Auditor General has explained to us that the fact of anticipation or non-anticipation of a credit is not really a valid criterion for classification and that he cannot classify an item as a receipt or as a deduction from expenditure merely according to the accuracy of a previous forecast. He entirely agrees with us that such credits should not provide excess supplies for the spending departments without the fact being brought to the specific notice of the Assembly. He has therefore suggested that such items should be brought to the notice of the Assembly either through the Budget memorandum or the review of Appropriation Accounts. We feel that this suggestion will not be enough to give the Assembly proper control over the matter. We therefore recommend that, in cases where substantial unanticipated credits are to be utilised to incur fresh expenditure which would not have been incurred but for such credits, the approval of the Standing Finance Committee should be obtained in the same way as for items of supplementary grants.

12 (a). *Andamans Forests.*—With regard to the subjects of royalty and shipping freights on timber, we have accepted the Government view as recorded in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Proceedings of our meetings.

(b) *Andamans Butchery and Dairy.*—We are glad to note that as a result of many improvements introduced in these two concerns the Butchery made a profit in 1932-33 against losses in previous years and the loss of the Dairy was considerably reduced. We are not, however, satisfied as to the need for maintaining the Dairy if it can only be run at a loss and suggest that the Government of India should further examine the point.

III.—IMPORTANT COMMENTS ON MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1931-32.

13. *Accuracy of budgetting, control over expenditure, etc.*—From the point of view of accurate estimating and efficient control of expenditure the year 1931-32 was one of peculiar difficulties. Owing to the severity of the financial stringency the Finance Department had to make heavy reductions in the estimates of the various Departments and as this had to be done at short notice, summary methods were adopted. After the budget was passed, various sub-committees of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee got to work; a large number of schemes of retrenchment and economy were brought into force from time to time during the year and in many cases it was difficult to forecast exactly what savings might be expected to accrue during the year from those schemes. Percentage cuts

in the pay of Government officers were also applied, with effect from the 1st December 1931. Throughout the year the primary responsibility of every controlling and disbursing officer was to reduce expenditure as far as possible and not merely to keep it within his allotment. Some confusion was also caused by the amalgamation of certain accounts and audit offices during the year, itself a measure of retrenchment. There were also abnormal circumstances affecting the Army expenditure, *viz.*, disturbances in various parts of India, such as the Burma rebellion, and variation in the prices of stores, particularly food-stuffs. For these reasons we agree with the Auditor-General that the conditions of the year 1931-32 were such that no safe conclusions can be reached regarding the standard of estimating and that there was no marked deterioration in control over expenditure.

As regards the Posts and Telegraphs Department, however, we agree with the Auditor-General that even after due allowance is made for the abnormal conditions of the year, current control of expenditure continued to be inadequate, although we recognise that some progress has been made. The Director-General explained to us the various steps taken to improve the current control of expenditure.

After the Incheape Committee's Report, the post of a Financial Adviser was created for the Department and the present Director-General was one of the earlier occupants of this office. He told the Committee that during his régime as Financial Adviser he had other duties of a Secretarial nature which occupied much of his time. The present Financial Adviser informed the Committee that he had no specialized staff to help him in his work. Whatever may be the explanation, we consider the position as disclosed in this Report and in previous reports unsatisfactory and recommend that the Government should take urgent action to remove any defects that they may find to exist in the organisation.

14. *Financial Irregularities.*—We have gone very carefully into the cases of financial irregularities included in the various reports. Such irregularities in the Civil Departments were not numerous. A case was brought to our notice in which a theft occurred from a sub-treasury as a result of the sub-treasurer's action in handing over his set of sub-treasury keys to a chaprasi to be taken to the sub-treasurer for the day. The local Administration issued orders impressing on all officials concerned with the administration of treasuries the need for strict observance of the rules in the Treasury Manual, but did not consider that any disciplinary action was necessary against the sub-treasury officer. We understand that such cases are not reported to the Government of India unless there is some loss to be written off by the Government of India. We consider that this is not satisfactory and that arrangements should be made for the reporting of all such cases of theft, fraud or defalcation, etc., to the Government of India in the administrative Department concerned so as to enable them to judge whether the action taken by the local Administration was sufficient.

A grant-in-aid equivalent to 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure on equipment was admissible to a certain college. A sum of Rs. 5,000 was paid to the college on the basis of an estimate of the probable expenditure, but later on it was found that the actual expenditure incurred by the college was less than Rs. 10,000 and the excess amount paid to the college had to be regularised by the Government of India. We under-

stand that in some Provinces the procedure is that, in cases, where the grant-in-aid is expressed as a certain percentage of the actual expenditure incurred by the institution, the amount is paid only after the production of vouchers. We suggest that the Government of India should consider whether a similar procedure could not be introduced in the areas directly administered by them.

As regards the Army Department, the subject has been fully dealt with in the Report of the Military Accounts Committee and the proceedings attached to it.

15. *Grants for expenditure on retrenched personnel.*—The Auditor-General has brought to our notice that though the expenditure on retrenched personnel was known to be inevitable before the close of the year, no steps were taken to obtain supplementary grants from the Assembly to cover it. The Financial Secretary explained to us that it was extraordinarily difficult to frame even the vaguest estimate of the expenditure likely to be incurred during the year, which was clear from the fact that against a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs in the revised estimates the actual expenditure amounted only to little over Rs. 4 lakhs. He added that the Assembly knew that such expenditure was being incurred, as the terms given to retrenched personnel had been brought specifically to its notice. We realise the difficulties of preparing an estimate of this expenditure, but consider that from a constitutional point of view it was incorrect not to have obtained some specific vote from the Assembly even though the Assembly knew that such expenditure was being incurred.

16. *Trading results of Government of India commercial concerns.*—The Accountant-General, Central Revenues, has in paragraphs 22—29 of the Commercial Appendix given a comprehensive review of the financial results of all the Central Government commercial concerns and indicated in a clear form and comparatively brief compass the special features of the accounts of these concerns. As observed by the Accountant-General, some of these concerns show improvements, but the total extent of the deterioration in others far exceeds the amount of the improvement, mainly due to the widespread and continued fall in prices and the general economic depression. We agree with the Auditor-General that the results of the year are not any worse than the prevailing financial conditions would give reasons to expect.

17. *Abolition of commercial accounts in certain commercial concerns.*—Appendix XV.—It was explained to us that the commercial activities of the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Bangalore, the Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm, Karnal, cultivation and cattle breeding experiments in the Agricultural Section of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Pusa, had been considerably curtailed and their activities were now confined to education and research. In the Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm, Karnal, only the cultivation accounts had been commercialised, but now practically all the lands were leased out to tenants. At Pusa, commercial accounts were maintained only for the Agricultural Section and the Government of India had laid down that the maintenance of commercial accounts should not be regarded in any measure as implying that education and research work should be sacrificed in order to run an institution as a profit-making concern. The Kitchen Garden of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at Pusa was only a very small affair. The Auditor-General agrees to the proposal to abolish commercial accounts in all these concerns partly because this will lead to some

economy but mainly because he is convinced that the research and educational functions of these concerns outweigh so much the commercial side that commercial accounts can not actually be of much service. We also accept the proposal but on the distinct understanding that, if in any of these concerns commercial activities are revived, commercial accounts should be re-introduced.

18. *The Indian Stores Department.*—We discussed in detail with the Chief Controller of Stores the *pro forma* profit and loss accounts of the Indian Stores Department which showed a heavy loss during the year under review. The Chief Controller explained that as a result of the large fall in prices the commission credited to the Department, which was based on a percentage of the price of stores, had fallen considerably. He also mentioned that a correct estimate of the financial position could only be obtained if on the receipt side of the account credit could be taken for the large savings in the expenditure budgets of the consuming departments on the cost of stores purchased through the Indian Stores Department and that it was also impossible to assess in rupees, annas and pies the value of the services rendered by the Department in connection with the promotion and encouragement of Indian industries. We are of opinion that, though the *pro forma* accounts are very useful for the purpose of enabling us to keep a general watch upon the operations of the Department, the Department cannot be expected to be self-supporting on the basis of those accounts—at any rate at a time when the prices of all commodities are as low as at present.

19. *Financial position of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.*—We have perused the memoranda furnished by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs (Annexures I and II to the Proceedings of the 7th and 8th meetings) on the future commercial prospects of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and on the various measures taken to reduce the expenditure of the Department. We note that the Director-General hopes that if the improvement in revenue which is noticeable in the first three months of 1933-34 is maintained, the economy campaign which is being pursued steadily will enable the Department to balance its budget in the not distant future.

20. *Report of the Military Accounts Committee.*—We append the Report submitted by the Military Accounts Committee (Annexure A) constituted to make a preliminary examination of the Military Appropriation Accounts and connected documents. We endorse the recommendations and observations of the Committee both in its Report and in the accompanying proceedings of its meetings. As regards the special point of the *pro forma* account of expenditure on Auxiliary and Territorial Forces, we agree with that Committee that the present arrangements are unsatisfactory from a practical point of view. We therefore approve of the suggestion of the Army Secretary that proposals should be worked out for classifying the cost of certain units as wholly debitable to the *pro forma* account and the cost of others as wholly debitable to the ordinary Army grant.

IV.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

21. We were consulted on the action to be taken to reconstitute the Committee in view of the extension of the life of the present Assembly

and after full consideration we recommended that a new Public Accounts Committee should be constituted on the expiry of the normal term of three years.

22. As in the previous years, we append to our Report minutes of our proceedings which we consider should be treated as part of the Report. We assume that in accordance with the established practice action will be taken by Departments as necessary on the observations and recommendations contained in these proceedings.

23. We wish to thank the Auditor-General for his lucid comments on the various Appropriation Accounts which greatly facilitated our work and also for the assistance which he rendered to us throughout the proceedings.

24. We also wish to express our appreciation of the valuable services rendered to us by our Secretary, Mr. K. Sanjiva Row.

A. H. LLOYD.

M. C. RAJAH.

T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI.

ISMAIL ALI KHAN.

S. C. MITRA.

S. C. MITRA for K. P. THAMPAN.

M. A. AZIM.

J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

R. D. DALAL.

M. C. RAJAH.

K. SANJIVA ROW,

Secretary.

25. The non-official members of the Committee desire to record their appreciation of the ability, energy and tact with which the Chairman guided its deliberations.

M. C. RAJAH.

T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI.

ISMAIL ALI KHAN.

S. C. MITRA.

S. C. MITRA for K. P. THAMPAN.

M. A. AZIM.

J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

R. D. DALAL.

Dated the 23rd August, 1933.

ANNEXURE A.**Report of the Military Accounts Committee.**

We were constituted in pursuance of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee of the year 1931-32 in paragraph 31 of their Report to make a preliminary examination of the Military Appropriation Accounts and connected documents. In our task we received great assistance not only from the Auditor General and the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, and his staff but also from the Army Secretary and the officers of Army Headquarters who appeared before us. We have once again to record our appreciation of the obvious desire of the Army authorities to secure every possible economy and stricter financial control, of the efficacy of the action which they have taken to this end and of their readiness to accept any proposals in this respect which we found ourselves able to suggest to them.

2. The results of our examination of the Appropriation Accounts and connected documents are as usual embodied in the proceedings of our meetings (Annexure I) and it is unnecessary for us here to do more than to refer to the more important points.

3. *Revision of Army Regulations.*—In view of the numerous instances of wrong payments due to the complexity and obscurity of the existing rules last year's Committee had recommended that the steps taken to simplify and amend the existing regulations should be reported to us this year. The Auditor General in his letter forwarding the Appropriation Accounts again pointed out that the accounts with which we had to deal this year provide ample evidence that not only have irregularities been caused by the bulk and complexity of the regulations but that the unskilful and careless drafting of individual orders has led to losses that were not inconsiderable in total amount. He has therefore suggested that two measures are necessary :—

- (1) more careful scrutiny by the Finance Branch in conjunction with the office of the Military Accountant General of the drafts of proposed rules, and
- (2) the immediate incorporation in the relevant regulations of new orders affecting them.

We are informed that both these suggestions have already been given effect to. We are also glad to note that with a view to achieve real and lasting simplification of the regulations some progress has been made in the preparation of basic rules applicable to the various classes of personnel. We suggest that everything possible should be done to accelerate the work. We agree with the Auditor General that the cause of the trouble in the past has been the tendency of the Army Department to issue special orders to meet individual cases outside the ordinary regulations. We therefore strongly endorse the Auditor General's suggestion that having got the basic rules the Army Department should resist any such tendency.

4. *Authorised war reserves of stores.*—As recommended by the Committee last year, the Quartermaster General and the Master General of Ordnance have furnished the necessary certificates in regard to the existence in stock of all the authorised war reserves of stores on the 31st March 1933. Copies of these certificates are attached to our proceedings.

5. *Pro forma account of expenditure on Auxiliary and Territorial Forces.*—The Financial Adviser has in the Appropriation Accounts furnished a *pro forma* account of special expenditure incurred in 1931-32

for the expansion of the Territorial Force. The Army Secretary explained to us the difficulties involved in compiling figures of expenditure debitable to the *pro forma* account as certain charges in a particular unit were so debitable while others were not. He has therefore suggested that it would be much simpler if the complete cost of certain units were debited to the *pro forma* account and the complete cost of others to the ordinary Army Grant. We recognise the difficulties pointed out by the Army Secretary and suggest that the Public Accounts Committee should consider the suggestions made by the Army Secretary.

6. *Expenditure on special programme measures.*—We were furnished by the Army Secretary with a certificate from the Chief of the General Staff stating that the expenditure on programme measures up to the 31st March 1933, was estimated at Rs. 728.30 lakhs, that funds to the extent of Rs. 39.34 lakhs had been provided in the budget estimates for 1933-34 and that all outstanding measures could be completed by a further expenditure of Rs. 226.7 lakhs. We would like to point out in this connection that the estimate, *viz.*, Rs. 10 crores, of the cost of special measures was framed before the fall in prices. We, therefore, suggest that the Army Department should carefully examine the question whether the total expenditure on these measures could not be reduced in view of this fall in prices, although we recognise that, for valid reasons, the fall has not been felt by certain classes of Military stores.

7. *Claims against other Governments.*—The Auditor General has brought to our special notice a number of cases of failure to debit other Governments or Departments with expenditure properly debitable to them. We were informed by the Military Accountant General that a special procedure had been introduced last year to ensure that such claims should not be overlooked. In view of the fact that some of the claims against other Governments, etc., had been overlooked for very long periods in the past, we would suggest that the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, should consider whether some arrangements could not be made to review periodically as far as practicable all agreements with outside parties which entitled them to concessions.

8. *Military Engineer Services.*—We went through the special review of expenditure on Military Engineer Services prepared by the Financial Adviser as desired by the previous Committee. The review is lucid and informative and we hope its value may be still further enhanced when the Financial Adviser is able to incorporate his projected improvements. The year 1931-32 was, however, quite exceptional as in several cases deliberate departures were made from the basis on which the budget estimates had been framed with a view to secure a maximum amount of economy as a result of the retrenchment campaign. We therefore agree with the Auditor General that it would not prove a fair test of the measures taken to secure conformity with a settled programme of works.

9. In the above review the Financial Adviser has suggested that the present system of holding of reserves should be reconsidered. We went through this question in great detail with the Quartermaster-General and the Engineer-in-Chief. From the explanations given to us it was clear that the only real reserve is that held by the Quartermaster-General himself and we agree with him that this reserve is necessary to meet certain unforeseen emergencies. The reserves held by subordinate officers are really not reserves at all but either (a) annual grants for minor works wrongly described in the accounts hitherto as "reserves" or (b) sums set apart

at the beginning of each year by the controlling officers out of the lump allotments made to them for expenditure on works, maintenance, etc., during the year.

10. A case was brought to our notice in which the residential quarters of the Commandant of a certain school were provided with a hot water installation, the expenditure having been incurred before an estimate was framed and proper sanction obtained. The Auditor General has suggested in this connection that with a view to having some sort of check over works undertaken without sanctioned estimates intimation as to the intention of starting such a work should be communicated to the Controller as soon as possible. We also understand from the Auditor General that in the Railway Department all cases in which there is doubt as to the proper sanctioning authority and all important cases are referred for pre-audit or for advice to the Chief Accounts Officer who acts as a Financial Adviser. We suggest that the Military Accountant General should consider whether a similar procedure cannot be introduced on the Army side.

11. In paragraph 45 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit a case has been reported in which machinery valued at about Rs. 30,000 which had actually been disposed of in 1908, continued to be shown in the accounts up to 1929-30. It is a very serious matter that machinery which did not actually exist continued to be shown on the books for over 25 years without the mistake being detected. We consider that it is necessary to devise some procedure to avoid such mistakes in future and we should like to have a report next year as to the steps taken in this direction.

A. H. LLOYD.

J. B. TAYLOR.

M. A. AZIM.

S. C. MITRA.

The 10th August, 1933.

ANNEXURE I.

Proceedings of the First meeting of the Military Accounts Committee held on Tuesday, the 25th July, 1933, at 11 A.M.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman.*

The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.

Mr. S. C. MITRA, M.L.A.

Mr. MOHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM, M.L.A.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. G. R. F. TOTTENHAM, Army Secretary.

Mr. W. R. TENNANT, Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Mr. J. C. BROMMAGE, Deputy Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Lt.-Col. R. PRINCE, Military Accountant General.

Mr. L. J. PECK, Director of Army Audit.

} *Members.*

} *Were also present.*

The Committee took up the examination of Appendix A to the Appropriation Accounts prepared by the Financial Adviser, Military

Finance. The Committee accepted the explanation given or the action taken in regard to the cases mentioned in the Appendix subject to the following remarks.

2. ITEM 1. *Revision of Army Regulations.*—The Army Secretary explained that some of the more complicated portions of the different regulations had been revised but that this touched only the fringe of the subject. To achieve real and lasting simplification, the first step, in his opinion, was to prepare a set of basic rules applicable to the various classes of the personnel; this had been taken in hand and considerable progress had already been made. He added that the Army Department Secretariat was at present considerably under-staffed as a result of the retrenchments made last year, that they would have to entertain an extra officer for this purpose and that the work might take some time. The Auditor General agreed with the Army Secretary that this was the best way to proceed with the matter. He suggested that the Army Department, having got these basic rules, should resist the tendency to issue special orders to meet individual cases which had been the cause of the trouble hitherto. The Committee noted the explanation given by the Army Secretary and concurred with his views. They also desired that everything should be done to accelerate the work. The Committee also agreed with the Auditor General's suggestion.

3. ITEM 3. *Reduction of stocks.*—The Committee decided to deal with this item while going through the report in detail. In reply to Mr. Mitra, it was explained that the increase in the stocks of medical store depots was mainly due to smaller demands from the Local Governments as a result of the financial stringency.

4. ITEM 4. *Exhibition of losses due to sale of surplus and obsolete stores.*—It was explained to the Committee that the scope and method of exhibiting the figures of losses due to the sale of surplus and obsolete stores was under examination and that Sir Ernest Burdon had been requested to find out about the procedure in England. The Military Accountant General suggested that it was not correct to call this a 'loss'; the Army had to maintain a certain amount of equipment and in the course of time some of it got obsolete and had to be replaced by more up-to-date and efficient equipment. In some cases this even led to economy; it should therefore be treated as part of the normal cost of the upkeep of the Army and not as a loss. The Auditor General explained that both from the theoretical and practical point of view, a loss like this was one which should be known and should be considered, as a certain amount of the taxpayer's money had been spent infructuously and that even if it was impossible to get accurate figures, an effort should be made to get approximate figures. The Committee agreed with the Auditor General on this point, and on the general question agreed to await the result of Sir Ernest Burdon's enquiries.

5. ITEM 6. *Long-term contracts.*—The Committee was informed that the number of long-term contracts was very small and that they were entered into only in exceptional cases when it was to the specific advantage of Government. They were also informed that, as desired by the Committee last year, arrangements had been made to have all such contracts scrutinized by the Director of Army Audit and to include a clause providing for variations in prices. The Committee noted the position and decided to examine the Quartermaster General on this question.

6. ITEM 9. *Certificate in regard to existing stock of all authorized war reserves of stores.*—The Quartermaster General and the Master General of Ordnance have furnished the necessary certificates in regard to the reserves held on 31st March 1933. (Copies appended.)

7. ITEM 10. *Improving the present procedure for ascertaining the cost of drugs.*—At the instance of the Director of Army Audit and the Military Accountant General, the Committee agreed that the point might be left over.

8. ITEM 11. *Cost of production of bread.*—It was explained to the Committee that the overhead charges in India were larger than in England as there were only one or two large bakeries in England whereas in India there were a number of small bakeries scattered over the country. The Military Accountant General quoted figures to show that quality for quality, the cost of production in Army bakeries in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Quetta was lower than the cost of production in private bakeries. The Committee agreed that a comparison with the cost of production in England was not of much value and were satisfied with the explanation of the Military Accountant General that the cost of production in important centres was lower than the cost of production in private bakeries.

9. ITEM 12. *Pro forma account of expenditure on Auxiliary and Territorial Forces.*—The Army Secretary explained the difficulties involved in compiling figures of expenditure on the items covered by the Civil grant because certain charges in a particular unit might be so debitable while others were not. He suggested that it would be much simpler if the complete cost of certain units were debited to the Civil grant and the cost of others to the Ordinary Army grant. The Committee recognised the difficulties pointed out and suggested that the question of the items to be debited to the Civil grant should be re-examined.

10. ITEM 13. *Excess in the grant under pay of Reservists.*—The Committee recognized that accurate estimating under this head was difficult as the training year cut across the financial year.

11. ITEM 14. *Expenditure on Stationery and Printing.*—The Committee agreed that the progress made had been real and satisfactory.

12. ITEM 16. *Reduction in working balances of stores.*—The Committee decided to examine the Director of Ordnance Factories and Manufacture on this subject.

13. ITEM 21. *Losses on sales of waste and scrap in Ordnance and clothing factories.*—The Committee were informed that the figures given were not altogether reliable. They suggested that further enquiries under this head might be combined with those referred to under item 4 and be dealt with together in next year's report.

14. The Committee proceeded to consider the comments in the Auditor General's letter.

15. *Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the Auditor General's letter.*—The Committee agreed with the Auditor General that the difficulties of the year were

such that it could not be said that there was deterioration either in budgeting or in financial control. As regards the Auditor General's remark that it was necessary to impress on local authorities their responsibilities in connection with the estimates that they prepared, the Committee was informed that necessary instructions had already been issued.

16. The Committee adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

Indian Certificate.

(*Vide* paragraph 6 of Proceedings.)

I certify that, on 31st March, 1933, the War Research of stores authorised by the Government of India to be held at that date for the mobilization of the Army in India and detailed in the published War Equipment Tables, or provided for under specific sanctions, for the provision and maintenance of which I am responsible, were complete to the extent to which the quantities required have been calculated, with the exception of fluctuations normal to the maintenance of such reserves, or to shortage and deficiencies due to sanctioned alterations in such reserves, the adjustment of which is in hand.

A. E. WARDROP,

Lieut.-General,

Quartermaster General in India.

The 31st March, 1933.

Indian Certificate.

(*Vide* paragraph 6 of Proceedings.)

I certify that, on 31st March, 1933, the War Reserves of stores authorised by the Government of India to be held at that date for the mobilization of the Army in India and detailed in the published War Equipment Tables, or provided for under specific sanctions, for the provision and manufacture of which I am responsible, were complete to the extent to which the quantities required have been calculated, with the exception of fluctuations normal to the maintenance of such reserves, or to shortage and deficiencies due to sanctioned alterations in such reserves, the adjustment of which is in hand.

B. R. KIRWAN,

Lieut.-General,

Master General of the Ordnance in India.

The 25th April, 1933.

**Proceedings of the Second meeting of the Military Accounts Committee
held on Tuesday, the 25th July, 1933, at 2-30 P.M.**

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman.*

The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.

Mr. S. C. MITRA, M.L.A.

Mr. MOHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM, M.L.A.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. G. R. F. TOTTENHAM, Army Secretary.

Mr. W. R. TENNANT, Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Mr. J. C. BROMMAGE, Deputy Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Lt.-Col. R. PRINCE, Military Accountant General.

Mr. L. J. PECK, Director of Army Audit.

Members.

Were also present.

17. *Paragraph 6 of the Auditor General's letter.—Audit of the special programme measures.*—The Director of Army Audit explained that the amount accepted in audit up to date was 6,68,31,000 including Rs. 1,34,000 for which full details were not available, but which was accepted by audit as having been legitimately spent for this purpose. The difference between this figure and that given in Appendix B of the Appropriation Accounts was Rs. 3,57,000 and the Financial Adviser had agreed to withdraw this amount. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the matter had thus been brought up to date. The Committee was furnished a certificate by the Chief of the General Staff stating that the expenditure on programme measures up to the 31st March, 1933 was estimated at Rs. 728.30 lakhs, that funds to the extent of Rs. 39.34 lakhs had been provided in the budget estimates for 1933-34 and that all outstanding measures could be completed by a further expenditure of Rs. 226.76 lakhs.

18. *Paragraphs 7—9 of the Auditor General's letter.—Financial irregularities.*—The Committee went through the cases of financial irregularities mentioned in the Auditor General's letter. As regards the Auditor General's recommendations, that, to prevent losses due to unskilful and careless drafting of orders, arrangements should be made for the more careful scrutiny of the drafts of proposed rules by the Finance Branch in conjunction with the office of the Military Accountant General and for the immediate incorporation in the relevant regulations of new orders affecting them, the Military Accountant General explained that suitable arrangements had already been made both at the drafting stage in his office and also when orders were received in Controllers' Offices, to have doubts and ambiguities removed or settled. The incorporation of orders in relevant regulations, whenever necessary, was now the business of a special section in

the Army Department, in which such work was centralised and co-ordinated.

19. *Paragraph 23 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Military Accountant General explained that a special procedure had been introduced last year to ensure that claims against other Governments were not overlooked. The Auditor General stated that the revised procedure would be watched by audit to see whether it was effective. In view of the fact that some of the claims against other Governments, etc., had been overlooked for very long periods the Committee desired that the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, should consider whether some arrangements could not be made to review periodically, as far as practicable, all agreements with outside parties which entitled them to concessions.

20. *Paragraph 33 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—In reply to a question as to why the amount of the loss was not recovered from the officer whose negligence contributed to the loss, the Army Secretary explained that the Commanding Officer's ultimate responsibility in the matter of losses was recognised and that in this particular case he had been removed from his appointment.

21. *Paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Army Secretary explained that as a result of the investigations by a special committee of experts it had been decided to issue a pamphlet giving clear instructions regarding the maintenance of the accounts of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces. The Committee agreed with the Auditor General that the best method of securing the proper maintenance of Auxiliary and Territorial Force accounts was that of frequent and careful inspection. The Military Accountant-General explained that arrangements had been made for quarterly local inspections of these accounts.

22. *Paragraph 63 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Financial Adviser, Military Finance, explained the defects in the system which facilitated the fraud and the steps taken to remedy them.

23. *Paragraph 52 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Army Secretary explained that the Military Engineer Services supplied water to individual civil residents in many Cantonments, whereas under the Cantonments Act the responsibility for making recoveries in respect of the water supplied was vested in the Cantonment authority. Though the Military Engineer Services might know the total amount of water supplied, the Cantonments authorities often had no means of distributing the cost and collecting it from individuals as the supply was not metered. To get over this difficulty, which had caused considerable loss to Government in the past, it had been decided that in future the Military Engineer Services would make a metered supply of water in bulk by agreement to the Cantonment authorities, who would then pay the Military Engineer Services for the total amount supplied and make their own arrangements for recovery of the cost from individuals.

24. The Committee then adjourned till 2-30 P.M., on Wednesday, the 26th July 1933.

Proceedings of the Third meeting of the Military Accounts Committee held on Wednesday, the 26th July, 1933, at 2-30 P.M.

PRESENT :

The Honourable Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman*.

The Honourable Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.	} <i>Members.</i>	
Mr. S. C. MITRA, M.L.A.		
Mr. MOHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM, M.L.A.		
Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.		
Mr. G. R. F. TOTTENHAM, Army Secretary.		
Mr. W. R. TENNANT, Financial Adviser, Military Finance.		} were also present.
Mr. J. C. BROMMAGE, Deputy Financial Adviser, Military Finance.		
Lieut.-Colonel R. PRINCE, Military Accountant General.		
Mr. L. J. PECK, Director of Army Audit.		

25. *Paragraph 53 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Auditor General remarked that it was absolutely necessary to have some sort of check over works especially those undertaken without sanctioned estimates. He quoted the instance of Railway Administrations where all important cases and not only cases in which there was some doubt as to the proper sanctioning authority were referred for pre-audit or for advice to the Chief Accounts Officer who acted as a Financial Adviser. He added that even if it was necessary to undertake a work before the estimate was sanctioned by the proper authority, intimation as to the intention of starting such a work should be communicated to the Controller. The Committee agreed with the Auditor General and suggested that the Military Accountant General should consider whether a procedure similar to that in force on the Railways could not be introduced on the Army side.

26. *Paragraph 45 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Committee felt that it was a very serious matter that machinery which did not actually exist should continue to be shown on the books for 25 years without the mistake being detected. The Military Accountant General suggested that in order to avoid such mistakes in future there might be a special annual perambulation as in England. The Auditor General said that it was unnecessary to have such an annual perambulation as it would lead to extra staff and extra expenditure. He added that there was in existence a procedure in some of the Departments, for example, he believed, in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, under which the administrative officer had to give an annual certificate that the stores, apparatus and plant in his charge were in proper condition. The Committee felt that it was necessary to devise some procedure without entertaining extra staff to avoid such mistakes in future and desired to know next year what steps had been taken.

27. *Paragraph 49 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Committee decided to examine the Director of Ordnance Factories and Manufacture on this point.

28. *Paragraph 10 of the Auditor General's letter—Review of Military Engineer Services Expenditure.*—The Committee agreed with the Auditor General that the review which was prepared at their special request was lucid and informative and hoped that its value would be enhanced when the Financial Adviser was able to incorporate his projected improvements. They also agreed that the year 1931-32 would not prove a fair test of the measures taken to secure conformity with a settled programme of works.

29. *Paragraph 67 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Army Secretary read out the instructions recently issued by the Engineer-in-Chief to the effect that

- (1) if time permitted, a comparative statement of the tenders should be submitted to the Controller of Military Accounts for concurrence, where it was proposed to accept a tender other than the lowest, together with reasons in support of the proposed action and a clear statement of the financial effect ;
- (2) if there was not sufficient time, the administrative officer might act on his own responsibility but should at once submit a report on the case to the Controller of Military Accounts and obtain his concurrence ; and
- (3) doubtful cases should always be referred to the Controller except when there was great urgency.

The Committee suggested that the instructions issued did not make it sufficiently clear that reasons for accepting a tender other than the lowest should always be recorded in writing immediately, as was done in the Public Works Department. The Army Secretary agreed that supplementary instructions might be issued to that effect.

30. *Paragraph 235 (b) of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Committee desired to discuss this question with the Quartermaster General.

31. *Paragraph 243 of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Auditor General pointed out that the lump figure for stock given on page 99 of the Accounts did not serve any useful purpose, as the Director of Army Audit was not in a position to see how much of it was effective and how much non-effective and was therefore not in a position to carry out satisfactorily the responsibility imposed on him in item 3 of Appendix A. He suggested that a classification of the stock such as is furnished by the Railways and the Public Works Department would be more useful. The Committee agreed that this was *prima facie* desirable, if practicable.

The Committee accepted the Auditor General's suggestion that the figures for "overpayments to contractors" might be examined annually, as they would afford some evidence of the executive officers' control and the regularity of their expenditure.

32. *Paragraph 11 of the Auditor General's letter and Appendix E of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Committee agreed with the Auditor General that, as far as it was possible to judge from the figures available, the improvement in the stock position had, on the whole, been achieved as desired by the previous Committee.

33. *Appendix G of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Committee desired to examine the Director of Ordnance Factories and Manufacture regarding the large increases in stock in the Ammunition Factory, Kirkee, and the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore.

34. *Paragraph 12 of the Auditor General's letter.*—The Committee went through Appendix I to the Supplementary Report of the Director of Army Audit and had no comments to offer.

35. The Committee then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 1st August.

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**Proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of the Military Accounts Committee
held on Tuesday, the 1st August, 1933, at 11 A.M.**

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PRESENT :

The Honourable Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman.*

The Honourable Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.

Mr. S. C. MITRA, M.L.A.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM, M.L.A.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. G. R. F. TOTTENHAM, Army Secretary.

Mr. W. R. TENNANT, Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Mr. J. C. BROMMAGE, Deputy Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Lieut.-Colonel R. PRINCE, Military Accountant General.

Mr. L. J. PECK, Director of Army Audit.

Lieut.-General Sir ALEXANDER WARDROP, Quartermaster-General in India.

Major-General G. H. ADDISON, Engineer-in-Chief.

Brigadier G. A. HARE, Director of Ordnance Factories and Manufacture.

} *Members.*

} *Were also present.*

} *Witnesses.*

36. The Quartermaster-General and the Engineer-in-Chief were first examined in regard to the question of long term contracts (item 6 of Appendix A to the Appropriation Accounts). The Quartermaster-General explained that some long term contracts were inevitable if they were to get the supplies they wanted, as otherwise the contractors would never invest the capital necessary for the carrying out of the contract. He stated that at present in practically every long-term contract a clause was inserted under which the rates entered in the contract could be subjected to review periodically. He quoted the instance of a contract entered into for the supply of vegetables which was for a period of five years but the rates in which would be subject to review after six months. Two other

contracts, viz., for the supply of grain and ghee contained clauses empowering the Army authorities to buy local stuff if it was cheaper than the rates mentioned in the contract. All contracts were entered into only after inviting open tenders except in very special cases, such as the Bagai contract, which was for running two sections of Mechanical Transport involving about 60 wagons to carry supplies in Waziristan. This contract provided for an alteration in the rates for petrol as the price rose or fell.

37. *System of holding Military Engineer Services reserves—paragraph 235 (b) of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Quartermaster-General explained that there were two kinds of reserves, viz. : (1) a big reserve held by the Quartermaster-General himself and (2) a number of smaller reserves which were the ones referred to in the above paragraph of the Appropriation Accounts. His own big reserve was intended to meet big unforeseen emergencies and was distributed only under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. He said that this reserve was absolutely necessary and gave particulars of the items on which it was spent. Both he and the Engineer-in-Chief explained how the other smaller reserves referred to in this paragraph were created. It was clear from this explanation that some of them were really not reserves but sums set apart by the controlling officers out of the lump allotments made to them for works, maintenance, etc. They were of opinion that these sums held in reserve served a very useful purpose and they had no reason to believe that they were not being utilised properly.

38. *Paragraph 67 of the Report of the Director of Army Audit.*—The Engineer-in-Chief agreed that full reasons for accepting tenders other than the lowest should always be recorded immediately. He informed the chairman later that it was unnecessary to issue special instructions on this point, as under the Revised (1933) edition of the Regulations for the Military Engineer Services the officer who receives the tenders is bound to record his reasons in full in every case where he recommends acceptance of other than the lowest tender.

39. *Item 16 of Appendix A to the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Director of Ordnance Factories and Manufacture explained that he had gone into this question of working balances very carefully and that greater control was being exercised now as each item was being dealt with individually by his office and he hoped that this system would reduce such balances to the minimum actually required.

As regards the larger balances of stock held at Kirkee and Cossipore, it was explained that the money value of the stocks held varied with the cost of manufacture. The Auditor General remarked that while prices in the case of ordinary commercial concerns were going down, the reverse was the process in the Army, as their overhead charges remained the same, while the output was considerably lower. The Director of Ordnance Factories and Manufacture assured the Committee that he was doing his best to reduce the stock.

40. The witnesses withdrew at this stage.

Mr. S. C. Mitra then raised the question whether the original estimate of ten crores for programme measures should not be reduced in view of the fall in prices. The Committee agreed that the Army Department should be requested to examine this point.

V.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee held on Thursday, the 3rd August, 1933, at 11 A.M.

PRESENT :

The Honourable Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman*.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH.

Kunwer Hajee ISMAIEL ALIKHAN.

Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM.

Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. J. F. MITCHELL, Accountant General,
Central Revenue.

Members.

Were also
present.

The Honourable Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary, *witness*.

Before proceeding with the business the chairman gave his reasons for proposing that the examination of the Railway Appropriation Accounts should be taken up immediately after the completion of the examination of the Appropriation Accounts of the Civil and Posts and Telegraphs Departments. After obtaining the views of all the members and of the Auditor General, the chairman decided to leave the matter over till the next day.

2. The Committee then took up the consideration of the items shown against the Finance Department in the Quarterly List of Outstandings (Appendix I). They accepted the action taken and the explanation given in regard to the items subject to the following remarks :—

Item 4. Revision of leave rules.—The Committee was informed that a draft of the revised leave rules applicable to the services under the control of the Governor General in Council was ready and that orders would issue before long. The Committee expressed the hope that the revised rules would issue during the current year.

Item 5. Recovery of public claims from pay and pensions.—The Committee after some discussion accepted the Government of India's conclusion that it would be impracticable to make any such specific stipulation and that the existing powers of the Government of India for the recovery of losses should be adequate for all practical purposes if properly exercised.

Item 6. Items awaiting constitutional changes.—The Committee desired that this item should continue to appear in the Quarterly List till the cases included in the Special Appendix referred to in this item were properly disposed of.

Item 7. Examination of financial prospects of capital projects.—The Committee was informed that the question was not of immediate practical importance in view of the embargo on borrowing for new projects as a result of the financial stringency. They were assured that all proposals for loans were subjected to a severe scrutiny by the Finance Department.

Item 11. Stores balances.—The Committee decided to deal with the memoranda furnished to them on this subject when dealing with the Appropriation Accounts of the particular Departments. With reference to the question whether this item should continue to be shown in the Quarterly List the Auditor General explained that the question of stocks was one of the important items to which the Accountants-General had been instructed to devote special attention in their Appropriation Accounts. In reply to a question from one of the members whether actual verification of stock was done by the auditors, the Auditor General explained that Audit satisfied themselves that verification of stock had been done, but did not ordinarily conduct a test check, though it had the power to do so if it thought that the verification had not been properly done.

Item 12. Unanticipated credits.—The Auditor General explained that the fact of anticipation or non-anticipation of a credit was not really a valid criterion for classification and that he could not classify an item as a receipt or as a deduction from expenditure merely according to the accuracy of a previous forecast. Detailed rules governing the classification of credits like these had been drawn up by Sir Frederic Gauntlett and this criterion did not find a place in those rules. The Auditor General accepted the Committee's recommendation that unanticipated credits should not provide excess supplies for the spending Departments without the fact being brought to the specific notice of the Assembly. In order to give effect to this recommendation, he, in consultation with the Financial Commissioner, Railways, had suggested a procedure for bringing such items to the notice of the Assembly either through the Budget memorandum or the review of Appropriation Accounts. The Committee thought that the suggestion to bring such items to the notice of the Assembly in a statement appended to the Budget memorandum or through the Appropriation Accounts would not be enough to give the Assembly proper control over the matter. The question should be considered whether such items should not be brought before the Standing Finance Committee just as all items for supplementary grants.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the portions in the Auditor General's letter of comments relating to the Finance Department.

Paragraph 8 of the Auditor General's letter.—The Committee agreed with the Auditor General that the conditions of the year 1931-32 were such that no safe conclusion could be reached regarding the standard of estimating and that there was no marked deterioration in control over expenditure.

Paragraph 10 of Auditor General's letter.—After some discussion the Committee agreed that the present method of estimating for leave salaries on the basis of previous actuals gave sufficiently accurate results.

Paragraph 11 of the Auditor General's letter.—The Committee went through the general review of the financial results of all the Central Government commercial concerns given in paragraphs 22—29 of the Commercial Appendix and expressed satisfaction with the position as reported by the Auditor General, viz., that the results of the year were not any worse than the prevailing conditions would give reason to expect. The Committee requested the Auditor General to consider the best method of dealing with the point that in the commercial accounts of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department royalties on salt issued in any one year appear in the accounts of the following year and thus vitiate the cost of production in each particular year as deduced from those accounts. They also requested the Auditor General to consider the comparative merits of the calculation

of the contribution to the Depreciation Fund on a straight line method and on the sinking fund method as regards its effect on the calculation of the cost of production of salt.

Paragraph 12 of the Auditor General's letter.—The Financial Secretary explained that the stocks in the Currency Note Press had been considerably reduced in 1932-33 and that as a matter of fact they were much lower than normal. As regards the stocks in the Bombay Mint, it was explained that the balance was high as it included a large quantity of obsolete stores purchased in bulk during the War which owing to the temporary cessation of coinage in this Mint were not being consumed. The stores are essentially mint stores and having no value in the local market could not be sold without heavy loss.

4. As regards the Accountant General's comment in paragraph 63 of the Commercial Appendix that the coinage of rupees for the Udaipur Durbar led to a loss as full overhead charges were not recovered, the Financial Secretary explained that the Government of India had to maintain the mints even when there was a temporary drop in the demand for their own coin and that it was not reasonable to charge the full cost of maintaining the mint to the Durbar during the period when their coinage was being executed by the mint. The prime cost of manufacture of the Udaipur coins amounted only to Rs. 9.93 per thousand pieces against which the Durbar was charged Rs. 15.35 thus including a certain amount on account of overhead charges. The coinage which the Government of India undertook for others at a time when their mints were not busy with their own coinage actually reduced the loss of the Government of India.

5. The Committee adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

Proceedings of the Second meeting of the Public Accounts Committee held on Thursday, the 3rd August, 1933, at 2-30 P.M.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman.*

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH.

Kunwer Hajee ISMAIL ALIKHAN.

Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM.

Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. J. F. MITCHELL, Accountant General, Central Revenues.

Mr. M. K. SEN GUPTA, Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.

Mr. G. S. HARDY, Member, Central Board of Revenue.

Khan Bahadur J. B. VACHHA, Member, Central Board of Revenue.

Members.

Were also present.

Witnesses.

6. The Committee continued the examination of the Appropriation Accounts relating to the Finance Department.

7. *Paragraph 13 of the Auditor General's letter.*—As regards the Accountant General's remark that it was a common feature of administration that when increases of establishment were contemplated insufficient allowance was frequently made for the inevitable delays which were apt to occur, the Financial Secretary explained that the Finance Department always scrutinised the estimates with care and that the circumstances in which provision had to be made for the particular item in respect of which the Accountant General had made this remark were quite exceptional. As a result of the passing of the Supplementary Finance Bill in September 1931, provision had to be made for a large staff for work in connection with the lowering of the limit of taxable income before working out full details.

8. *Paragraph 14 of the Auditor General's letter.*—The Financial Secretary explained that estimates for the profit or loss on circulation of bronze and nickel coins were furnished by the Controller of Currency in January on the basis of actuals up to the end of December. During this particular year there was a large return of these coins during the first nine months of the year and the estimates provided for a moderate absorption in the last quarter, but as a result of India going off the gold standard the actual absorption greatly exceeded anticipations.

9. *Paragraph 15 of the Auditor General's letter.*—*Expenditure on retrenched personnel.*—The Financial Secretary explained that it was extraordinarily difficult to frame even the vaguest estimate of the expenditure likely to be incurred during the year which was clear from the fact that a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs was provided in the revised estimate on this account, while the actual expenditure amounted only to a little over 4 lakhs. The terms given to retrenched personnel had been brought specifically to the notice of the Assembly who therefore knew that expenditure on this account would be incurred. The Committee realised the difficulties of preparing an estimate of the expenditure but considered that from a constitutional point of view it was not correct to incur expenditure without taking a specific vote from the Assembly, even though the Assembly might know that expenditure was being incurred.

10. *Paragraph 16 of the Auditor General's letter.*—*Loans and advances bearing interest—loan to the Bahawalpur Durbar for the Sutlej Valley Project.*—As regards the two specific points raised by the Accountant General, the Committee was informed that the capital expenditure on railways was only Rs. 12,000, the balance being expenditure on maintenance, and that the sanction of the Secretary of State had been applied for, for the excess over the amount of the loan previously sanctioned by him. The Committee was also informed that a detailed investigation was now going on as to the financial prospects of the project. The Auditor General suggested that if as a result of that investigation it was considered necessary to write off any portion of the capital, it should be done as soon as possible so that the amount to be written off might not be inflated by the addition of arrears of interest. The Financial Secretary entirely agreed with the Auditor General but pointed out that it should be borne in mind that the amount to be written off might diminish considerably or even disappear altogether if the rates of interest went down and prices of produce rose. The Committee suggested that the point mentioned by the Financial Secretary should be borne in mind when considering the question of writing off any part of the capital.

11. Paragraph 17 of the Auditor General's letter.—As regards embezzlements in Burma treasuries, the Auditor General informed the Committee that he had heard from the Accountant General, Burma, that the Burma Government had introduced effective measures so far as treasuries were concerned and that the question of improving the work of sub-treasuries was engaging the attention of the local Government and the Accountant General.

12. Paragraph 18 of the Auditor General's letter—Salt Stores Accounts.—As regards the accumulation of stock in Burma, the Committee was informed that in 1930 there was a heavy cyclone in Burma which caused great damage to the stocks held there and manufacture was consequently speeded up to meet an anticipated shortage. In March 1931, after the Delhi Pact, the salt concessions came into operation and there was an unexpected decrease in the demand. It has since been decided to close this factory.

13. The Committee was informed that the writing off of over 2 lakhs of maunds of salt at Kuda did not involve any financial loss to Government, as under the agreement the Government of India had to take 5 lakhs of maunds of salt every year and at the time of the receipt of the salt the quantity was roughly estimated by measurement and only an advance payment made. The final payment was made in accordance with the result of actual weightment after the salt was issued.

As regards the failure to verify stocks properly in the salt works in Bombay Presidency, the Committee was informed that the conditions in Bombay were entirely different from those in Madras. In Madras, salt was stored in small heaps which could be measured easily while in Kharagodha the salt was stored in one large heap. The actual weight of the salt put into the heap was known and the loss was calculated only after the stock was exhausted. The possibility of having an approximate stock-taking by geometrical methods was carefully examined some time back but it was found impracticable. In Sind there are no Government salt works now.

14. In reply to a question by one of the members as to the progress made in developing the Khewra mines with a view to put the Khewra salt in the Bengal market, the Committee was informed that the Government of India had expected to get crushed salt made on a commercial scale out of Khewra for the Bengal market about May last, but when the machinery was installed the crusher exhibited certain defects and they were still examining the question how to get over the difficulties. Mr. Pitt, the Engineer in charge, who is now on short leave in England, is going into this matter with the manufacturers.

15. Paragraph 19 of the Auditor General's letter—Important comments of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, on the grant under refunds.—The Committee hoped that the revised procedure introduced with effect from 1st April 1933, would prevent such irregularities.

16. The Committee then adjourned till 11-15 A.M. on Friday, the 4th August 1933.

**Proceedings of the Third Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee
held on Friday, the 4th August 1933, at 11-30 A.M.**

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman.*

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH, Kunwer Hajee ISMAIEL ALIKHAN. Mr. S. C. MITRA. Mr. MUHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM. Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT. Dr. R. D. DALAL.	}	<i>Members.</i>
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Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General. Mr. J. F. MITCHELL, Accountant General, Central Revenues. The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.	}	Were also present.
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Mr. G. S. BAJPAI, Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands. Mr. RAM CHANDRA, Joint Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands.	}	<i>Witnesses.</i>
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17. The Auditor General explained that he had further considered the question discussed by the Committee the previous day, *viz.*, the best method of bringing unanticipated credits to the notice of the Assembly. He explained that the legal position was that an unanticipated credit which was taken in reduction of expenditure according to the rules of classification could be taken in aid of expenditure and that the Government of India could not ask the Assembly to vote a token grant for what was already voted.

18. The Committee then took up the consideration of the Appropriation Accounts and connected documents relating to the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

19. *Item 1 of the Quarterly Statement—Surplus stocks of Quinine.*—The Committee was informed that the quantity of manufactured quinine now held by the Government of India was about 280,000 pounds, of which it was proposed to keep 150,000 pounds as reserve in accordance with the advice given by experts and to dispose of the balance of 130,000 pounds. Instructions had already been issued to the Director, Botanical Survey, to make arrangements for the sale by the method of limited tenders.

The Committee was not quite satisfied whether, in view of the impending constitutional changes and the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, the Government of India should at its own expense maintain a large stock of quinine for supply to the Provincial Governments. They therefore suggested that the amount of the reserve stock to be maintained by the Government of India should be reconsidered, if the arrangements now made for the sale of the surplus were successful. With a view to curtail Government of India's annual production and manufacture of drug, extension of cinchona cultivation in Burma had been stopped. Measures for reduction in the Burma production were proceeding as quickly as consideration for capital value, represented by the area developed and about to yield its quota of bark, would allow.

20. *Item 2 (a) of the Quarterly Statement—Royalty on Andamans timber.*—The Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department, informed the Committee that the Government had come to the conclusion that there were no data to enable them to fix a rate of royalty and that the question had therefore been dropped. The Auditor General agreed that there was no point in including royalty as the conditions in the Andamans were different from those elsewhere and there was no competition with private enterprise to provide a standard of comparison. The Committee after some discussion accepted the Auditor General's views.

21. *Item 2 (b) of the Quarterly Statement—Shipping freight on Andamans timber.*—The Committee was informed that Mr. Morgan assumed that the Forest Department was paying a lower rate of freight than they would have had to pay if ordinary commercial ships were employed for the carriage of timber, but the probable fact was that private freight could be obtained at a lower rate than the Forest Department was now paying. The result of employing private shipping would only mean a greater loss to the Government of India as a whole, as in any case they had to run a Government steamer service. The Committee accepted this explanation.

22. *Item 3 of the Quarterly Statement—Wellington Farm.*—It was explained that, as a result of the economies introduced in the working of the Wellington Farm with effect from the 1st April 1932, there was a great decrease in the cost of production. The cost of production now was slightly less than the selling price and the Farm had made a profit of Rs. 6,629 in the year 1932-33. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the institute was now able to pay its way.

23. *Paragraph 28 of the Auditor General's letter and paragraphs 187 and 189 of the Commercial Appendix.*—The Committee was informed that arrangements had been made for exhibiting the excesses and deficits found at the time of stock-taking in a separate abstract and also for a test check by the Officer in Charge. The Committee was also informed that free issues had been reduced from 36,000 to 14,000 and that the latter figure would be reduced still further as it included supplies to the High Commissioner for sale in England which were wrongly included under free issues.

24. The Committee then adjourned till 2 P.M.

Proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee held on Friday, the 4th August, 1933, at 2 P.M.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman*.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH.

Kunwer Hajee ISMAIEL ALIKHAN.

Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM.

Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

Members.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. J. F. MITCHELL, Accountant General,
Central Revenues.

Were also present.

Mr. G. S. BAJPAI, Secretary, Department
of Education, Health and Lands.

Mr. RAM CHANDRA, Joint Secretary,
Department of Education, Health
and Lands.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. A. SHILLIDY, Secre-
tary, Department of Industries
and Labour.

Mr. A. G. CLOW, Joint Secretary,
Department of Industries and
Labour.

Witnesses.

Mr. T. C. S. JAYARATNAM, Deputy Secre-
tary, Department of Industries
and Labour.

Mr. F. T. JONES, Chief Engineer,
Central Public Works Department,
Delhi.

Mr. HAFAZAT HUSSAIN, Under Secretary,
Department of Industries and
Labour.

25. The Committee agreed to discuss the Railway Appropriation Accounts immediately after the examination of the Civil and the Posts and Telegraphs Appropriation Accounts was completed on the understanding that there would be a further meeting later in the year to consider the coal purchase policy and any other outstanding item.

26. The Committee then continued the examination of the Appropriation Accounts relating to the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

27. *Paragraph 30 of the Auditor General's letter and the Important Comment on pages 119 and 120 of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department, informed the Committee that they had already taken steps to bind the Director of Archaeology

and other Heads of Departments to observe strictly the principles regarding agreements referred to by the Accountant General, Central Revenues. As regards the particular case, the Committee was informed that out of 140 plates ordered, 89 had actually been delivered and that 36 were expected shortly. As regards the balance of 15, he was not in a position to say when they would be delivered. He however hoped that the work would be completed by the end of the current year. The Committee desired to have a report next year regarding the position.

28. *Paragraph 31 of the Auditor General's letter—Commercial Accounts of the Research Institute, Muktesar.*—The Committee was informed that the selling prices of the serum produced by the Institute had been reduced and that the present prices allowed for only a very small margin over the cost price as shown below :—

	Rate per dose of serum.		
	Anti-rinderpest.	Hæmorrhagic septicæmia.	Blackquarter aggressin.
Cost of production for the year ended 31st March 1932	Re. 0-1 4-47	Re. 0-3-7-35	Re. 0-3-3-74
Selling price	Re. 0-1-6	Re. 0-4-0	Re. 0-3-6

29. *Commercial Accounts of the Forest Department.*—The Committee was informed that the Department was now losing steadily on scantlings sold in Calcutta and the question was under consideration whether the production of such scantlings should not be discontinued.

30. *Appendix XV.*—It was explained to the Committee that the commercial activities of the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Bangalore, the Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm, Karnal, cultivation and cattle breeding experiments in the agricultural section of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Pusa, had been considerably curtailed and their activities were now confined to education and research. At Karnal it was only the cultivation accounts that were commercialised, but now practically all the lands were leased out to tenants. At Pusa, commercial accounts were maintained only for the agricultural section and the Government of India had laid down that the maintenance of commercial accounts should not be regarded in any measure as implying that education and research work should be sacrificed in order to run it as a profit-making concern. The Kitchen Garden, Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at Pusa, was a very small affair and it was unnecessary to maintain commercial accounts for it. The Auditor General stated that he was prepared to agree to the proposal that commercial accounts should be abolished in all the concerns mentioned in the Appendix with the exception of Wellington, partly because this would lead to some economy but mainly because he was convinced that the research and education functions of these concerns outweighed so much the commercial side that commercial accounts could not actually be of very much service. Sufficient control could be maintained over the expenditure through the scrutiny of the budget estimates, the control of audit and local inspections. The Committee after some discussion agreed to the proposal on the understanding that if in any of these concerns commercial activities were revived commercial accounts should be reintroduced.

(Mr. Bajpai and Mr. Ram Chandra then withdrew and Mr. Jones and Mr. Jayaratnam entered.)

The Committee then took up the examination of the Appropriation Accounts relating to the Industries and Labour Department.

31. *Items 16 and 17 of the Quarterly Statement—Budgeting and Control of Public Works Expenditure and Utilization of Reserve in Civil Works Budget.*—The Committee was informed that detailed rules regarding Public Works budget procedure, which incorporated the recommendations of the Committee, had been framed.

32. *Paragraph 24 of the Auditor General's letter.*—As regards item 3 on page 191 of the Appropriation Accounts, the Committee was informed that when the budget was framed in October it was not anticipated that the work would really be finished before the close of the year. A provision of Rs. 10,000, being the amount anticipated to be spent in the following year, was included in the estimates. But later on it was found possible to complete the work before the close of the year by re-appropriating savings from other heads. The provision made in the budget for the following year therefore lapsed.

33. The saving of about Rs. 1,10,000 in the provision of Rs. 1,60,000 for the Forest Research Institute buildings was explained to be due entirely to the economy campaign and the consequent abandonment of certain works.

34. *Review of the financial administration of residential buildings in New Delhi.*—The Committee were very much interested in the review prepared by the Accountant General, Central Revenues, and desired that the Accountant General should prepare such a review every three years but statements similar to those on pages 201 and 203 of the Appropriation Accounts should be furnished every year. For this purpose it was not necessary to calculate the capital cost every year but it would suffice if the capital cost as calculated in the last triennial review was given. The Chief Engineer remarked that the review related to the year 1929-30 and that the position had improved since then, as the Government of India were now staying in Delhi for six months and as maintenance charges had been reduced considerably as a result of the fall in prices.

(Mr. Jayaratnam and Mr. Jones then withdrew and Mr. Clow entered.)

35. *Items 15 and 18 of the Quarterly Statement—Printing of publications and use of Assembly Debates covers for Government advertisements and adequacy of existing allotments for stationery.*—The Committee after some discussion accepted the explanation given in Appendices X, XIII and XIV.

36. *Paragraph 26 of the Auditor General's letter.*—The Auditor General explained to the Committee why the form of trading accounts of Government of India Presses previously prepared was unsatisfactory and stated that a financial review by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, which it was proposed to include from next year, would give all the information that the Committee would require.

37. *Paragraph 479 of the Commercial Appendix.*—The Committee discussed with the witness the reasons for the large outstanding balance (Rs. 60,636) relating to 1928-29 and previous years outstanding under "sundry debtors" and requested the Department to furnish a memorandum to the Committee on the subject.

(Mr. Clow then withdrew and Mr. Hafazat Hussain entered.)

38. The Committee was informed that the method of charging the Meteorological Department for the cost of telegrams sent by them had been changed with effect from the 1st April 1933, and consequently variations between the estimates and actual expenditure which used to occur till now were not likely to occur in future.

(Mr. Hafazat Hussain then withdrew and Mr. Shillidy entered.)

39. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Indian State Broadcasting Service had made a profit in the year 1932-33. Mr. Shillidy informed the Committee that he hoped to show better results next year if the Assembly passed the Bill which they were introducing to put a stop to piracy.

40. The Committee then adjourned till 11 o'clock on Monday, the 7th August 1933.

**Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee
held on Friday, the 4th August, 1933, at 11-30 A.M.**

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman*.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH.

Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Mr. K. P. THAMPAN.

Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. J. F. MITCHELL, Accountant General,
Central Revenues.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. A. STEWART, Secre-
tary, Commerce Department.

Mr. A. RAISMAN, Joint Secretary, Com-
merce Department.

Mr. T. SLOAN, Joint Secretary, Home
Department.

Mr. C. M. TRIVEDI, Deputy Secretary,
Home Department.

Lala BISHEN SWARUP (from Delhi
Administration).

Members.

Were also present.

Witnesses.

41. The Committee took up the examination of the Appropriation Accounts and connected documents relating to the Commerce Department.

42. *Paragraph 32 (a) of the Auditor General's letter—Bengal Pilot Service.*—The Committee was informed that the review was hitherto prepared by the Deputy Accountant General, Central Revenues, but in future would be prepared by the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, who would give the sort of account required by the Committee.

43. *Paragraph 32 (b) of the Auditor General's letter.*—The Accountant General, Central Revenues, informed the Committee that he had since heard from the Deputy Accountant General, Central Revenues, that the accounts of stores on board the Pilot Vessel "Lady Fraser" were now being maintained properly.

44. As regards the large loss on the Bengal Pilot Service during the year 1931-32, the Committee was informed that the loss was mainly due to a cause beyond the control of the Government of India, viz., a large decrease in the volume of shipping. The aim of the Government of India was to make the service self-supporting and with this object a surcharge of 10 per cent. on the pilotage fees had been imposed with effect from the 1st April 1932 and considerable economies effected in expenditure. As a result of these measures the accounts for 1932-33 showed a small surplus.

45. *Grant No. 47—Lighthouses and Lightships.*—The Committee was informed that the decrease in the surplus of this Department in 1932-33 as compared with 1931-32 was due to a reduction of light dues by one pie per ton. It was not the intention of the Government of India to make a profit out of the Department but only to make it self-supporting. The reduction in the dues was introduced with effect from the 1st April 1932 as appreciable reserves had been built up.

(Mr. Stewart and Mr. Raisman then withdrew and Mr. Sloan, Mr. Trivedi and Mr. Bishan Swarup entered.)

46. *Item 14 of the Quarterly Statement—Andamans Butchery and Dairy.*—The Committee was informed that the Chief Commissioner had effected many improvements; the sale of mutton, which accounted for a considerable portion of the loss under the Butchery, had been stopped while the sale price of cream had been enhanced from Re. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2 per pound. As a result of these improvements the Butchery made a profit in 1932-33 and the loss of the Dairy was considerably reduced. The Committee was not, however, satisfied as to the need for maintaining the Dairy if it could only be run at a loss. The Home Department was therefore requested to examine this point.

47. *Paragraph 20 of the Auditor General's letter.*—As regards paragraph 1 of the Important Comments on page 285 of the Appropriation Accounts, the witness admitted that it was a serious irregularity and that the officer concerned had been warned and that steps had been taken to prevent such irregularities in future. The Accountant General, Central Revenues, observed that the financial side of the Delhi Administration required strengthening owing to the abolition of the Pay and Accounts Office. The witness informed the Committee that they had now effected considerable improvements and that experience of this year would show whether the financial side actually required strengthening.

48. *Paragraph 2 of the Important Comments on page 286 of the Appropriation Accounts—Irregular payments of grants-in-aid.*—The Committee was informed that the sanction of the Government of India had since been obtained.

49. *Paragraph 3 of the Important Comments on page 286 of the Appropriation Accounts.*—A grant-in-aid of Rs. 5,000 was paid to a college for equipment subject to the production of suppliers' receipts, but it was found later on that the actual expenditure incurred by this college was

Rs. 7,257 only, so that the grant-in-aid admissible, which was 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure, was less than the amount paid to the college. The Committee desired that in cases where the grant-in-aid was a certain percentage of the actual expenditure incurred by the school or college, the Government of India should consider whether payments should not be made only after the production of necessary vouchers by the school or college authorities, which, the Committee understood, was the procedure in force in Madras.

50. *Commercial accounts of the Shipping Department, Andamans.*—The Committee was informed that the Government of India were now investigating whether they could manage with only one steamer leaving the Forest Department to arrange for the service of private steamers where necessary. The Committee desired that the results of the investigations should be intimated to them next year.

51. The Committee then adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee held on Monday, the 7th August, 1933, at 2-30 P.M.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman.*

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH.

Kunwer Hajee ISMAIEL ALIKHAN.

Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Mr. K. P. THAMPAN.

Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. J. F. MITCHELL, Accountant General,
Central Revenues.

Mr. M. K. SEN GUPTA, Audit Officer,
Indian Stores Department.

Sir JAMES PITKEATHLY, Chief Controller
of Stores.

Mr. HAFAZAT HUSSAIN, Under Secretary,
Department of Industries and
Labour.

Rai Sahib KIRPA RAM, Assistant Director
of Administration and Intelligence,
Indian Stores Department.

Members.

Were also present.

Witnesses.

52. The Committee took up the examination of the Appropriation Accounts and connected documents relating to the Indian Stores Department.

53. The Committee discussed in great detail with the Chief Controller of Stores the *pro forma* profit and loss accounts of the Indian Stores Department which showed a large "loss". The Chief Controller explained that as a result of the large fall in prices the commission credited

to the Department, which was based, on a percentage of the price of stores, had fallen considerably. He also mentioned that a correct estimate of the financial position could only be obtained if on the receipt side of the account credit could be taken for the large savings in the expenditure budgets of the consuming Departments on the cost of stores purchased through the Indian Stores Department and that it was also impossible to assess in rupees, annas and pies the value of the services rendered by the Department in connection with the promotion and encouragement of Indian industries. The Committee expressed the opinion that though the *pro forma* accounts were very useful for enabling them to keep some sort of watch upon the general operations of the Department they could not expect the Stores Department to be self-supporting on the basis of those accounts,—at any rate, at a time when the prices of all commodities were as low as at present.

(The witnesses then withdrew.)

54. The Committee then took up for consideration Appendix XIX regarding the amendment of the rules relating to the constitution of the Public Accounts Committee. After some discussion further consideration was postponed till the next day.

Proceedings of the Seventh and Eighth Meetings of the Public Accounts Committee held on Tuesday, the 8th August, 1933, at 11-30 A.M. and 2-30 P.M.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman*.

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH.

Kunwer Hajee ISMAIEL ALIKHAN.

Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM.

Mr. K. P. THAMPAN.

Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

Members.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. JAGAT PRASAD, Deputy Auditor General.

Mr. S. A. VANESWAR, Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.

Were also present.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. A. SHILLIDY, Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour.

Sir THOMAS RYAN, Director General of Posts and Telegraphs.

Mr. S. P. VARMA, Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs.

Mr. F. T. DEMONTE, Chief Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs.

Witnesses.

55. The Committee took up the examination of the Appropriation Accounts and connected documents relating to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs.

56. *Item 21 of the Quarterly Statement—Indo-European Telegraph Department.*—The Committee agreed that the settlement was an equitable one.

57. *Appendix IX—Recommendations of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee.*—The Committee noted the decisions of the Government of India and had no remarks to offer.

58. *Paragraph 4 of the Auditor General's letter—Financial position of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.*—Copies of the statements made by the Director General regarding the financial position of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the retrenchments effected are attached (Annexures I and II). The Committee was also informed that it should be noted that the loss of the Department included losses in connection with a number of activities which for reasons unconnected with the Department had to be definitely worked at a loss, for example, the loss on press messages, the loss on the non-commercial branch of the Wireless and the loss in working a number of unremunerative post offices.

59. *Paragraph 5 of the Auditor General's letter.*—The Financial Adviser and the Director General explained to the Committee the various steps which they were taking to improve the financial control.

60. *Paragraph 6 of the Auditor General's letter and paragraph 74 of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Director General informed the Committee that instructions had been issued to all Heads of Circles drawing their attention to the necessity of calling for tenders in all cases. He promised to circulate a copy of the instructions to the members of the Committee.

61. *Item 20 of the Quarterly Statement—Works expenditure in Posts and Telegraphs Department.*—The Financial Adviser informed the Committee that certain orders had been issued last year but he considered that they were not quite sufficient and said that they would be supplemented further.

ANNEXURE I.

(*Vide* paragraph 58 of Proceedings.)

MEMORANDUM ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

NOTE.—*The figures are in thousands of rupees.*

1931-32.

1. The accounts for the year 1931-32 closed with a loss of 93,84, the expenditure charged to revenue being 11,58,44 while the revenue was only 10,64,60.

1932-33.

2. The budget estimate for 1932-33 provided for a revenue of 11,50,73 or an improvement from enhanced tariffs of 86,13. As the year advanced it was found that this expectation will not be realised and in the revised estimate a figure of 10,56,88, i.e., 7,72 less than the actuals for 1931-32 and 93,85 less than budget estimate 1932-33 was adopted. The expenditure provided in the budget for 1932-33 was 11,66,92 but the

results from the economy campaign exceeded all anticipations that were entertained. This and various decisions on the recommendations of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee enabled the provision being reduced in the revised estimate to 11,04,61 the saving compared with the budget being as large as 62,31. Big as this saving was it was insufficient to cover the gap caused by the fall in revenue and the revised estimate showed a loss of 47,73 as compared with 16,19 worked out in the budget estimate.

3. The March final accounts for 1932-33 have just been closed and the summary available indicates that the actuals will probably be a little better than was estimated in the revised estimate. The figures are subject to alterations as adjustments continue to be made until about October when the year's accounts are finally closed. According to these figures now available revenue amounted to 10,51,62 being less than the revised estimate figure by 5,26. If subsequent adjustments do not raise the figure it will be the lowest on record since 1926-27.

Fortunately, the results of the economy campaign have been more satisfactory and the total expenditure brought to account is 10,93,67 being 10,94 less than the revised so that the loss on the year's working amounts to 42,06 compared with 47,73 adopted for the revised estimate.

The following table summarises the figures and compares them with those for 1931-32.

	Revenue.	Expenditure charged to revenue.	Loss.
Accounts 1931-32 ..	10,64,60	11,58,44	93,84
Budget Estimate 1932-33 ..	11,50,73	11,66,92	16,19
Revised Estimate 1932-33 ..	10,56,88	11,04,61	47,73
Accounts March Final, 1932-33 ..	10,51,62	10,93,67	42,05

Prospects for 1933-34.

The Budget Estimate for 1933-34 provides for a revenue of 10,81,34 while the expenditure has been estimated at 11,38,54 working to a loss of 57,20.

The following table compares the figures for the first three months of the current year with the budget proportions for the period and also the actuals for the corresponding months of the last year.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
April to June 1933-34 ..	2,56,24	2,20,31
Budget proportions ..	2,54,47	2,29,09
April to June 1932-33 ..	2,48,69	2,22,47

It will be noticed that revenue is better compared with the last year as also with the budget anticipations, while expenditure is less. The same impression of an improvement having set in is conveyed by reports relating to the volume of traffic which either show a perceptible although small improvement or an absence of deterioration compared with the last year.

There seem to be some grounds therefore for entertaining the hope that the trough of depression has been reached if it has not been traversed. It is dangerous to speculate, but if the improvement in revenue is maintained, the economy campaign which is being pursued steadily will enable the Department to balance the budget in the not distant future.

ANNEXURE II.

Paragraph 4 of Auditor General's letter and paragraph 9 of Appropriation Accounts.

(Figures in thousands of rupees.)

The sanctioned budget for Working Expenses and Interest was 12,37,24 while the expenditure amounted to 11,58,44 showing a saving of 78,80. The sources of this saving can be analysed as follows :—

I. Net savings on items not controlled by the Department (e.g., Recommendations of Accounts Enquiry Committee) :—

	Rs.
Credits for services rendered to other Departments	3,06
Contribution for Pensions	5,44
Interest including surcharge	9,47
	17,97

Deduct excess on provision for depreciation .. 63,17,34

II. Emergency Deduction from pay 15,00

III. Results of Economy Campaign in the Posts and Telegraphs Department including its Audit Offices :—

	Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.
Pay charges	1,16	..	1,16
Allowances, etc. .. .. .	..	9,32	9,32
Repairs	6,00	7,11	13,11
Contingencies	4,00	3,88	7,88
Subsidies	2,50	..	2,50
Stamps and Postcards	3,46	..	3,46
Stationery and Printing	5,33	..	5,33
Miscellaneous	2,00	2,18	4,18
	24,45	22,49	46,94
Deduct expenditure on retrenched personnel .. .. .	..	48	48
	24,45	22,01	46,46

Note.—The reason for which the saving on stamps and Postcards and Stationery and Printing are treated as permanent is that the percentage ratio between the expenditure under these heads and the gross receipts of the Department is almost normal.

No increase should occur normally unless traffic and receipts show a large increase when the increased expenditure is likely to be inappreciable compared with the increase in revenue.

The distribution of the total saving between Permanent and Temporary is of course speculative being based on the nature of the items and of the economies carried out.

The most noticeable feature of the figures given above is that the savings under staff exclusive of the emergency deduction, were only Rs. 1,16,000. This was to be expected as retrenchment of staff even to keep pace with the fall in traffic could be initiated only after Government orders had issued after consideration of the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations. The orders were issued only in November 1931 and so only 4 months' savings in pay less leave salary, travelling allowance and gratuities could accrue as a maximum.

In this connection attention is drawn to paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Sub-Committee's report in which the Committee observed that out of a gross grant of nearly 13 crores only about Rs. 1,46,58,000 corresponded to what would be regarded in an ordinary Government Department as controllable expenditure susceptible of reduction without reducing salaries or establishment.

The Committee will be interested, with reference to the second clause of paragraph 4 of the Auditor General's letter, to learn that the economies in staff which were initiated in the last few months of 1931-32 bore fruit in 1932-33. In a statement circulated to the Legislative Assembly during the budget session it was stated that the savings from retrenchment of personnel on orders issued by the end of 1932-33 were estimated at Rs. 6,27,000 per mensem. The latest figures now received show that the savings have reached a figure of Rs. 6,68,000 per mensem or Rs. 80,16,000 per annum. It will be appreciated, of course, that a saving of this magnitude will appear in the accounts only when the economy has been in force for a full financial year and the men have ceased to draw leave salaries.

It may be added that the search for economies continues and the latest estimates indicate a figure of Rs. 8,76,000 per mensem, or Rs. 1,05,12,000 per annum, being reached by the end of 1933-34.

The following figures of the pay charges of the Department during the last few years also help in realising the magnitude of the saving achieved :—

Year.	As in the account.	Add amount of emergency deduction.	Totals being strictly comparable.	Annual increment or decrement.
1924-25	6,12	..	6,12	..
1925-26	6,33	..	6,33	+ 21
1926-27	6,57	..	6,57	+ 24
1927-28	6,90	..	6,90	+ 33
1928-29	7,34	..	7,34	+ 44
1929-30	7,66	..	7,66	+ 32
1930-31	7,90	..	7,90	+ 24
1931-32	7,88	15	8,03	+ 13
1932-33	7,19	60	7,79	— 24

An increment which had never been less than 13 lakhs per year has been converted into a decrement of 24 lakhs and this in spite of the fact that the annual increments are estimated to cost between 12 to 20 lakhs of rupees.

In view of the observations contained in this note, the Posts and Telegraphs Department consider that the economies achieved even to the end of 1931-32 are neither small nor altogether temporary or likely to involve increased expenditure later on.

**Proceedings of the Ninth Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee
held on Wednesday, the 9th August, 1933, at 11-45 A.M.**

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance Member, *Chairman.*

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJAH.

Mr. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI.

Kunwer Hajee ISMAIEL ALIKHAN.

Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Mr. K. P. THAMPAN.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ANWAR-UL-AZIM.

Mr. J. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

Members.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. JAGAT PRASAD, Deputy Auditor
General.

Mr. S. A. VANESWAR, Accountant General,
Posts and Telegraphs.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial
Secretary.

Were also present.

Sir THOMAS RYAN, Director General of
Posts and Telegraphs.

Mr. S. P. VARMA, Financial Adviser,
Posts and Telegraphs.

Mr. F. T. DEMONTE, Chief Engineer,
Posts and Telegraphs.

Witnesses.

62. The Committee continued the examination of the Appropriation Accounts and connected documents relating to the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

63. *Paragraph 76 of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The explanation given by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, was considered by the Committee to be satisfactory. The Auditor General remarked that, if the facts as put forward by the Director General had been known to Audit, the paragraph would not have appeared in the Appropriation Accounts. The Committee desired that when the Departmental investigation into cases of financial irregularities put forward by audit had not been completed, a note to that effect should be made in the Appropriation Report.

64. *Paragraph 78 of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Director General explained that no private houses were available in the locality. The alternatives were either to hire the Railway bungalows available at the place or to construct their own buildings. As a measure of economy it was decided to rent the railway bungalows rather than construct new buildings. The Committee accepted the explanation.

65. *Paragraph 79 of the Appropriation Accounts.*—The Director General informed the Committee that case No. 1 had been settled and that the other cases were under examination.

66. *Paragraph 7 of the Auditor General's letter—Establishment charges.*—The Committee accepted the conclusion of the Auditor General and the Director General that the present method of working out these figures did not serve any useful purpose and desired to have a report next year showing the results of the enquiry now being undertaken by the Financial Adviser.

67. *Paragraph 8 of the Auditor General's letter—Stores Accounts.*—The Director General admitted that the balances of stores were unduly high mainly as a result of the large purchases made immediately after the War. He pointed out that the balances had been reduced from about 2½ crores in 1923-24 to 69 lakhs at the end of 1931-32 and added that every endeavour was being made to reduce the balances still further. The Committee noted with satisfaction the steady progress made in reducing the balances.

68. *Paragraph 9 of the Auditor General's letter—Rents.*—The Director General explained that the increase in the number of houses still to be assessed was due to (1) in cases where a building consisted of a number of quarters, each set of quarters was now being treated as a separate unit for the purpose of assessing rent, and (2) as a result of the economy campaign, a number of officers, who were formerly allowed rent-free quarters, had now to pay rent and the quarters occupied by such officers had to be added to the number of buildings the rent of which had to be assessed. The Director General informed the Committee that there was no loss of revenue to Government, because, in the case of quarters the rent of which had not yet been assessed, ten per cent. of the pay of officers was being recovered.

69. The Committee then adjourned till 2-30 P.M.*

*The Committee at its Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth meeting dealt with Railway Appropriation Accounts.

**Proceedings of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee
held on Saturday, the 12th August, 1933, at 11 A.M.**

PRESENT :

Chairman from
11 A.M. to 12 NOON.

} Mr. S. C. MITRA.

Chairman from
12 NOON.

} The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. LLOYD, Finance
Member.

Mr. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI.
KUNWER HAJEE ISMAIEL ALIKHAN.

Mr. K. P. THAMPAN.

Mr. RAMSAY SCOTT.

Dr. R. D. DALAL.

} Members.

Mr. A. C. BADENOCH, Auditor General.

Mr. J. F. MITCHELL, Accountant General, Central
Revenues.

Mr. L. J. PECK, Director of Army Audit.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.

Sir LANCELOT GRAHAM, Secretary, Legislative Depart-
ment.

Mr. V. NARAHARI RAO, Additional Deputy Secretary,
Foreign and Political Department.

Rai Bahadur CHUNI LAL, Financial Secretary, North-
West Frontier Province.

L. SUNDAR DAS, Financial Assistant, Baluchistan.

Mr. G. R. F. TOTTENHAM, Secretary, Army Depart-
ment.

Mr. W. R. TENNANT, Financial Adviser, Military
Finance.

} Were also
present.

} Witnesses.

As the Hon'ble Mr. Lloyd, the Finance Member, had to attend a meeting of the Executive Council, the members elected Mr. S. C. Mitra as chairman during his absence.

70. *Grant No. 29—Council of State*.—The Accountant General, Central Revenues, explained to the Committee that during the last four years there had been savings under the head allowances, honoraria, etc., to members of the Legislature owing to the fact that a supplementary grant was obtained from the Assembly during the year to cover a carry-over of expenditure from the previous year as a result of the extension of the Legislature beyond the 31st March. A major portion of these supplementary grants proved unnecessary as there was a similar extension of the Legislature beyond the 31st March during the year and consequent carry-over of expenditure to next year. He therefore suggested that the estimate should be framed on the assumption that extensions beyond 31st March would occur. Sir Lancelot Graham explained that there were two uncertain factors, viz., (1) the November session of the Legislature and (2) the extension of the Legislature beyond 31st

March. In addition to these two there was also the factor that though the Legislature might be extended beyond 31st March some members left before that date and their allowances had to be paid before the close of the financial year. As regards the emergency session, the Committee agreed that it could not be anticipated and nothing could be done, but as regards the extension of the Legislature beyond 31st March, the Committee was of opinion that the estimate should be framed on the basis of the experience of past years. As during the last five years the session actually extended beyond 31st March, the estimates should be framed on this basis but due allowance should be made for the fact that some members left before the 31st March.

(Sir Lancelot Graham then left and the representatives of the Foreign and Political Department were called in.)

71. *Paragraph 22 of the Auditor General's letter—Laxity of current control of expenditure under Frontier Watch and Ward.*—Mr. Narahari Rao explained that the main difficulty was in connection with the expenditure in Burma which was controlled by the local Government. The difficulties of the local Government were mainly in connection with the anti-slavery expeditions and they were real difficulties as these expeditions started late in the financial year with advances for expenditure and were out of touch with the headquarters till the beginning of the next financial year. The Committee recognised the difficulties, but, at the instance of the Auditor General, suggested that the Accountant General, Burma, should consult the local Government whether some system could not be devised whereby a more efficient control of expenditure could be achieved.

72. *Paragraph 23 of the Auditor General's letter and Important Comments on Grant No. 79—Baluchistan—Fictitious transfers of Government servants in Baluchistan.*—The Committee considered that this was a very serious irregularity and noted the orders issued by the local Administration.

73. *Grant No. 71—Currency and Important Comments on page 177—Theft of Rs. 3,000 from a sub-treasury in Baluchistan.*—In this case the sub-treasury officer handed over his set of sub-treasury keys to a chaprasi to be taken to the sub-treasurer for the day. As the loss had been made good by the treasurer, the local Administration merely issued orders impressing on all officials connected with the administration of treasuries the strict observance of the rules in the Treasury Manual. They did not consider that any further action, departmental or otherwise, against the sub-treasury officer was necessary. The Committee did not agree with this decision and suggested that the Foreign and Political Department should take up the question of some disciplinary action against the sub-treasury officer. It was also brought to the notice of the Committee that cases of such thefts or defalcations were not being reported to the Government of India by the local Administrations unless the sanction of the Government of India was necessary for writing off the whole or a portion of the loss. The Committee considered that arrangements should be made for the reporting of all such cases to the Government of India in the Administrative Department concerned so as to enable them to judge whether the action taken by the local Administration was sufficient.

(The Foreign and Political Department witnesses then left and the Army Department witnesses entered.)

The Hon'ble Mr. A. H. Lloyd took the chair.

74. *Report on the Military Accounts Committee.*—The Committee endorsed the recommendations and observations of the Committee both in its report and in the accompanying proceedings of its meetings. As regards the special point of the *pro forma* account of expenditure on Auxiliary and Territorial Forces, the Public Accounts Committee agreed with the Military Accounts Committee that the present arrangements were unsatisfactory from a practical point of view. They therefore approved of the suggestion of the Army Secretary that proposals should be worked out for classifying certain units as wholly debitable to this account and others as wholly debitable to the ordinary Army Grant.

75. The Committee decided to meet on the 21st August 1933 at 2-30 P.M. to deal with the draft report.*

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I wish to ask the Honourable the Finance Member a question. During the winter Session, the report of the Public Accounts Committee of 1930-31 was never taken into consideration by this House and I wish to know whether it is the intention of the Government to discuss the present report on the floor of the House during either the November Session or the January Session ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : If my Honourable friend's question implies that he is disappointed that there has been no opportunity to discuss the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1930-31, I should like to take this opportunity of stating that I share his disappointment. I think the House will recognise that its time was fully occupied and that it has been impossible to find time to provide for the discussion on the accounts of 1930-31. The Government are fully alive to the point and it is constantly before them. I can assure my Honourable friend that we shall do our best to find time for that discussion.

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, for certain purposes.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY PROTECTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I beg to move :

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

*The draft Report of the Public Accounts Committee was adopted by the Committee with certain modifications at its sixteenth meeting held on Monday, the 21st August 1933, at 2-30 P.M.

[Sir Joseph Bhowe.]

I must, Sir, regret that circumstances over which I have no control have forced me once again to come to this House and ask it to agree to the extension of the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act for yet another period, namely, until the end of March, 1934. In the circumstances, however, which confront us today, I am confident that the House will agree that the passage of this short extending Bill is inevitable and that there is no other course which is either possible or expedient. I have considered very carefully whether I should take this opportunity of replying in some detail to criticisms, I may say at once, uninformed criticisms which have been levelled against the Government of India in respect of action in connection with such matters as giving notice of their desire to terminate the trade convention with Japan and increasing the rates of duty on cotton textiles last June. I have, however, come to the conclusion that I could not go in any detail into these matters without saying something which might give cause for offence and, as I said the other day, we should, at this moment, endeavour to do all we can to allay and not to excite hostile feelings. This is not the time, Sir, as I said before, to ruffle feelings. I will only say this, that the limit of endurance and patience had been passed before we reluctantly decided to impose the higher duties in June last, duties, be it noted, which did not increase the substantive protection as against Japan given long ago, but barely compensated for the consequences of a heavily depreciated currency. In giving six months notice at the time we did, we were actuated by the dictates of ordinary prudence. We could not have run the risk of protracted negotiations ending perhaps infructuously and then having to give a notice of six months afterwards. But the giving of notice did not in any way prejudice the inception of friendly conversations. I may tell the House that, after the last Delhi Session, we set on foot informal enquiries with a view to the initiation of friendly negotiations, and notice was given on our behalf by His Majesty's Government or rather an invitation was extended on our behalf to the Japanese Ambassador in London on the 6th June inviting Japan to enter into negotiations. We took the initiative in this case and it is certainly not our fault if negotiations have not begun earlier. I would, however, like to take this opportunity of saying emphatically that our action in giving notice and in raising the duties was not inspired or suggested by any authority or interest outside this country. We gave the notice and imposed those duties on our own initiative and in what we believed to be the best interests of our own industries. Now, this brings me to the subject of this Bill. From what I have said, I hope the House will agree that no other course is open to us other than that which we are adopting, namely, the continuance of the existing arrangements. We are on the threshold of negotiations with Japan, negotiations which, we all hope, will result in the solution of, at any rate, some of the most important trade problems which confront us today. The industrialists of the three countries, I believe, are contemplating entering into discussion amongst themselves with a view to finding a way acceptable to all of them which will lead to a solution of their difficulties. In these circumstances, I hope, the House will agree that it would have been in the highest degree inexpedient if we had attempted at this juncture to formulate a cut-and-dried scheme for the cotton textile industry of this

country or to alter our tariff rates. If we had done so, I feel that there might possibly have been grave repercussions on the forthcoming negotiations. I hope that the House will find no difficulty in passing this extending measure. I would, however, like to make one appeal to Honourable Members. I would like to ask them to refrain from saying anything which may make our task more difficult or may result in weakening our hands. I would like to assure the House that the Government are seized of the case for all the industries concerned, particularly would I like to say that we realise the importance of safeguarding the interests of the agriculturist. If we have not been over-perturbed by action in certain quarters designed to frighten the grower of cotton, it is not because we do not realise the paramount necessity for safeguarding his interests, nor because we do not realise the possibilities of a situation in which Japan is the largest external buyer of our short-staple cotton. I do not want to say anything more on this subject. I would ask the House to join with me in offering a warm welcome to the Japanese Delegation. (Applause.) I need not assure the representatives of Japan of the profound admiration in this country for the genius and achievements of the Japanese nation (Hear, hear) and, I think, I am voicing the views, not only of the Government, but also of the people of India, when I express the hope that the result of these negotiations will be to continue and to cement the traditional feelings of regard and friendship which have always existed between the two countries. Sir, I move.

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

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

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : Sir, if I venture to offer a few remarks on the motion before the House, it is not due to any want of appreciation on my part of the delicate position in which the Government of India is placed in view of the impending Indo-Japanese Conference. On the other hand, Sir, it is with an honest desire on my part that in any negotiations which the Government of India may conduct, it may give due consideration to all the vast and varied interests of the country involved in a matter of this kind. I am perfectly well aware, Sir, of the reply which the Honourable the Commerce Member was pleased to give in answer to the question which was asked by my friend, Mr. Das, only a few minutes ago, that he could assure the House that all the varied interests would be duly considered and safeguarded by the Government. But my difficulty in appreciating that is this. Honourable Members of this House are perfectly well aware that, a few days ago when His Excellency the Viceroy addressed both Houses, he said as follows :

“ Of significance too is the fact that India is to be the scene of a tripartite Conference between the textile industrialists of India, Lancashire and Japan. In this Conference the Government of India will not take any part, but they would welcome any agreement consonant with the welfare and interests of India as a whole.”

Sir, my difficulty is this. I may be wrong, but I do feel that the answers which the Honourable the Commerce Member was pleased to give this morning were not exactly in consonance with the statement which was made by His Excellency the Viceroy. Here is to be a Conference which is to be a tripartite Conference, between certain indus-

[Mr. B. Sitaramaraju.]

trialists in this country, Japan and Lancashire, and the Government of India, according to His Excellency the Viceroy, will not take any part, but they would welcome any agreement consonant with the welfare and interests of India as a whole.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : If I may explain the point again, I think it may save the time of the House and also remove a misapprehension which I think my Honourable friend is labouring under. The negotiations which will take place will be official negotiations between the representatives of the Government of Japan and the representatives of the Government of India. At the same time, as those negotiations are taking place, certain entirely unofficial conversations between the representatives of Indian commercial and industrial interests, those of Japan and those of Manchester will also take place. With that the Government of India have no concern whatsoever, but, as His Excellency said the other day, naturally the Government of India must be greatly interested in any conclusion arrived at by that entirely unofficial gathering which may help us to a solution and a satisfactory solution of this problem.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju : May I respectfully ask the Commerce Member how the other interests apart from the interests of the industrialists which are mentioned here would be consulted by the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I do not quite follow my Honourable friend, but if he means that the Government of India will pay attention only to the interests of the commercial and industrial bodies to which he referred, then he is entirely under a misapprehension. I hope it will be possible for us to attach, as an unofficial adviser, a representative of the agricultural interests of this country as well.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju : Sir, the Honourable the Commerce Member has been pleased to explain to us that the negotiations which have to be carried on between the Government of India and Japan would be purely a matter between the Government of India and Japan and that the Government of India would be consulting the interests represented by the industrialists of this country as well as of Lancashire.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : The Honourable Member is entirely wrong. What I did say was that in conducting the official negotiations with Japan, we would keep in the closest possible touch with representatives of the industries of this country including the great industry of agriculture. We have nothing directly to do with the unofficial tripartite discussions which will be taking place, but we shall obviously pay attention to and consider any conclusions that may be arrived at by so important a Conference, even though it is unofficial.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju : I am glad to hear the Honourable the Commerce Member's explanation of the position of the tripartite Conference and of the assurance that the Government of India would be consulting all the various interests concerned including agricultural interests. Sir, while I appreciate that assurance, I would like to bring very prominently to the notice of the Honourable Member that there are certain interests which are very important and as important as the mill industry in this

country and probably even more important than that industry. I would particularly like to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Commerce Member that in any negotiations that they may make due consideration should be given to all those interests. One most important industry I should like to mention and press very much for consideration is the interest of the hand loom weavers of this country. That the hand loom industry of this country is the most important interest can be very well seen from the fact that we have in this country over two million hand looms working ; that is to say, for every hand loom which supports four or five people we have ten million people supported by that industry. Whereas, comparing that with the mill industry in this country, which employs not more than four lakhs of people and if each one so employed has four others to depend upon him, that would make about 16 lakhs of people provided by the mill industry as against 8 to 10 millions which are supported by the hand loom industry in this country. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the actual production of the cloth as well. The figures for 1929-30 were as follows : in millions of yards, the mill production was 24,18, whereas the hand loom was 14,04 : and the total of both was 38,22 millions of yards. You will, therefore, see, Sir, that even from the point of view of the actual production of cloth, the hand loom industry occupies a very prominent position in the country. It will be seen that it forms about 40 per cent. of the total amount of cloth produced in the country. In this connection I would like to draw attention to two small passages in this book " How to compete with foreign cloth " by the Secretary of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta :

" It would be quite evident from the table given above (*the table which I have just given*) that the hand loom industry has not only gone out of existence as is erroneously presumed by many, due to ignorance or prejudice or want of enquiry, but that it supplies nearly 25 per cent. of the total annual consumption of cloth in this country and that it is responsible for about 40 per cent. of the total cloth produced in India."

In the table I have given for 1929-30, it is even much more than 25 per cent. from the figures of 1929-1930 :

" Since March, 1930, the production of cloth on the mills and the hand looms is on the increase, and, as a result of the movement for the boycott of foreign cloth, imports of foreign cloth are greatly diminishing. The above statistics make it quite clear that the belief that the hand loom weaving industry is a small moribund industry inevitably doomed to be entirely crushed by the power-looms is absolutely erroneous and has no foundation in fact. The industry has steadily maintained its position. It has had lately an access of strength in the shape of the khaddar movement sponsored by so powerful a personality as Mahatma Gandhi who lays great stress on the use of the Charkha and the hand looms for producing the cloth required in the country, with a view to provide work for the teeming millions of the people of this land during the periods when they have nothing to engage themselves on....."

Therefore, both from the point of view of production as well as the number of people who are actually supported by such an industry, and by the fact that it is a poor man's industry benefiting a large class of poor people, one would consider that it is not the industry which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, had the honour to represent as really a national industry, but it is the hand loom industry which is really the national industry of this country. It is very unfortunate that so important an industry as the hand loom industry has not received that recognition which it is entitled to expect from the Government of India who have always been trying to impress that they are always solicitous for

[Mr. B. Sitaramaraju.]

the welfare of the masses. In this connection the Government of Madras, in their Press Communiqué, issued on the 5th October last, stated as follows. This was a communiqué issued by that Government on the reference by the Tariff Board, and they have suggested a particular scheme about which I shall speak presently. They say in this communiqué :

“ The mills benefit by tariffs whose effect, it appears, is mainly detrimental to the hand looms. A large articulate interest benefits at the expense of a larger but inarticulate community. Legislation which permits such results needs revision.”

I would like to present this little passage to the Honourable the Commerce Member. The interests of the hand loom industry have, if not neglected, been relegated to the background, because they are not so articulate : they cannot be, since they are entirely confined to a class of persons who are poor and illiterate. Nevertheless, they form the backbone of this country, because they belong to the agricultural population of this country. The Government of Madras, in proposing their scheme, suggested to the Tariff Board that a cess of two pies might be levied in order to have reorganised the whole of the hand loom industry in this country, and they made also certain recommendations about the countervailing duty from which they stated the United Kingdom would be exempted. I did not and many of us may not agree with the view taken by the Government of Madras that the United Kingdom should be exempted from the countervailing duty ; nevertheless, the fact remains that so far as the scheme is concerned, it is an original scheme intended mainly to organise the hand loom industry in this country. That scheme requires the very careful consideration of the Honourable the Commerce Member before the Government of India can think of taking any action on the Tariff Board Report. This brings me to the question of the report of the Tariff Board. I can very well understand the Honourable the Commerce Member's difficulty in not being able to take action on the Tariff Board Report in view of the impending negotiations with Japan. But my complaint is not so much on that the Government of India have not taken any action so far or have not come to any decision on the Tariff Board Report, as it is on the non-publication of the Report. I claim that the report which was made to the Government of India by the Tariff Board ought to have been placed in our hands. When we, in this House, are asked to consider a subject about which valuable information has been withheld from us, I consider that it is grossly unfair to us. If that report had been placed in our hands, we would certainly have come forward, as the Madras Government have done, and offered suggestions which would greatly help Government themselves in coming to the very decision which they want to get. On the other hand, to ask us to believe entirely in what they say, to trust them entirely without knowing the facts of the case or the interests which the whole question involves and to ask us to take decisions on the floor of the House on a subject like this after withholding valuable information is, I consider, very unfair.

Again, I would like to impress upon the Government with all the emphasis at my command that this hand loom industry, which not only should the Government take into consideration as much as they do the other industries, *e.g.*, the industry which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, represents so ably—but I would ask the Government that in any nego-

tations, that they may carry on with Japan or any other foreign country, the interests of the hand loom weavers should be represented and amply safeguarded and dealt with equally impartially as the interests of the industry which Mr. Mody represents. So far as this matter is concerned, the Government apparently consider there are only the mills and Mr. Mody, with Lancashire thrown in between the two. As I have been trying to point out, it is not so. There are other interests which deserve greater consideration and consultation at the hands of the Government in this matter.

I am, however, glad to note, the other day, on the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Haroon, the Honourable the Commerce Member assured us—and he has repeated that assurance today—that he would consider the interests and claims of the cotton growers in this country. But they are not the only interests in this country. If all the agricul-

1 P.M.

tural interests are going to be safeguarded, as the Honourable the Commerce Member was pleased to say a few minutes ago with all his large-hearted and wide perspective, if all the labour interests, which my friend Mr. Joshi so ably represents in this House, are also to be safeguarded, we need entertain no apprehensions at all. I do trust that in a matter of this kind,—perhaps you are aware yourself, Sir,—that in the Ottawa and similar Trade Agreements, when trade negotiations are entered into by countries, all the interests concerned are usually consulted. What do the Governments of those countries do in order to consult them? They call the representatives of the various interests together from time to time and invite their views. Do the Government of India propose to do the same thing now? I hope they will do so. It is only but fair that they should do so, it is only but just that they should take that wider aspect, because their responsibility is very heavy. With these few words, Sir, I submit that in any negotiations that the Government of India may possibly undertake now or in future, the due interests of this country in all its varied interests should have the just and fair consideration of the Government of India and that their interests should be duly safeguarded solely in the best interests of this country.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott (United Provinces : European) : Sir, as the industry requires protection so badly, I rise to support this Bill. The Bill is, however, an inadequate measure and in no way adapted to the specific needs of the cotton industry of today.

It is, however, typical of the attitude of the Government of India in that they follow the line of least resistance. It is a "Wait and see" policy—I might say it is a "Wait and See Japanese Policy". Sir, we all hope for satisfactory results from the Indo-Japanese Government Conferences, but we do not see why India's premier industry should be sacrificed to placate Japan.

One of the points which I wish to bring to your notice is the Tariff Board Reports. The Tariff Board was instituted through this Assembly and is paid for by the tax-payer; so we fail to see why the results of the Tariff Board's deliberations are not made public as soon as each inquiry is concluded. (Applause.) Why should Government sit on these Reports for over a year and in some cases for over two years?

Several Honourable Members : That is the whole question.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : Surely, the industry should be the first to know its fate. The industry has, in the first place, to make out a *prima facie* case for protection before Government pass orders to the Tariff Board, which means that Government admit the justice of the application, and the real case left to the Tariff Board is, how much and in what manner protection should be given. Now, Sir, in my opinion and in the opinion of many others in this country, it is considered that the recommendations and criticisms of the Tariff Board should be made known to the industry as early as possible. At the present moment, Government know the recommendations of the Tariff Board, but the advisers whom Government are asking to help them at the coming Conference are in the dark.

The second point is that until the Tariff Board's Report is issued, it is impossible for Government to protect the Hosiery industry under this Act. This industry is in a perilous state and the delay of six months has already been too great a strain, but a further six months will spell ruination and many a man will be thrown out of employment. If you protect cotton, which is woven, why should cotton, which is knitted, be left outside the pale of protection? This, Sir, is a policy of discrimination with a vengeance and is an injustice which no Government worthy of the name would not have rectified at the earliest possible opportunity without the repeated unavailing protests of the industry itself. I do ask Government to lose no time in bringing in a measure to put this matter right.

Then, Sir, there are several Tariff classifications which are in need of correction, and I feel sure that the Honourable Member will admit that Tariff Classifications in general need overhauling. For instance, in the tariff of many years standing the customs duty on piece goods was 11 per cent., while various other goods made of cotton, in a slightly more finished state, were classified as Haberdashery, and paid 15 per cent. duty. Under the Tariff Board cotton protection, the duty on foreign piece goods has risen to 75 per cent. while Haberdashery protection by the fortuitous circumstances of Revenue Finance Bills has only risen from 15 per cent. to 25 per cent. Such articles as towels and handkerchiefs, if imported in the piece, pay 75 per cent. duty, while, if imported in the more finished state, hemmed or fringed, pay 25 per cent. duty. Surely anomalies like these should be put right, and perhaps the Government will take us into their confidence and give us an inkling of their intentions.

In conclusion, Sir, I would refer to the increase of 25 per cent. cotton piece goods protection granted in June last. If this further protection had been given 6 months earlier, it would have been more useful. The delay has allowed a considerable influx of foreign piece goods and the markets are glutted with such goods and, until they are absorbed, conditions will not improve.

The cotton mills in my district are laid out for Indian cotton, but, until they can run full time and overtime, they cannot use as much Indian cotton as they would wish to.

Sir, I would emphasise the need for quick action, and ask you to take a leaf out of South Africa's book. If Indo-Japanese negotiations are not concluded by October 10th, I would suggest that the treaty be allowed to lapse and the Protection of Industries Act come into force at once.

Japan's currency has depreciated 40 per cent. and there are already signs that it will depreciate still further. Government should be prepared

and should be ready to act. The Japanese Government have assisted her industries in every possible manner and by every possible means. Why cannot our Government do the same ?

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, on behalf of the Democratic Party, I rise to oppose the consideration of this Bill till the Government come forward and fulfil their pledge and publish the Tariff Board's Report which they received long ago. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, has asked us to be modest in our criticism, but yet I found he was apologetic and tried to justify his action, and brought in irrelevant issues about what Japan might do or what might happen. But my friend forgot the supreme responsibility that lay on him. The Commerce Member should not only give protection to a particular industry, but it is his duty to see that other industries and other interests are not in any way injured thereby.

Sir, the history of the Cotton Textile Protection Scheme dates as far back as 1927. It was in that year, the Bombay agitators,—here I take this opportunity to welcome back my friend, Mr. Mody, whom we have been missing so long in this House,—I am grateful for the condescension and graciousness of the Bombay millowners' representative to come here and listen to our views,—and probably if my friend gets everything that he wants, he will go back to Bombay and will some day find time to read through the speeches and appreciate the viewpoints which we lay before this House on behalf of 38 crores of people *minus* the 200 millowners of the Bombay town. Sir, in 1927, the gallant Baronet, Sir Victor Sassoon—he is not here—was the representative of the constituency which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, represents here today. The gallant Baronet pleaded before the Government, and the Cotton Yarn Protection Act came into existence. Japan retaliated. Who suffered ? Japan retaliated by boycotting rice and pig iron. The rice industries of Burma, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa have vanished and also the pig iron industry. Can the Commerce Member or Mr. Mody say that the pig iron industry has not suffered ? The other day, when my Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon's Resolution was being discussed, statistics, misquoted statistics, were flying about on the floor of this House, and, on that day, my Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, in a sweet little speech, came to the rescue of the absentee millowners of Bombay, and probably those statistics came by air mail from Bombay to Simla. But I will also give a few statistics to show to my Honourable friends, the Commerce Member and Mr. Mody, how the Japanese policy of retaliation has destroyed the pig iron industry of India. In 1926-27, India exported 234,000 tons of pig iron ; in 1927-28, 270,000 tons ; in 1928-29, 353,000 tons ; 1929-30, 349,000 tons ; 1930-31, under 61,000 tons ; 1931-32, under 88,000 tons ; in 1932-33, 71,000 tons.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : Has my Honourable friend the statistics of the last six months ? I would commend them to his consideration.

Mr. B. Das : I am not the Commerce Member, nor have I Dr. Meek in my sleeves to produce the statistics that my Honourable friend wants in a moment. We, outsiders, legislators, public men, collect statistics from the published documents, and the statistics that I have given have been compiled and computed by the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Com-

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merce and Industry, and I do not think that my Honourable friend will challenge those statistics.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Was it circulated to all public men ?

Mr. B. Das : It is for the Government to circulate them. I am circulating them by my speech here and I hope that my friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, will take note of these statistics.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Can't you give a copy ?

Mr. B. Das : It is a confidential document, but I will give you a copy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shannukham Chetty) : The House stands adjourned till 2-30.

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 Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Mr. B. Das : Sir, before recess, I was saying that I was opposed to the consideration of this Bill, because the Government have not published the Tariff Board's Report and I was also referring to the retaliatory policy of Japan by which multitudes in this country have been seriously affected in their economic wealth. I was giving certain figures and statistics about the loss in trade in the pig iron industry. The proprietors of these pig iron industries might say that this House has given them protection and they would not mind if Japan retaliated. Multitudes of rice growers in Burma, Bengal, Orissa and Madras cannot export their rice and they have suffered seriously from the Japanese policy of retaliation and what Japan has done. Japan has made herself self-supporting about rice and, if certain questions that have been asked on the floor of the House are to be believed, Japan is also exporting rice to India. I am only referring to this, because the other day, the Honourable the Commerce Member made some statement that there was no truth in the idea that Japan would retaliate about the export of raw cotton to Japan and I also read in the press a statement by some of the representatives of the Bombay millowners. They said that this idea that Japan would retaliate and not buy Indian cotton was a bluff. Sir, if it is a bluff, it is bluff on the part of those Bombay millowners who want to hoodwink this House and they want an extension of this protective measure. They want to bluff only for the moment, because they know the truth will come out in the end. Japan will buy no more Indian cotton, because everybody knows that Japan has occupied a vast territory in China and Japan has got a five year plan like Russia. In five years, Japan will grow sufficient cotton to do away with the paltry half a million bales that they buy from India.

We, who represent the multitudes in this country, have to see that they do not suffer by this scheme of protection. When the Cotton Textile

Bill was introduced, the Honourable Sir George Rainy, my Honourable friend's predecessor, said that it was only a temporary measure meant to alleviate temporary distress of a big and mighty industry in this country and that it was meant only as a stop-gap. At that time, the Members of the House will remember, I opposed it on behalf of the Opposition. My friend, Mr. Mody, remembers it well and then none of us thought that the scheme of protection would continue and we would not be asked even to examine the Tariff Board's latest Report. Sir, I find now that my friend, the Commerce Member, is very partial to the Bombay millowners. When I was a school boy, I used to read that there was a Lieut.-Governor in East Bengal who used to say that the Mussalmans were his favourite wives. It was Sir Bampfylde Fuller who said that the Muslims were his favourite wives. I now find that the capitalist section of Bombay has become the favourite wife of the Honourable the Commerce Member. My friend is so obsessed with the idea that the mill industry should be protected and he is so convinced with the views that are privately advanced in his Chamber by my friend, Mr. Mody, on behalf of the millowners, that he thinks there is no justification for the serious charges that are laid against the mill management by my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, in that admirable report of his on the position of textile industry in 1929. I am afraid, my friend, the Industries Member, cannot denounce his colleague, the Commerce Member, but in that admirable report certain serious charges were laid against the mismanagement of mill agents. Why should not the Tariff Board Report be published? Does not my friend feel perturbed when he finds the *Times of India* and the *Bombay Chronicle* challenge the non-publication of the Tariff Board's Report? They find fault with the Commerce Member for shelving that Report. I take this opportunity to congratulate the *Times of India* on this one occasion for having spoken the truth. The Tariff Board, as it was constituted, had one of the Bombay capitalists on it. They are supposed to be experts. Why is my friend so shy about publishing an expert report? This House does not ask the Government to publish their considered views. Facts are facts, and if they are misrepresented, why is my friend afraid of publishing that publication? We, on this side, have challenged that the Tariff Board does not always consist of experts. If the Tariff Board really consists of experts and they have applied their mind to the scientific investigation of these problems, why is it that Government are afraid of publishing this document? They fear that it might create bad blood between Japan and India. Sir, I do not believe in it. How can the representatives of industrial interests in Japan and the representatives of Indian interests create bad blood over an expert document like the Tariff Board Report? My friend, in not publishing that document, proves that certain misstatements have occurred there, particularly when we remember that one of the Members of the Tariff Board was a Member of this House and that he was a great protagonist of the principle of Imperial Preference. The House has to remember and to recognise that fact.

Sir, I want every industry to be protected and I want the mill industry also to get adequate protection. We want discriminating protection and not indiscriminating protection given to the mill industry whereby other allied industries would suffer. Considering all that I have read in various published documents and from the views that are available to the public, I think that the system of protection that exists now ought not to continue for the mill industry. As far as I understand, the millowners of India have one enemy, and that is Japan. We have already passed the Anti-Dumping

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Act. And through that Act, the Government can put 100 per cent. or 200 per cent. tariff. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, has enough experts in his Department and they will tell the Honourable the Commerce Member what that percentage should be. But why should there be a preference over other countries? I want that the protective tariff should be taken away. I want healthy competition from Lancashire, Italy, etc. Only that particular country, which today penalises the Bombay mill industry, should be penalised.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I hope my Honourable friend recognises that even if his suggestion were carried out, it could not possibly be put into practice before October next.

Mr. B. Das : I would rather see the suspension of this Act up to the 10th October. As I develop my point, I hope my Honourable friend will agree with me that untold harm has been done to other industries. I am very much indebted to my friend, Mr. Raju, for his very illuminating speech where he showed the loss that the handloom industry has suffered since 1927. Government's tariff policy has almost destroyed the great handloom industry. My friend, Mr. Mody, supports only eight lakhs of people through the mill industry, and the handloom industry supports nearly ten million people in India. Now, these 10 million people are earning a very precarious living, because, on account of the Cotton Yarn Protection Act, the prices of yarn went up. Not only that, the millowners, when they came up for protection in 1930, assured the Government that they would not spin yarns of finer counts and they would not experiment and investigate in new directions. But they went on experimenting in new directions. Today I find that the Bombay millowners are flooding the Bengal and Orissa markets with their cloth and *saris* that were formerly the privilege of the handloom weavers to manufacture. Why have they done that? Who asked them to buy American cotton and to buy the fine yarn and thus kill the trade of the handloom weavers?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : My Honourable colleague, to whose admirable report he has referred.

Mr. B. Das : I would ask my friend to have it out in the Executive Council with his Honourable colleague. His Honourable colleague is the cause today of the loss of bread to eight million people. Sir, the millowners gave an assurance in 1929-30 and now they have gone behind it. The other day, my friend gave certain statistics and said that only 163,000 bales of cotton were imported from America last year. If the millowners have reduced their purchase of American cotton, it is not due to their goodwill towards the Indian cotton grower. It is due to the great pressure which the country and the Congress have exercised on these millowners. My friend, the Commerce Member, felt so very happy that the millowners were using so many millions of pounds of Indian cotton. Well, they are bound to use it. They belong to Bombay, Broach and other places and they must buy Indian cotton. These Bombay millowners bought Natal coal seven or eight years ago and these very Bombay millowners are now buying American cotton, because they are now catering to the finer tastes of the public of India. But let my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, rise and speak the truth and say how much pressure the Congress has applied on them. The Congress insisted that yarn made out of Indian cotton must

be used by them and that is the reason why, with trembling hearts, they have reduced their purchases of the American cotton.

Sir, I am not one of those who think that any decrease in purchase of American and Egyptian cotton will solve the problem of the Indian cotton growers, because, as I find, India produces six million bales of cotton. My friends, the millowners, can consume only three million bales. So, unless the Government help the Indian cotton growers to find a solution to export it outside the country, they cannot prosper. As now every country is producing the maximum of cotton, a few years hence a time will come when India will hardly be able to export any cotton outside India. Therefore, ban on the import of foreign cotton is no panacea to the cotton grower. What I wish to emphasise is that Government should not blindly believe what the millowners say. They always think that whatever the millowners do is right, and whatever the other interests say is wrong, because the latter are not so vociferous and clamorous, as the millowners are. As my friend, Mr. Raju, was saying, these millowners are a minute section of the public of India. If Mr. Raju could organise a deputation of a million of handloom weavers to the residences of my Honourable friends, the Commerce and Industries Members, then my friends would realise the extent of the damage done to that huge cottage industry through the past policy of my friends. I know of a family consisting of four people who worked for two days and produced one piece of cloth. That does not give even a margin of eight annas after one day's work by eight people. Therefore, my friends are all killing today the trade of handloom weavers.

Sir, let the Government have these tripartite Conferences, but this morning it seems to me my Honourable friend misunderstood the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy. His Excellency said that it was a Conference of the industrial interests of India, Lancashire and Japan. I will quote from his speech. He said :

“ Of significance too is the fact that India is to be the scene of a tripartite Conference between the textile industrialists of India, Lancashire and Japan. In this Conference the Government of India will not take part.”

My friend said something else.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I must protest against this deliberate misunderstanding of what I have said. I endeavoured to make it perfectly clear to my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, when he spoke as to what really was the position of the Government of India, and I can quite believe that my Honourable friend has not outgrown his school days.

Mr. B. Das : We are all outgrowing our school boy days, I am representing 360 millions of people of India. I cannot be puerile in my interpretation of the Viceroy's speech.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : How many millions do you represent ?

Mr. B. Das : I am representing 360 millions.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : But this morning you said you represented 380 millions.

Mr. B. Das : As long as the millowners claim to be only 200 from Bombay, I do not mind representing the rest. I will just finish the quotation from the Viceroy's speech :

“ In this Conference the Government of India will not take part, but they would welcome any agreement consonant with the welfare and interests of India as a whole.”

Where the interests of a small number of industries, rather the interests of India are concerned, the Government and this House ought to consider them. Therefore, in supplementary questions, some of us wanted to see that the representative of labour should be there, that the representative of cotton growers should be there (Hear, hear) and the representative of the vast number of consumers should be there. Sir, this reminds me of a little story. On my return from my voyage this time, I went to a small place of pilgrimage where I have a little cottage. For the last few months, I am taking a little interest in the *harijan* movement. While I was in my house, I found that there was a different sweeper serving my house and I asked him—everybody nowadays wants to befriend all *harijans*—I enquired of him as to why he came to serve my house. He said : “ We had a conference of our caste and we had partitioned out the different houses in this town and you have come to my share and you are now under me.” So also in this tripartite Conference among the Bombay millowners, the Lancashire millowners and Japan, it may be, they will divide the whole of India amongst themselves and my friend, Mr. Mody, may say : “ Look here, Orissa has been allotted to Japan and so you will have to purchase Japanese goods.” (Laughter.) These are some of the points that are agitating our mind. I hope Government will bear all these in mind when they are making platonic speeches in the House.

My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, made a statement the other day about the larger export to Japan of Indian cotton, and when I questioned him, he remarked that I always showed a sublime disregard for facts. Here is a statement made by the East Indian Cotton Association, the membership of which is confined to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Sir Victor Sassoon and other people.

Mr. R. S. Sarma (Nominated Non-Official) : That statement of the East Indian Association is not inconsistent with the statement of the Leader of the House.

Mr. B. Das : That is your view. You can talk it over with the Honourable the Commerce Member. But let me read out :

“ The fact of the matter is that a large volume of Indian cotton shipped to Japan, after the declaration of the boycott of Indian cotton by the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association, Osaka, consisted mainly of the commitments in cotton made before the declaration of boycott of Indian cotton. To give a concrete instance in substantiation of this fact, it may be mentioned that the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association, which is in charge of allotting freight for cotton shipments to Japan, does not allow freight for shipment to Japan since the declaration of the boycott of Indian cotton was declared.”

My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, may derive some satisfaction from the support which has come from my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarma. No doubt the figures and statistics quoted by my Honourable friend were right, but my friend wanted us to draw wrong conclusions. He wanted us to infer that the export of cotton has largely increased during the last few months for which my Honourable friend gave the figures. Surely my Honourable friend knows and the Government know it that Japanese ships do not now carry Indian cotton to Japan.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muham-
madan Rural) : Those were old contracts.

Mr. B. Das : What was carried were only old contracts. If I am
accused of showing a sublime disregard for facts, I accuse the Honourable
the Commerce Member....

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I withdraw that expression and
substitute therefor a sublime inability to draw deductions from facts.

Mr. B. Das : As long as there will be a Government, an irresponsible
Government, and as long as there will be an opposition and people's repre-
sentatives clamouring, so to say, in the wilderness, so long we on this side
will be accused of showing sublime ignorance and inability to draw deduc-
tions from the facts, and the facts are always facts only. When it suits
my Honourable friend, he utilises them for his own purpose, I do not mean
for his personal purpose, but for the purpose for which the Government
of India at the time have decided him to act. My Honourable friend, Sir
Frank Noyce, in his report, not only asked the Managing Agents to give
up all their great earnings which they unjustifiably pocket, but that they
should reorganise that industry. Is there anything to prevent my
Honourable friend from bringing out to the public the Report of the Tariff
Board and give us the particular chapter where the Tariff Board have
given their findings about the reorganisation of the mill industry which
my Honourable friends, the Bombay millowners, particularly have done
since 1930. Knowing their utter disregard to public criticism and public
sentiment and the way they have been instrumental in the destruction of
hand loom industry in the country, I cannot think they have done anything
since 1930 to reorganise their industry and to put it on an economic basis,
so that protective measures would not be necessary at this stage. As an
old stager in this House, I know, since the Tariff Board came into existence,
the capitalists and industrialists have been shouting for more and more
protection without any regard to the interests of the consumers, and today
the consumers are suffering for lack of funds owing to the great economic
depression that has swept the world. The oil industry of Burma came
in for protection and everybody, who reads their balance sheets, knows
what large dividends they have been paying their shareholders. The same
is the case with the millowners. How is it, the millowners in Delhi have
been earning 200 per cent. dividend up to last year ? We all knew it and,
when you ask them, they say it is only 60 per cent. and they further reduce
it to 15 per cent. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend must be
knowing Lala Sri Ram's mills in Delhi ; they used to show large
dividends ; and when the Government made an enquiry, all the capitalists
combine together and produce a different balance sheet. Sir, before you
became President, you were yourself a capitalist and you also know how
balance sheets are drawn up. You know how depreciations and reserve
funds, unforeseen expenditure and extensions, and all such things are
deducted out of the huge dividends earned, so that a gullible Government
can see only a few per cent. dividend. If I make these serious charges, it
is for Government to read out chapter and verse from
the Tariff Board's Report. So, Sir, I do not know if I

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will succeed in my proposal that the consideration of this Bill should be
postponed till the Tariff Board's Report is published, but if, at all, a
scheme of protection is necessary, my own belief is that no scheme of pro-
tection is necessary after October 10, because my friend will apply the
Anti-Dumping Act and give them the protection which he or they think

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necessary. But before this House can give any protection, this House must see the report, must now how the various interests are affected thereby, and we have to consider particularly the interest of the hand loom weavers. We have also to consider the interest of the cotton growers, and, if these are not adversely affected, I am not one who would oppose any measure of protection to the cotton mill industry. But yet, if I remember aright the speech of my old friend, the Honourable Sir George Rainy, I feel that it was a temporary help given to a particular industry and it will not be necessary after October 10 when that particular Anti-Dumping Act will give them the necessary relief. Sir, with these remarks, I appeal to the Honourable the Commerce Member to be kind enough to postpone consideration of this measure and to take steps to publish the Tariff Board's Report so that the country may know whether there is any truth in the sufferings of the millowners.

Mr. R. S. Sarma : Sir, Mr. Das, the old stager as he styled himself, thought that he was making a big case by putting the statement of the East India Cotton Association of Bombay against the statement that the Commerce Member made in this House last week. Lest this House should be misled by the wrong inferences made by Mr. Das, I should like to point out that to my memory all that the Commerce Member did was, he quoted certain figures of exports to Japan, compared them with the figures of last year and the year before and left this House to draw its own conclusions from those figures. What the East India Cotton Association published yesterday in the papers was simply that, after boycott was declared, no freight for cotton was booked. I cannot see any inconsistency in these two statements. Japan, the Japanese merchants and their politicians, certainly much cleverer than people like Mr. Das, knowing that they were going to declare a boycott, must have made more commitments than necessary, must have placed more orders than necessary with this view that between the date of the declaration of the boycott and the date of these delicate negotiations that are going to take place, they may not book any freight or ship any cotton from here so that they would not suffer from any lack of cotton. But they may not send cotton, because they have already had more than they want so that simple-minded people like some of us might think that the boycott has become effective.

I want to say, Sir, that I whole-heartedly support this Bill.

Sir, there is a well-known saying that he who giveth quick giveth twice. Of all the Commerce Members of the Government of India, I think Sir Joseph Bore has shown the liveliest appreciation of the force and the truth of this statement. Our Bombay industrialists and also other industrialists in India cannot be too grateful to Sir Joseph for the timeliness and expedition which has inspired the liberal measures which he has initiated for the support and protection of the indigenous industries of this country. Sir, in these days of great changes and quick transformations in the world of finance, trade and commerce, too much deliberation on any event, as in Hamlet, will spell only disaster. And we expect from the Government of India a mobile outlook, a sort of forward policy and expeditious execution in all the measures that they undertake for the support of the industries of this country. And,

in this, Sir Joseph Bhole, our first Indian Commerce Member, has achieved marked success.

Viewing this Bill as part of this new and forward policy, I support this Bill and offer my congratulations to H. P. Mody and Company for what they have got.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal : Landholders) : What do you mean by H. P. Mody and Company ?

Mr. E. S. Sarma : If you cannot understand plain English, I will explain to you outside the Chamber if you will ask me.

Sir, Without wanting to embarrass the Commerce Member who has got to conduct delicate negotiations within the next fortnight or so or trying in any way to prejudice the issues in that Conference, let me plainly tell the Honourable Member himself that many of us are as much puzzled and mystified as Mr. Ramsay Scott or Mr. Das about the reasons underlying the non-publication of the Tariff Board's Report. If the only reason for its non-publication is that a report like that should not be published, when these delicate negotiations are going to come on, I think the Commerce Member will have the support of the entire House in what he has done in not having published it now. But there are suspicions that there are other considerations why this report has not been published. Sir, the *Indian Finance*, the well-known financial paper of Calcutta, to which Sir George Schuster himself has paid warm tributes in this House and to which even His Excellency the Viceroy was obliged to pay tribute in one of his addresses to this Assembly, has hinted that the report contains expositions of the uses and abuses of the managing agency system of the protected industries of this country and it is so unpalatable to the Bombay millowners that Government, who are always soft and tender to them, are very reluctant to publish it. (*An Honourable Member* : " Are you connected with the *Indian Finance* ? ") I am not. But I shall certainly be proud to be connected. Therefore, we should like to know from the Commerce Member whether it is these considerations that are delaying it or whether it is considerations of these delicate negotiations that are responsible for this delay.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I fully appreciate the reasons given by the Honourable the Commerce Member for not making or not suggesting any changes in the tariff as regards the cotton textile industry. But, Sir, I am not satisfied that the impending negotiations between Japan and India should come in the way of the Honourable Member giving a little more information to this House on this question. Several Honourable Members have asked why the Report of the Tariff Board has not been published, and I repeat the same question. Mr. President, the Report of the Tariff Board is or at least is supposed to be a scientific investigation into the condition of the textile industry, and I do not know how the publication of such a scientific document should hamper the negotiations that are to take place very soon. But even if the Report of the Tariff Board is not published, I think it is due to this House that the Honourable Member should give some more information before the House is asked to pass such a measure. When the Anti-Dumping legislation was discussed at the Delhi Session, I had expressed my view that this protection to be given to our industries against

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dumping by means of tariffs is a kind of war, and it is the last thing to which we should resort. At the Delhi Session, I, therefore, suggested that before we resorted to this method of war, we should try, if possible, the method of Conference. I am glad that the Government of India have, even though it may be on the suggestion of the Japanese Government, agreed to this Conference method.....

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : May I say that I endeavoured to make it clear in my opening remarks that it was the Government of India who took the initiative in this matter and invited the Japanese Government through His Majesty's Government in London to enter into negotiations ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I am very glad to be corrected on this point. It would have been a matter of great regret to me if my Government had not taken the initiative in this matter. I am glad that there is to be a Conference : I was also glad to learn from the Honourable the Commerce Member that although the Conference will be one between the representatives of the two Governments, the Government of India propose to be in close touch with the representatives of various interests concerned in this matter.....

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative) : Have the Government made an announcement like that ?

Mr. N. M. Joshi : That is what I understood from the speech of the Honourable Member and I also understood that it was decided to associate in this work in an advisory capacity a representative of the agricultural industry. May I ask the Honourable Member whether similarly he proposes to associate in this matter a representative of the Indian textile labour during the negotiations in an advisory capacity ? I have seen in the newspapers a list of the Japanese delegation and their advisers. It is true I have not seen in that list any representative of Japanese labour ; but may I suggest to the Government of India that in this matter, as in the matter of taking the initiative for this Conference, they should set an example to the Japanese Government ? May I suggest to them that they should keep in mind the example of their masters, the British Government ? You know, Sir, when you were at Ottawa at that Conference, the British delegation included among others two representatives of the British Trade Union Congress. It is true, at that time the Government of India failed in their duty in not associating a representative of Indian labour at that Conference. May I suggest to the Government of India that they should correct that mistake, and in this Conference at least they should associate in an advisory capacity a representative of Indian textile labour ?

Last time when I spoke on the Cotton Textile Bill at the Delhi Session, I had suggested that whenever a question of competition between Japan and India was discussed the labour conditions in Japan were always brought in : my friend, Mr. Mody, several times stated that wages in Japan were much lower than the wages in India ; and in various other ways this question was brought up. This is one special reason why a representative of Indian labour should be associated in this work.

Then I had also suggested that the Government of India should give up their attitude of obstruction to the proposal made by the International Labour Conference for an Asiatic Labour Conference. This question of removing the unfair competition between Japan, India and other countries involves the question of labour conditions, and, therefore, if this difficulty is to be removed, it is necessary that labour conditions in those countries should be freely and frankly discussed. It is for that reason that the International Labour Conference passed a resolution that there should be an Asiatic Labour Conference; and unfortunately, in spite of the efforts of the International Labour Conference at Geneva, the Governments concerned were opposed to this method of Conference. Somehow all these Governments, who profess to believe in constitutional methods, do not believe in the methods of Conference. These Conferences have to be forced upon them. They believe in the other methods—I am not going to name those other methods; but if you tell these Governments that, these difficulties are likely to be solved by the method of Conference, they somehow are not very willing. May I suggest to the Government of India that they should give up this obstructive attitude of theirs, and take the initiative in calling an Asiatic Labour Conference to discuss conditions in the various countries in this vast continent, so that at least a part of the unfair competition may be removed? The Government of India have introduced this Bill and previous other Bills of which this is a continuation, for the protection of the cotton textile industry; and some of my friends have already referred to the fact that, when you are trying to protect the cotton textile industry, you must protect all the interests involved in this industry. It is not only the interests of the capitalists who have invested money and who manage the cotton textile factories in this country whose interests need protection. Various other interests require to be protected; my friend, Mr. Raju, and my friend, Mr. Das, referred to the interests of the hand loom weavers in the country. Personally I do not think that the hand loom industry can be saved ultimately; but, at the same time, I shall not agree to any proposal by which there will be a great disturbance in the life of the hand loom weavers in this country....

Mr. B. Das : It has already happened.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Among the various other interests are the interests of those of the agriculturists: and then the people who run the mill stores industry; they all must be protected. But, above all, the interests of the workers who are engaged in the industry must be protected. After all, the number of people who hold share in the cotton textile industry is much less than the number of people who are working in this industry. I, therefore, think that when Government are trying to protect the interests of the cotton textile industry, the first consideration must be given to the interests of the workers engaged in this industry. I know that whenever we talk of protecting the interests of the workers, I am always told that if you protect the interests of the capitalists, the interests of the workers are protected, because if the capitalists make profits, they will not at least close down the factories, and the workers will get some employment, and they may not think of reducing wages. But it is not correct to be told that when you protect the interests of the capitalists, the workers' interests will be protected. At least that

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is not my experience. It is not the experience of any one that the capitalists in this country have given better conditions to their workers of their own accord. Every time to secure better conditions, every time to prevent the conditions being worsened, the workers have to put up a fight. Therefore, by merely protecting the interests of the capitalists, the interests of the workers are not likely to be protected at all. Government will have to take measures to see that the interests of the workers are protected. Unless that is done, the Government will be only protecting the interests of a handful of capitalists engaged in these industries.

My friend, Mr. B. Das, suggested that the consideration of this measure may be postponed till something is done. I am not going to support that motion, but, at the same time, let me say very frankly that I have some sympathy for that view. Take, for instance, the question of hours of work in factories. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour, the other day, announced that he was going to introduce the Indian Factories (Amendment) Bill. I am hoping that that Amending Bill will include a provision for reducing the hours of work. If the Government have got real sympathy for labour and want to protect the interests of labour effectively, they would have inserted a provision for the reduction of hours of work in this Bill before protecting the textile industry, or they should have brought in the Factories Amending Bill first, got it passed, and then passed the continuation of this protective measure. I have heard it said that capitalists in this country are going to oppose the reduction of hours of work which the Indian Factories (Amendment) Bill may propose. Now, Sir, if this provision for reducing the hours of work had been included in this Bill, I am absolutely certain that there would have been no opposition to reduction of hours of work at all, but unfortunately the Government did not choose such a very effective method. They first want to pass the protective measure in the interests of the capitalists and then, if the Assembly has time, they want to introduce and pass the Factories (Amendment) Bill. In this connection, I would like the House to remember that the conditions of labour in the textile industry are being worsened day by day, not only in Bombay, but in almost every textile centre in this country : In spite of the protection, wages are being reduced, and conditions in other respects also are being worsened. In Bombay, for instance, the weavers are asked to manage more looms without being given sufficient compensation by way of sufficiently increased wages. This cannot be allowed if the interests of all the sections, which are concerned in the cotton textile industry, are to be protected. It is wrong for the Government to bring forward a measure protecting only the interests of one section. Government may say that you cannot protect the interests of all the sections simultaneously. In this connection I should like to draw the attention of the Government of India to what President Roosevelt is doing in the United States of America. President Roosevelt, in order that the industries of the country should recover their prosperity, has passed an Industrial Recovery Act, and what does that Act contain ? Among other things which that Act proposes, it insists that there shall be a minimum wage for all industries ; it further insists that there shall be reasonable hours

of work in all industries. Now, why should not the Government of India act similarly? We want our industries to be protected. I am the last person to suggest that they should not be protected, but President Roosevelt has shown the right method of protecting the industries.

The National Industrial Recovery Act of the United States of America provides for the supervision and regulation of industries by fixing minimum wages and maximum hours and other standards. This is what President Roosevelt is doing as regards the general industries in the country. Let us see what he is doing for the cotton industry in the United Kingdom. I am reading from the *Industrial and Labour Information* for 30th July, 1933 :

“ *Effects of the Code for the workers.*—On and after the effective date, the minimum wage that shall be paid to employees in the cotton textile industry, except learners during a six weeks’ apprenticeship, cleaners and outside employees, shall be at the rate of 12 dollars a week in the South and 13 dollars in the North. The maximum hours of work are fixed at 40 in the week. As compared with present conditions, this represents an average increase in wages of 30 per cent. and a reduction in hours of work of more than 25 per cent.”

While the millowners in India are reducing wages, President Roosevelt is insisting that wages in the United States of America shall be raised by 25 per cent. This is what the Government of India should do if they really want to protect all the interests involved in the cotton textile industry. Several times people come forward and say things about the Japanese labour conditions, but I just found quite by accident this little book “ *Industrial and Labour Information* ”, dated 14th August, 1933, and this is what it says :

“ A conference of the Chiefs of the Health Insurance Sections of Prefectures throughout Japan met in Tokyo on 31st May, 1933, to discuss questions concerning the administration of health insurance. On this occasion, the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs stressed the need for stabilising social life by removing the uncertainty of livelihood of the workers, and stated that the most effective means of attaining this end was, in his opinion, the development of social insurance, in particular by the enlargement of the functions of the present health insurance system and the extension of the scope of social insurance to cover various risks other than those specified by the existing legislation.”

Now, in these times which are really very bad, the Japanese Government are progressing in the matter of health insurance. In India we have not yet got any kind of health insurance Act, much less are we making any progress in a matter of this kind. I would, therefore, like the Government of India to study what the United States of America are doing and copy their example. Let them follow the policy of improving the labour conditions in this country, and it is by so doing and by generally improving the standards of life of the people of this country that there can be a recovery of the industries in this country, and by no other method.

Before I sit down, I should like to ask the Government of India one question. That question I had asked at the Delhi Session, and it was this. A few years ago, at the invitation of the Government of India, Sir, Sir Arthur Salter came out to India and recommended to the Government of India the establishment of an Economic Council. In order that economic questions in this country should be properly discussed, Sir Arthur Salter recommended that there should be an Economic Council. This question of protection is a question which is best suited to be discussed by an Economic Council if it had existed. I should like the

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Government of India to tell me and to tell this House what has become of that proposal. The Government of India have spent some money over the travelling expenses of Sir Arthur Salter and, up to this time, nothing has been done in giving effect to his recommendations.

Mr. B. Das : You are asking the Finance Member to make a speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : I am not asking any one of the Members of the Government of India. I take the Government of India as a unitary Government and I do not mind who gives the reply, but I want a reply to this question. The Government of India spent money in bringing out to this country a distinguished economist. He had made recommendations and nothing has been done to give effect to his recommendations.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : May I correct my Honourable friend ? This Government spent not a pie of Indian money in bringing out the economist referred to by him.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Well, Sir, that does not absolve the Government of India from their duty to give effect to the recommendations of this distinguished gentleman. I feel that, in these times of economic depression, the Government of India should have with them a body of people who can discuss these economic questions from the point of view of the country, from the point of view of the different interests involved, and a recommendation, a very suitable recommendation made by a distinguished gentleman of experience should have been given effect to much earlier. The Government of India may plead that there is no money, but, Mr. President, if you want that the industries in this country should recover, if you want our economic conditions to be improved, you have to spend some money to devise an organisation by which the recovery may be facilitated. Sir, I have done.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, although I do not oppose the motion which is now before the House, I must confess I am not very enthusiastic about it.

This Bill seeks to continue the protective duties on Indian textile industries which were imposed by virtue of the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act of 1930. I am quite at one with those who advocate the imposition of discriminating protective duties for the benefit of our national industries ; but there are other factors which come into consideration in regard to this question. I should like, with your permission, very briefly to refer to some of the factors which have to be taken into account in this connection.

I join with my other Honourable friends in deploring that the Report of the Tariff Board has not been published, and we are in the dark as to the recommendations of that Board. I think, Sir, that Government would have been well advised to publish in advance the report of the Tariff Board dealing with this question. The excuse set forth by the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill that it will probably be inadvisable in view of the coming Indo- . . .

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Excuse me. I never gave that excuse at all.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I am glad to be assured on this point, but that makes the action of the Government still more inexplicable. I should

have thought that if Government's plea had been that, in view of the coming Indo-Japanese negotiations, it would not be advisable to publish the Report of the Tariff Board, one could have understood it, although one could not approve of that argument. But when my Honourable friend says that that has nothing to do with the non-publication of the Report, I say that their action is not quite proper in withholding the Report from this House before asking us to agree to a continuation of this protective tariff.

I should here refer to the condition of another industry in this country which is a very important industry—the hand loom industry of this country. The cotton textile industry has been looming large in this House whenever the question of protection of Indian industries has come up for discussion, but the question of giving proper facilities for the development of the hand loom industry has not been appreciated at its full value. The “khaddar” industry, for instance, is a very important cottage industry and it is necessary that representatives of the hand loom industry should also have a voice in the coming negotiations or before any decision is arrived at. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, whom I congratulate on his having put in his appearance just in the nick of time this morning, has been advocating, and not unnaturally, the claims of his industry to State protection. I am quite willing to grant him whatever legitimate protection his industry may need. But I should like to ask him what is his attitude with regard to the hand loom industry in this country. As I said before, the “khaddar” industry is an important hand loom industry, and what is his attitude or the attitude of the Bombay Millowners' Association with regard to giving legitimate protection to this “khaddar” industry? I quote just one little sentence from the opinion of the Bombay Government with regard to the “khaddar” Bill of which I have the honour to be the author. The Government of Bombay say :

“The majority of the commercial associations who were consulted support the Bill, while the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Bombay Millowners' Association are not in favour of it.”

Some Honourable Members : Oh !

An Honourable Member : The cat is out of the bag.

Another Honourable Member : The bag is out of the cat !

An Honourable Member : Is it true, Mr. Mody ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : It was with the object of protecting the “khaddar” industry from dishonest competitors that I brought forward my Bill, and I regret that the Bombay Millowners' Association, of which, I understand, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, is the President, should have thought it proper to oppose a beneficent measure of that kind. By opposing—of course, I am not dilating upon that point, it might come later on,—but by opposing that measure the Bombay Millowners' Association have come out in their true colours, and have exhibited themselves not as the true patriots which they always claimed to be.

Another point which I might legitimately ask in this connection is, why is it that the Indian cotton mill industry is not in a position to compete successfully with foreign goods which are imported either from Japan or from Manchester or from any other country. Why is it that the cotton mill industry of this country constantly stands in need of protection, and that their representatives always come out with a begging bowl before

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

this House at periodical intervals for alms ? In my speech in Delhi when this question was before the House, I expressed the hope that it was not true that our cotton mill industry was not sufficiently efficient to compete on equal terms with foreign manufacturers. Instead of coming to this House for protection in season and out of season, the representatives of our mill industry ought to send a deputation to Japan, Manchester or other countries and try to learn to improve their methods of production and imbibe the art of bringing out their products in a cheap and efficient manner.

An Honourable Member : The President had been to Manchester.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : My Honourable friend behind me reminds me that the President of the Bombay Millowners' Association had been to Manchester. I fear that this arrangement between Japan, Manchester and the Millowners' Association might not result in anything which is detrimental either to the hand loom industry of this country, or to the consumers interest being kept in view. I have just referred to the interest of the consumers which is an important point not to be lost sight of. I need hardly say that the products of this country ought to be given preference over every other imported goods, even at a sacrifice ; but, in matters, where India is not capable of producing a particular kind of goods, Indian consumers must be permitted to buy in the cheapest market irrespective of the fact whether the product comes from the British Empire or from any country outside it. That is a point which ought not to be overlooked. I recognise that the point I am advocating is somewhat at variance with the Ottawa Agreement betrayal. I would not call it betrayal, but my fear is that during the coming Conference the interest of India may not be sacrificed between the interests of Japan and Manchester and the mill-owners of this country. The other point of view which we must not lose sight of is the agriculturists' point of view, and the cotton growers point of view. When we passed the Bill in the last Delhi Session, we little thought that Japan would take any retaliatory action against our country. Forebodings of such retaliatory action were, no doubt, numerous, but some of us did not take them very seriously. The result is that on the passage of the Bill in Delhi, Japan has proclaimed a boycott of Indian cotton, and whatever my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, might say, and, I quite admit, that he has got more authoritative sources of information than I can possibly command, my information is that it is not as ineffective as it is attempted to be shown to us. Then, Sir, with regard to the part which the cotton textile industry has played with regard to hand loom, and the steps that may be taken in that connection in giving protection to the cotton textile industry, the Government of Madras sent a communication to the Tariff Board last year, and in that communication the Madras Government refer to the " preferential position " of the Indian mills, and they go on to say :

" The centre of mill competition lies outside the presidency, but it is not open to the Madras Government as it would be to an independent State to counter that competition by tariff on mill products. Yet unless some restriction is placed on the power of the mills to raise yarn prices against the hand loom weavers within the wide margins allowed by the existing tariff or unless some agreement can be entered into with regard to the respective spheres of the hand looms and the mills it is exceedingly doubtful whether any internal reform of the hand loom industry can succeed even in arresting its gradual decay."

I would commend this paragraph to the consideration of the Government. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has already referred to the interest of the workmen, and I need not repeat what he has said on the point. In conclusion, I may be permitted to express the hope that in the coming Conference, all the interests will have an ample say in the matter, and the views of the Millowners' Association alone will not carry the day. With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Mr. President, there has been cotton textile spinning all this morning and our spinning is not finished yet. It has been repeatedly asked by various speakers on this side of the House why the Tariff Board's Report has not been published. I leave that aspect of the question for the present. What I understood from the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the House is this. His Excellency, in the course of his inaugural address, declared quite candidly and clearly that Government were not going to take part. Still my friend admits that the officials of Japan will confer with the officials of the Government of India. At the same time, it was said that Government would accept any proposal which will be beneficial to Indian interests.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I never said that. My Honourable friend, if he would only listen to what I say, would, I am sure, take up less of the time of the House.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Did not the Honourable the Leader of the House say that the officials of the Government of India were meeting the officials of the Government of Japan and that, at the same time, did he not say afterwards that Government were not going to take part in it ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : If my Honourable friend will confine himself to a single question at a single time, I shall be able to give a categorical reply which will not be misunderstood.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : My first question is, are Government taking part in any discussions with the officials of Japan ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Yes.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Then how is it that His Excellency in his speech said that the Government of India were not taking part in it ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I will not take up the time of the House by explaining to my Honourable friend the meaning of that speech, but I would advise him to read, mark and study it when he gets outside this House. He will then appreciate what is contained in it.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Reading between the lines of that speech. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : It is understood that there has been a considerable misunderstanding in the House as to the exact position. In order that the House may intelligently vote when the time comes for voting, it is the duty of the Chair to explain the position. There is an official Conference between the Government of India and the Government of Japan with a view to negotiating a fresh Trade Agreement if possible. At the same time, there is an unofficial Conference going to take place between the industrialists of Japan, India and Manchester. The Government of India will not take part in this unofficial Conference between the industrialists ; but since the Conference of the industrialists is a Conference of important interests, naturally the

[Mr. President.]

Government of India will attach considerable importance if this unofficial Conference succeeds in arriving at a unanimous conclusion. That is exactly the position. The Chair hopes the House understands how the matter stands. (Applause.)

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Thank you, Sir, for explaining the matter and clearing the position. I shall now be guided by your statement in the remarks that I am about to make. Unfortunately, we understood the position in quite a different way. However, the facts are there. Now, my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, in his illuminating speech, said this morning that what was done in the Ottawa Pact should not be repeated in the present case. In the case of the Ottawa Pact, action was taken without consulting the experts of this country. You, Sir, can easily realise the significance of this statement, because when you made your remarks particularly on Ottawa, you said that you were absolutely in the dark until the time when you reached the shores of Canada. That point has been very aptly dealt with by my friend, Mr. Raju. In negotiating the commercial, industrial and economic interest of India with Japan, let not our executive come to a final decision without consulting our countrymen however experts our officials may be. The interests of the hand loom industry which consists of about ten million people should not be hampered in any way. I was glad to be assured by the Leader of the House that the agricultural interests will not be ignored, but why not extend a similar protection to the hand loom weavers. It has been apparent from the speech of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh that the Bombay millowners took a very serious objection to the introduction of any measure which would protect the hand loom industry. It has been definitely stated that they are in opposition to this policy. Now, in this connection let me give a few facts to my friends, the Bombay millowners. How long are the Government going to feed these mills by a policy of protection and by raising high tariff against the importation of cotton and other goods. We have got to seriously consider the fact that the administration of these mills is top heavy like that of the Government of India. The officers are very highly paid and, therefore, naturally the cost of production comes up higher. Then, with regard to machinery. Is it not proper that some experts should be sent to different countries to find out the ways and means of devising cheaper production so that the articles may be able to face the world market? These points should be seriously considered.

Then, there is another serious thing. I should like to hear from the Leader of the House what he has got to say to the remark of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh that the Government did not publish the Report on the ground that the Japanese were coming to negotiate with India. What could be other grounds? The members of the Tariff Board are getting very big salaries. How is it that the Tariff Board did not take sufficient interest in this matter, but published the report before the introduction of this Bill in this House? I cannot believe that the Report is not yet completed. Sir, I may tell this House with confidence that it is the policy of the Government not to publish the Report. Of course, if the Report was not published because the delegates of Japan were coming to this country, we could have understood it, but the Leader of the House objected to that reason. He said, no, that was not the reason for not publishing the Report. To me the reason seems to be obvious,

namely, to deprive the House of the opportunity to read the Report. I say with all sincerity that Government should give a satisfactory explanation for the non-publication of the Report. I am afraid the House is not at all satisfied by the observations that have so far been made by the Leader of the House in that behalf. It is a very serious charge against the Leader of the House and I hope that he will try to make the situation clear in his reply as to why the Report was not published before the introduction of this Bill.

Then, Sir, my advice to the Bombay millowners is this. In the first place, they must reduce their top heavy administration. Secondly, India is known to be an agricultural country. When rice grows here, why should not the mills consume the starch made in this country instead of getting from abroad. Then, with regard to machinery, I would like to say, why should they not adopt the policy of using Indian products as far as practicable. Take, for instance, "belt"—why should they not use the Indian belt? If they do so, they will reduce the cost of production. Sir, they are getting the protection without giving any relief to the consumers, whose interests are very much neglected. The only people whose interests are properly safeguarded are the capitalists. It was rightly pointed out by Mr. Joshi that the interests of labour have been absolutely neglected by the Bombay mills especially when they are making so much money. (*An Honourable Member* : "Ask them to take to Zamindari.") Yes, I shall be glad if they were to do so. You will not find top heavy administration there.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt : Am I to understand that Sir Cowasji Jehangir does not look to the interests of the country as much as Mr. Joshi does? Is that the insinuation?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Then, Sir, in conclusion I would like to say that it is up to the Leader of the House, because of his dignified position, that he should make a candid statement as to the non-publication of the Report of the Tariff Board before the introduction of this Bill in this House. The second charge against him is, why Lancashire has been brought in in the settlement of the question between India and Japan? That is a thing which this side of the House cannot understand.

However strong the arguments and however cogent the points described by the Honourable the Leader of the House may be, he cannot convince us how the interest of commerce, industry and agriculture can be decided by Japan or Lancashire. It is the representatives of India who can fully understand the interests of India and all commercial interests.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

AERIAL BOMBARDMENT ON KOTKAI IN THE TRANS-FRONTIER.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I beg to move for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the unsatisfactory reply given by the Government to the Short Notice Question put on the last working day with regard to the aerial bombing at Kotkai.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair which was occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury).]

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

My object in moving this motion for adjournment is to demonstrate that the Government of India were not justified in taking military action against Kotkai much less in the bombardment of Kotkai. There are a few facts which deserve mention at the very beginning. The whole operation began by one simple incident. It was this. The Government of India received information that certain ill-disposed persons had arrived in Bajaur who were likely to prove disturbers of peace, not only within our frontier, but also a source of grave embarrassment to our neighbours across the border. This is all that has been said. The arrival of ill-disposed persons in the territory of Bajaur has created all this trouble. I am no doubt not in a position, as my Honourable friends on the other side are, to state authoritatively who these men were, what their antecedents were, what offence they had committed, and for what reason they were described to be ill-disposed persons. An authoritative statement of that nature has been made in these simple words and I understand that they mean simple things. It was the arrival only of these ill-disposed persons that seems to have enraged the Government of India. We are not told as to what they had done before they arrived here or what they were going to do after they had entered that territory. Had there been in this Assembly an elected Member representing the frontier, he would have been able to give us the other side of the picture so that we could judge for ourselves whether the arrival of the ill-disposed persons in the territory of Bajaur was sufficient to enrage the Government of India to such a high pitch. It is obviously incomprehensible to a mortal like myself that this incident would acquire such a great importance in the mind of the Government of India at a time when we were passing through very delicate times both in India as well as outside. I feel that the temper of the Government of India has been ruffled and it is very difficult for any part of India to feel safe. If the administration of the country is carried on in this manner, we feel we will have to suffer very serious consequences. We have got to glean facts from the official statements that have been made from time to time. We find in one communiqué issued by the Government of India that they believed, sometime about the 31st July, that the pretenders had moved to a village, a few miles from Kotkai and they were no longer in Kotkai. That was the statement made on the 31st July. But the operation of bombing which had been decided upon by the Government of India took place on Kotkai on the 1st of August and again on the 3rd and 4th August. To me it appears that a Government with such powerful resources at their back should not have resorted to such serious operation as they had undertaken. They have seen the consequences of it in the country. The country is ablaze, the country finds that the Government are using their powers in such a way that an extreme sort of protest is necessary against what they are doing. Had there been any aggression on the part of the people of Bajaur, there might have been some justification for Government to take such extreme measures, but as the House knows we have been clearly told that these people had not transgressed any part of India or done anything which might be called aggression. They had, of course, harboured those men who came to them for refuge, but they made it plain to the Government of India when enquiries were made from them that they could not surrender those people, because they were their guests. This candid statement on the part of the Bajaur people was quite enough for any one to understand their position. It was quite enough for the Government of

India to realise that the Khan of Bajaur had certain good excuse for not surrendering these people to the Government of India. In spite of the fact that they were insisting on their code of honour and hospitality which they had been observing from time immemorial, the Government of India thought fit to take military action against them. I feel there was no justification whatsoever for taking such extreme action against them. Now I come to my second point, the bombardment of Kotkai. On that question I pondered within myself and I asked myself whether these Bajauris were considered by the Government of India to be British subjects or foreigners. I would like to know definitely from the Honourable Member in charge whether they consider these Bajauris to be British subjects or aliens. May I have a reply, so that I may proceed further ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary) : Bajaur is a part of India, that is the only answer I can give.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Then the Government are not clear in their own mind as to whether these people are British subjects or not. However, they say they are part of India, but their status has got to be settled yet. If they are part of India, then I should think they are entitled to all the rights which we Indians enjoy. I wonder whether the same fate would attend an Indian in his own town on such trifling matters. I do feel it is trifling. To me it does not appeal as a very serious thing and I begin to think that if this state of things continues, we will have no safety anywhere in any part of India. The Government will have to revise their policy as to the action to be taken on such occasions. Specially, when the British Government themselves had espoused the cause of anti-bombing at the Disarmament Conference, the Government of India ought to have thought many a time before taking any action of that kind. I know that the proposal had not been passed by the Disarmament Conference, but the Government had to show their intentions before the world's representatives who were gathered at the Disarmament Conference. It was not an urgent matter in which the British Empire was being raided that extreme measures of that kind should have been adopted. I find that the British delegation was most forward in putting forward their own proposals as regards the total abolition of bombing. It is suggested that bombing should be allowed for police purposes. I have tried to find out from the reports whether.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The Honourable Member has got two minutes more.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : it was so, but I do not find it mentioned in that way. Rather, in March, when the thing was taken up, it was said that the permanent Disarmament Commission was going to draw up a scheme for the complete abolition of naval and military aircraft conditioned upon the effective supervision of civil aviation in order to prevent its misuse for military purposes. Even conceding the argument advanced by the Army Secretary that for police purposes it was necessary on the borders, I submit that the action taken was not a police action. Police parties would only keep watch. If the air machines had gone out for reconnoitring, they would have come back to say that there was no *lashkar* accumulating and that there was no invasion to be made of India and things like that. The police party would have done nothing more than that. Police purposes would not mean bombardment of a whole village though there might be 20 houses and 130 persons. That does not

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

mean levelling down to the ground the houses of so many people and putting these people in terrible consternation. I submit, Sir, that this is another outrage which has been committed against the population of India. One was when General Dyer....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The Honourable Member's time is up.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : shot so many people at Jallianwalla Bagh. This is the second one.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The Honourable Member must formally move that the House do now adjourn.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I formally move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question is that the House do now adjourn.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan (East Central Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, I want to put on record my emphatic protest against the aerial bombardment of Kotkai, a village in the trans-frontier. What are the causes for such drastic action, I need not explain at length. What I have gathered from the *Statesman* and the Army Secretary is that as the demand of the Indian Government for the surrender of the Pretender and his associates was not complied with, the village was bombarded. Government are well aware, as they write in a communiqué, that "the attitude of the tribe, in not handing over these refugees, is based on the Pathan custom which enjoins them to safeguard a guest who has sought their protection". This is exactly what the Indian Government themselves have done in the past in the case of Afghan refugees and will do again if an opportunity arises. Instead of appreciating the noble sentiments of the frontier Pathans, the Government was cruel to punish them. As a matter of fact, these are only pretences for a forward policy and lust for acquiring new territories. It is under cover of this policy that the British Indian troops are assisting the sappers and miners in the completion of the new military roads.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Sir, on a point of order. The question which I answered the other day and the unsatisfactory nature of my reply to which is the subject of this motion was concerned with air bombing. I should like to know whether the Honourable Member is in order in referring to matters of policy which are not concerned with air bombing.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The Honourable Member is perfectly in order. What he is saying is that the Kotkai bombing is only an incident in the forward policy of Government.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : The lessons of the last Afghan wars must not be forgotten. The Government had to spend crores of rupees and sacrifice thousands of men, and Afghanistan had to undergo horrors of war only to propitiate the whim of Government.

Sir, coming to the main question, Kotkai was bombed twice by a large number of aeroplanes and 90 bombs were thrown. The Army Secretary in his statement said that, so far as was ascertained, only 20 houses were

destroyed and one man wounded. This information has not been supplied to him by R. A. F. officers, but by men who came from Kotkai and most probably were spies of Government on whose words reliance cannot be placed. Unfortunately the trans-frontier people have got no press and cannot do any propaganda, so we do not know their version. What I have heard from people is that there have been enormous losses of life and property. I have gathered from the speech of the Army Secretary that the Government approve of the aerial bombing of villages and towns against which we Indians emphatically protest. We do not believe there should be an aerial bombardment of towns and cities at all, but, humanitarians as we are, we join with other nations who have got the same creed in most emphatically protesting against aerial bombardments. During the Great War, London was bombed by German aeroplanes and a hue and cry arose, there was wailing and consternation and a wave of anger against German barbarities. We were told that the Germans were a brutal nation who did not spare cities and passenger boats, and the main cause of Americans joining the Great War was the torpedoing of the passenger boats. Now, air bombing of cities and towns is as inhumanitarian an Act as torpedoing passenger boats. The Army Secretary, in reply to a supplementary question of mine, said that great progress had been made in the accuracy of aerial bombing and that it was a great deal more accurate than the artillery. 90 powerful bombs were dropped and only 20 houses were destroyed or damaged in Kotkai. These houses in this small village of Kotkai are made of mud, and it does not speak much for the accuracy of aerial bombing. The danger is and will always be that bombs will stray and cause immense damage. In ancient times, conquerors used to burn and raze cities to the ground and sow them with salt in order to make them unfit for human habitation ; but much worse can be done by aerial bombardment. At the Disarmament Conference, the British Government put forward a proposal that aerial bombing should be abolished subject to aerial policing of the outlying posts of the empire ; and it was supported by their henchmen, the Indian delegation. How can the British Government be successful in their mission when they would like to reserve for themselves the power of bombing in outlying posts in their own case, but not for others ? The result is bound to be that this Disarmament Conference would end in failure and blame will be thrown on the Indian Government. What we want to emphasise is that the Indian Government do not represent the Indian nation and that the Indian opinion is emphatically against aerial bombing, as there is always great danger to life and property ; and, at a time of war, when blood is heated in order to retaliate, caution will always be thrown to the winds and the civil population, including women and children, will be murdered in cold blood and cities destroyed ; the destruction will be complete and the annihilation will be spread even miles away and villages will become unfit for human habitation or cultivation. I consider aerial bombing of villages and towns to be an uncivilised method of warfare. England is showing a keen desire for disarmament. Should we understand that it is only hypocrisy and that England will not practice what she is preaching ? An argument may be advanced that it is a cheaper method of keeping order, but it is inherently an unjust method of punishment.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, having full regard for the sentiments of Honourable Members who have

[Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan.]

just spoken and their sympathy for the people of the Frontier Province, I wish to clear some of their doubts and suspicions and to tell them a few facts.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal : Landholders) : As a spokesman of the Government ?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : I must tell them that our Frontier Government never likes or wants to send a force against the tribes until their crimes have gathered so much in volume that the Government are reluctantly compelled to send an expeditionary force against them for the sake of the safety of the people in the settled districts or of the border people or tribes who are very friendly with us and whom, according to treaties or agreements, the Government are bound to protect against the aggression of other tribes. Sir, I know far better than any other man here who is not a resident of that part of the country, that the Government have always to take such action against the tribes when it is only by way of retaliation that they send their forces. Every Honourable Member in this House will agree with me when I say that if an aggression is made on the civil population of the British territory by the semi-independent tribes, the Government can take no other course. Are they to sit silently and wait till all our people in this settled districts or the friendly tribes are destroyed ? If Honourable Members will see the old records of the old Legislature, when Dera Ismail Khan was raided and looted by Mahsuds and there were 100 raids in one or two months in Southern Waziristan and the poor Hindus went to the Chief Commissioner and petitioned him—it was Sir John Maffey at the time—who wrote to the Deputy Commissioner and enquired of him as to why His Majesty's troops were stationed in five cantonments of the five districts if they could not protect the British subjects. Every rich Hindu was looted by those tribesmen then, and, if you see the old records, there was a hue and cry, and telegrams were sent to the Chief Commissioner. The Government have two means of punishing these tribes or to stop them : either to send a force by land or by air. I leave it to the choice of Honourable Members as to what should be done. I say, it is much less mischievous, much less harmful and less expensive to send aeroplanes than to send a force by land. By land there are far more casualties on both sides. The people of the frontier say that if forces are sent by land, there is far more loss and expense. If the tax-payers are going to be asked for more money, the Assembly here says that the military expenditure should be cut and these expeditions should not be made against these people. Aerial bombardment is less inhuman, less harmful for us, the people of the North-West Frontier Province. Take the figures of the loss by land and by aerial bombardment, and it will convince you quite clearly that the latter is attended with less loss of life and is less expensive. What more satisfaction you want ? The chief advantage of aerial bombardment is this, that there can be no possibility or chance of the collection of *lashkars* on the other side. If we take a force by land, the hills between us and the frontier tribes are so numerous and the ravines are so deep that if a big crowd of people or *lashkar* is gathered on the other side, we cannot see or know it. Even if we know it, we have not the means to disperse them, but if we adopt aerial bombing, the Frontier people, who are now used to these things for the last eight or ten years, know what effect it

will produce on the people, and so they will not collect any *lashkars* in any big post or place, because they can collect them at night ; but if they collect them during day time, they know well that there will be bombardment, and so they never try to collect such a big *lashkar* at all. In other words, instead of having a long, expensive expedition causing loss of life to troops and also to the tribes, we feel that aerial bombing is the best. This is the easiest, the best and the most economical way of warning criminals or giving a proper lesson to them. Of course, there is one class of people who will be affected if bombing operations are substituted for land forces, I mean the contractor class in Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and Dera-Ismail-Khan. When there was no aerial bombardment, and the Government sent forces by land, many contractors were largely benefited, because they had to supply *atta* (wheat flour), *dal*, grams, *chawal* (rice), *ghee* (butter) and so many other things to Government. That class of people is losing now, because Government have adopted the aerial bombing, with the result that the services of these contractors are not required for supply of these provisions, etc. I can tell my Honourable friends that there are not one, two, three, four or five, but there are more than a dozen people, whose father's name is not known, in Kohat, in Bannu, in Dera-Ismail-Khan and in several other places, but now they are all millionaires. How did they become so ? By taking up contracts during the Great War. One man in my own district, who is a great friend of mine, is running an Electric Power House now and is worth several lakhs.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member relevant in stating all these things in connection with aerial bombing ?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : Yes. Please wait for a minute patiently. There was something said by Mr. Sadiq Hasan, and I am going to tell him what class of people specially are objecting to aerial bombing.

An Honourable Member : But he is not a contractor.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : Never mind ; he might not be one, but I want to tell my friends that, on account of these contracts during the Great War, a lot of people have become millionaires, and it is this class of people, who would have secured further contracts if the forces had been sent by land, and, therefore, they object to aerial operations and cause this agitation and propaganda. Let us consider what was the casualty on both sides when we sent the forces by land, and what is the casualty when we use aeroplanes. Let us also see what was the expenditure then and what is the expense now ?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Does that Electric Power House exist now ?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : I do not know what my friend is asking me.

Several Honourable Members : Please go on, go on ; it is very interesting.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : If you want to know the history of the present complaint, I would ask Honourable Members to go through carefully what His Excellency the Viceroy said the other day in

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his address to both Houses of the Legislature, and it is quite enough to show that, in resorting to bombing operation, our international obligations, our obligations to Afghanistan, our obligations to the tribes on the frontier have not been violated in any manner whatsoever. The friendly tribes of Halimzai were going to be attacked by Upper Mahmunds, and Halzais asked for our help and protection to save them from the aggressions of the Upper Mahmunds. If we had refused our help merely to please the fancies of a few elected Members here, the result would have been that our friends would have become our enemies, and the number of our enemies would have increased to such an extent that even those who are our friends would have turned against us and they would have joined the opposite camp. Sir, on the Frontier, strength is always worshipped, fear is weakness. We do not like any weak Governor, we do not like any weak Government. ("Hear, hear" from the Nationalist Benches.) If you are strong, you are respected and everybody will help you, but if you are weak, nobody will help you. It is a common saying on the Frontier that a Government cannot last long from whom the friends can have no hope and the enemies have no fear at all.

An Honourable Member. : Are not the Government sufficiently strong there ?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : Sir, I have full sympathy with the people there. They are all Muslims, and I am a Mussalman myself, but I assure all my friends here, who have espoused this cause, that, of the two methods, Government could not have selected a better method than resorting to aerial bombing ; Government cannot have a third alternative to punish criminals on that side if they want to retaliate whenever the need arises. Between land forces and aerial bombing, the latter is undoubtedly more effective, and less expensive, and what is more, the loss of life is very much less. (Applause from the Official Benches.)

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim (Chittagong Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for affording me an opportunity to speak on this question. My esteemed friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, has disturbed the equanimity of this House, perhaps not meaning it. I really do not know what my friend was driving at and what are the issues before the House for its decision. It was rather difficult for me sitting on this extreme end to gather the purposes of my esteemed friend's motion, but from what little we heard at this end, we gathered that he wanted to censure the Government of India for adopting a very extreme measure for driving out a so-called pretender who was not friendly to the Government of Afghanistan. In that connection, Mr. Deputy President, you will probably remember that the Government of India are a party to the Convention of June the 1st, 1922, signed at Paris, I mean the Air Convention, and I am quite certain that they have not gone back from the terms of that Convention, and I think my friend, the Maulvi Saheb's grievance is this. He says : " You pose as a civilized Government here, you are signatory to the Air Convention of Paris and so why should you take these extreme measures ? " Besides that, another burden of my friend, the Maulvi Saheb's charge was this, whether it was not possible for the Government of India to drive away the pretender by other means, by means of diplomatic methods, instead of resorting to aerial bombing ? I should have thought, Sir, that the Government of India, gifted as they are with sufficient

imagination and foresight, and vested with very wide powers in this part of the world, would certainly have adopted other means if they thought they would succeed in their object in driving away that pretender from that bit of land which lies between Afghanistan and India, and thereby restore peace and amity in that part of the country. Now, Sir, my other friends, who followed him, rather digressed from the main purport. It is not a Muslim question at all, as my friend Major Nawab Saheb said. Of course, it would certainly have been far better if it was possible for the Government of India not to take to destroying the hamlets of those poor villagers who lead a very uncomfortable life in that wonderful land. The canons of civilisation do not warrant such a destruction of economic wealth in that fashion. If economy was the question, they should have first tried the easier method of negotiations through diplomatic channel.

The Army Secretary said that that part of the country is a part of India. Very good, indeed. But how is it that it was necessary for the Government of India to invade this part with air bombs? I know as a public man that we have had much bigger troubles, 500 times bigger, in other parts of India and in Burma, yet recourse to this method of air bombing was not taken to. There is certainly a great force in what the Nawab of Dera says, that we ought to have a quiet on the frontier. Yes, I quite agree with him, most certainly, but my idea is that a first class Government like ours should have been able to devise some other better methods of meeting the situation and not to have recourse to this bombing. My Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, said that perhaps this was the result of the forward policy on the frontier. I do not understand what is a forward policy or what other policy the Government have on that side. As a lay citizen of this country, who wishes the ordered progress of this land, I should have thought that a Government, which take so much credit for foresight and precision, would not have taken recourse to this method, because I repeat this, it has perhaps been badly handled and it is very badly interpreted in other parts of India, and I think it would be very fair both for Government as well as the people living away from the frontier to know what was the real state of affairs. If it was such that it was not possible for the Government to have recourse to anything else and this was the only method to drive out that pretender, they are very welcome to say so. But if they try to do proper things and meet the arguments of my friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, in diplomatic language. I am very much afraid that it will not pay. They must explain the situation to the satisfaction of the House and I trust that will raise them in the estimation of the Indian public. With these few words, I commend the motion for the serious considerations of this House.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Sir, when I received notice of these questions about aerial bombing, I could not help comparing myself to the Khan of Kotkai. We both of us knew that we were going to be bombed. But I felt, in the first place, that he had done something to deserve it and that I had not, and in the second place, that he at any rate had full notice of what was coming to him and had ample time to make his arrangements accordingly, whereas I had no warning of the bombardment of supplementary questions which were likely to be my fate. On further reflection, I comforted myself with the thought, as no doubt the Khan did also, that whatever the moral effect might be, the physical damage was not likely to be great, and, in the second place, but in this case unlike the Khan of

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Kotkai, I felt that the Government at any rate had a clear conscience and had no reason to fear the attack. With that encouragement, I did my best to answer the air bombardment that was directed against me last Friday, and I can only regret that the answers that I then gave are considered so unsatisfactory as to make this debate necessary.

At the same time, I have always felt in this matter that the method of answering questions and supplementary questions was not really a satisfactory way, from the Government point of view, of explaining their case. It was for that reason that I made certain initial efforts to get the matter discussed in another way which I honestly thought would be more suitable for all concerned, and I now welcome this opportunity to explain the Government case rather more lucidly I hope, but at any rate more consecutively, than would be possible under the methods of catechism.

When I received the notice of this adjournment motion, and with due gratitude for the 48 hours' warning that was given to me, I set myself to think out a considered statement on the subject, on the assumption, which I think was quite justifiable, that there would be two main lines of attack, firstly, against the bombing of Kotkai in particular, and secondly, against the practice of air bombing in general. I confess that I have again been taken slightly by surprise by the line that this debate has taken, for it seems to me that what is really agitating the minds of Honourable Members opposite is not so much that the Government took a particular form of action in this case, that is to say, air action, but that they took any action at all. The suggestion has been made that our action against these agitators in Bajaur was merely a pretext for some much larger scheme which was aimed at destroying the independence of the tribes, and it seems to me that it is this imagined policy on the part of the Government that is the chief cause of complaint. Sir, I do not know what the grounds for such a suggestion are, nor do I know that I, as Army Secretary, am the right person to deal with it. No question has been asked on this subject, and it did seem to me, and that was why I raised the point of order, that it was rather difficult to justify a motion for the adjournment of the House to discuss the unsatisfactory nature of an answer which had not been given to a question which had not been asked. I cannot proceed now to discuss frontier policy. All I can say is that these tribal areas are part of India, and that it is the responsibility of the Government of India to maintain peace and order in those areas. I hope, however, that what I may have to say later on the subject of this air bombing may go some way to satisfy Honourable Members opposite that their fears in this respect are unwarranted and groundless.

Now, Sir, I think, in the first place, I must deal with the question of the bombing of Kotkai in particular.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : May I interrupt the Honourable Member just for one minute? I see from the speech made by His Excellency the Viceroy that he did go into details here as to why it was necessary to take action at all. Therefore, if the Honourable the Army Secretary would give us some reasons why it was necessary to take action at all, I think it would be very useful.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I am just coming to that. I think, as I was saying, the facts about the bombing of Kotkai are now sufficiently

well known to all Members of this House to make any misunderstanding on the matter quite unjustifiable. I will merely briefly recapitulate them. The Government of India knew that certain dangerous agitators had come to Bajaur territory with the express object of stirring up trouble, which, if it had been allowed to develop, would have had the most serious consequences not only to peace and order on the Frontier, but also to our neighbours across the border. As the Honourable the Political Secretary explained the other day, I regret that I cannot, without trenching on foreign relations, give more details about these persons or their doings.

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

But I would ask the House to take it from me—that is all that I can do—that the trouble was by no means imaginary and might have become most serious. It was suggested the other day, and it has been suggested again today, that these people had taken no overt action and that therefore it was unnecessary for the Government to take action against them. If that suggestion means that we ought to have waited until the trouble had actually arisen before any action was taken, I can only say that that is not a policy which commends itself to the Government of India, or, I think, to any one who knows the conditions on the Frontier and the rapidity with which trouble, once it starts, is likely to spread in that area. Prevention is always better than cure and on the frontier it is hundred times better. I would, then, ask the House to believe that some action on the part of the Government was necessary. The question was what were the alternatives open to us? Either on the one hand to give clear notice of our intentions, to give every opportunity for a peaceful settlement and then, if our warnings were disregarded, to take swift and effective action by air; or, in the alternative, to launch a land force which would have taken several weeks to reach its objective, which would have cost a large amount of money and which in the end would have produced the same result. That part of the country is particularly malarious at this time of year. There is no road for the last 30 miles or so and the cost of such a land expedition would have amounted to seven or eight lakhs of rupees a month. Government preferred to take the first alternative. Ample time was first of all allowed for peaceful compliance with our wishes. We offered a reward. We made it clear that if the men were handed over to us, no harm would be done to them. These warnings were disregarded. Then 48 clear hours' warning was given of the bombardment; and finally the bombardment took place by certain machines of the Royal Air Force and was finished in a few hours. The cost was Rs. 15,000 against a possible Rs. 15 lakhs or more. The casualties were one man slightly injured against a possible list of hundreds; and may I say in reply to what Mr. Sadiq Hasan said just now, that our information on this subject was derived from all possible sources, both from the Air Force and the Army and from such information as the political authorities could collect. The damage done at Kotkai was no greater than could have been done, and would have been done, when and if the guns had been brought within range; and Sir, finally the object was achieved. The agitators have disappeared. Their knavish tricks have been frustrated, at any rate, for the time being; the power of the Government has been demonstrated in no uncertain fashion; and the peace of the frontier has been preserved. No further action is contemplated at present either by air or by land or by

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building a road in Bajaur territory. This statement, I hope may go some way to satisfy my friends opposite that their fears about our policy are ungrounded. The policy of the Government of India on the frontier is nothing less than to maintain peace and good relations and to spread civilisation where possible ; and if there ever has been an occasion on which the value and the use of the air arm in securing the first of these objects has been fully demonstrated and proved up to the hilt, I do contend that this particular incident that we are now discussing was such an occasion.

I must now turn to the question of air bombing in general. The invention of flying, like the invention of gun powder and other inventions, has added undoubtedly a new and very powerful arm to the batteries of all nations. That weapon, Sir, has been used under certain conditions continuously and repeatedly on the North-West Frontier for the last nine or ten years ; and hitherto its use has evoked no adverse comment or criticism of any kind. In fact, only a couple of years ago, as result largely of pressure from Indian opinion, a Bill was introduced in this House for the constitution of a purely Indian Air Force and that measure was passed with acclamation. If air bombing was really an inhuman and barbarous practice, it is difficult to understand how that fact managed to escape notice for so many years. Of course, there is, Sir, a growing opinion throughout the world that however justifiable the air arm may be, if its use is directed against an enemy in the field, it is an arm that should not be used against the civil population. It was for this reason, as I explained the other day, that proposals have been put before the Disarmament Conference for the abolition or limitation of the use of the air arm ; and, Sir, I think that any feeling that may exist in India on the subject at present may be attributed to two causes. Firstly, there is the mistaken impression that the air arm is, or may be, used against defenceless people, women and children ; and, secondly, there is a vague sort of notion that His Majesty's Government and the Government of India by their reservation about air bombing for police purposes in outlying areas are hindering the cause of this disarmament. I attempted to explain the other day what the position of His Majesty's Government and of the Government of India was at the Disarmament Conference and to show how much that Conference owed to the efforts of Great Britain. I made it clear, Sir, that Great Britain and India were prepared to go to the length of agreeing to the abolition of all military and naval aviation if certain conditions could be secured ; and one of those conditions was not the retention of air bombing. But, Sir, I can only repeat that it would be unjustifiable to expect any country, in advance of any general decision that may be reached on the subject, voluntarily to forego the use of a weapon which, in certain circumstances and subject to the reservations, restrictions and limitations that are invariably imposed, has proved itself a remarkably effective, economical and humane way of keeping the peace in certain parts of the world. where the keeping of the peace is no easy job. And that, Sir, refers not only to the North-West Frontier, but also to various other parts of the British Empire.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : May I interrupt my Honourable friend. May I know if

bombs were not thrown in Gujranwala in the Punjab during the martial law days ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I have no information on that point. My claim is that the employment of the air arm in certain circumstances is effective; economical and humane and I should like, if I may, to develop this claim rather more fully than I have been able to do before.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member has just two minutes more.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : In the first place, I should like to make it clear that bombing never takes place without the express orders of the Government of India and then only after all possible alternatives have been considered. In the second place, there is no such thing as indiscriminate bombing. When air bombing has been decided upon, the next step is to select the exact target which is to be bombed and in selecting those targets care is taken to avoid doing damage wherever possible to religious buildings or buildings of such size and importance as to render their destruction inadvisable. Every aeroplane that goes out to bomb carries with it a photograph of the exact target to be hit. These photographs are extremely clear—I have an example here which I shall be glad to show to Honourable Members if they wish to see it afterwards. Then, Sir, after the target has been selected, the invariable practice is to issue a clear 48 hours warning so as to allow the women and children ample time to remove themselves to a place of safety ; and such places of safety are provided very often by the caves which these people make their normal habitation in the cold weather ; or else they are in the habit of going to other villages.

Finally, Sir, on the day and at the time appointed the Air Force carries out the bombardment. Here, again, a photograph is taken of every single bomb that is dropped to show what its effect was and how its aim carried. I said the other day that the Air Force claim to be more accurate than the artillery. That statement perhaps needs some modification because artillery, if the ranges are known, can be accurate and probably more accurate than an aeroplane. But if the ranges are not known, and if an aeroplane can afford to fly sufficiently low, its accuracy is as great as that of artillery. The point is that the practice of bombing is becoming day by day a more accurate science and the fact that a pilot has to bring back with him a photograph to show exactly where his bomb went does prevent the practice of indiscriminate bomb dropping. Those are the circumstances in which aerial bombardment is carried out. It is a remarkable fact also, though I do not wish to lay too much stress on it, that the strength of our fighting forces in India and the average annual cost of our operations on the Frontier has fallen enormously since the introduction of the air arm ; also the casualties both on our own side and among the tribesmen are nowhere near as high as they were in the old days before the war. It may interest the House to know that in all the air operations that have taken place in the last 9 years the total casualties to our own forces have amounted to 11 and before the war they were hundreds. I do not mean to say that the Royal Air Force can now take over the defence of the Frontier unaided. The army must remain the framework of our defence organisation ; but I do maintain—and I hope the House will agree with me—that a careful and judicious use of the air arm in combination with

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ground forces, or in certain special circumstances by itself, provides not only a justifiable but also a very effective way of carrying out a very arduous responsibility in a way of which we have no reason whatever to be ashamed.

Mr. B. R. Puri (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, after listening very carefully to the statement of the Honourable the Army Secretary, I regret I feel absolutely unconvinced of the Government case. I feel that the Government had a bad case and I also feel that that case was badly handled too. In spite of very plucky advocacy from an unexpected quarter, namely, my friend, Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, the Government case has not improved. I believe he has to a very material extent damaged the case for Government. So far as his *speech* is concerned, I could have conveniently left it alone had it not been for the gratuitous dig he had at the elected Members. On behalf of my elected colleagues, I would like to convey to him once for all that not one of the elected Members envies the position of my Honourable friend across the floor of the House. My Honourable friend reminds me of the case of a wretched husband who shouted to the maid : " Jane, is my wife going out ? " " Yes, Sir." " Do you know if I am also going out with her ? " " I will find that out, Sir." I do not see my Honourable friend, Mr. Mukherjee, the Government whip, who plays the role of Jane for the Nominated Members. My friend has always to look to Mr. Mukherjee to communicate to him the official view. With this, I would leave his speech alone and will proceed at once to place before the House my reading of the statement of the Honourable the Army Secretary. With reference to this bombing, it appears that the Government have put up a very half-hearted case. At one time they appear to justify their action, not because they say that the bombing was justified, but because the result was so insignificant that the bombing in this particular instance might be looked upon as excusable. I trust that is not the case. But if the Government are prepared to stand by this bombing and assert that this bombing was a determined and a considered act on their part, then let us see what were the circumstances and how the Government have succeeded in justifying their action. Now, Sir, this bombing was spread over a period of four days altogether. It began on the 1st August. On the 2nd there was no bombing—I do not know whether it was a Sabbath or not. On the 3rd, the bombing was resumed and it continued till the end of the 4th. So that, out of the four days, there were bombings on three days. During these three days, 90 bombs were actually thrown and we are told that so far as the property is concerned, there were only 20 houses damaged and, so far as the human lives were concerned, there was only one man slightly injured. What a commentary upon the efficiency of this method of warfare ! I think, unless the method of aerial bombing materially improves, the present operations should be a lesson to the Government that this sort of bombing should not be lightly resorted to. But perhaps the Government's case is that no untoward results followed because the village had already been deserted and I take it that the Government are anxious to avail themselves of this argument. It is a choice between inefficiency and irresponsibility. Is it the Government case then that they started bombing at a time when they were perfectly satisfied that the village had already been evacuated ?

Now, in the statement which is reproduced in the *Statesman*, I find that the Honourable the Army Secretary says that at the time of the bombing the village had been deserted. This means that before bombing commenced, the village was all empty and evacuated. If that be true, why proceed to bomb at all? Where is the point in bombing? To terrify whom were you bombing? To kill whom did you resort to that practice? Was it merely for the sake of demonstration or show?

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : For damaging property.

Mr. B. R. Puri : Yes, it might be so.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : To stop the congregation of *laskars* that will be of great advantage.

Mr. B. R. Puri : I am afraid, in the statement made by Army Secretary, there is no mention of any *laskars* standing behind who were going to be terrified by these operations.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : There are always *laskars*.

Mr. B. R. Puri : Evidently on this particular occasion the Army Secretary did not consult my Honourable friend, otherwise he would have put forward a more improved statement.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : It was in the newspapers.

Mr. B. R. Puri : What is the particular paper you are referring to? I am referring to the statement of the Army Secretary. As I was submitting, it would be an absolutely infructuous and a wasteful demonstration if the Government case be that there was not a soul in the village when this bombing was commenced. Let us carefully and critically pursue statements further. If, on the first day, the village had been deserted, why, after an interval of 24 hours or 48 hours, the village was visited again, and, if, again, on that morning, it was found that there was not a soul, why resume bombing without any object or reason? As a matter of fact, under these circumstances and conditions, it would be for the Government to justify why, after the first bomb was thrown, the operation was repeated up to 90 times when, at the very outset, they had come to know that they could hurt no one. But, on the other hand, if the village was deserted as a result of bombing, then the figures given by Government must be hopelessly incorrect. The damage could not have amounted to only one man slightly injured. If, on the other hand, the village had been already evacuated, it was the most senseless operation which was resorted to by them.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : But it had the desired effect.

Mr. B. R. Puri : Now, Sir, most mischievous proposition has been put forward, it is unsound, it is inequitable and I was sorry to hear it from the lips of the Army Secretary. My Honourable friend went the length of saying that if they had not resorted to this particular operation, the results and the consequences would have been disastrous. My first answer to this argument is that whenever there is any serious political blunder committed of this dimension, one can always conveniently resort to such an argument. (Hear, hear.) If I had not done this, something worse and something serious was bound to follow. Who are the judges of those consequences but themselves? This argument is a convenient one. It is always available, it is cheap to put in and nobody can question your judgment with regard to this. What are the facts and figures to

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justify your plea that if you had not resorted to this, heavens were going to fall? When we carefully go through the statement of my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, supplemented and coupled with the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy, we find that not a single overt act had been committed by these people. What was the enormity of their offence, we are not told. What those three undesirable vagabonds or agitators had done, we are not told, but I take it that they could not be worse than robbers or dacoits.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : As I have already explained, I am precluded from disclosing what their activities were, because we are not allowed by the rules of the House to discuss matters relating to foreign relations.

Mr. B. R. Puri : If he is not in a position to take this House into his confidence, all the worse for the Government. We must know the enormity of their sins, we must know the nature of their offence before we are in a position to decide—we have been invited to give our judgment on this point—before we give our decision, we say, place all the data and all the facts before us and then we will be able to say whether we justify your act or not. I assume that you cannot attribute them a worse role than that of a possible robber or a dacoit. If that be their only sin, then I submit that any party, who gives asylum to such a person, is guilty of the offence of “harbouring”. In all civilised countries and under all civilised laws, wherever a person is found guilty of harbouring an offender and, in that category of offenders, you have got a long list of offenders right away from an actual murderer down to a man who has committed the ordinary kind of offence.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. B. R. Puri : Very well, Sir. If for harbouring murderers, the sole punishment provided under all civilised codes is not more than seven years rigorous imprisonment, on what justification the Government can make out a case for saying that they were justified in bombing that person who might possibly have given shelter to him and also bombing his neighbours and all his womenfolk and children? In fact, if the whole village has not been devastated, it is not due to any lack of desire or determination on the part of Government. If the villagers, in anticipation of such like inhuman operation being perpetrated upon them, had already migrated from that place, the Government cannot take credit by saying that their operations have not resulted in the wholesale destruction of human lives. Then, again, Sir, if those people were merely political offenders, after all they are not your subjects if they are political offenders, then, I submit, that, according to all canons of international law, political offenders are inaccessible. Why do you expect those people to surrender those men who are their guests for the time being? Assuming that they are murderers and all that, how can you call upon them to surrender these men? By what known laws, national or international, civilised or uncivilised, can you cite a single law by which you can call upon any one of the civilised nations to surrender a political offender to you? Would you be prepared to surrender a political offender who has taken refuge with you, say from Norway or Germany? Why do you expect these people to do what you yourself, under your own laws, are

not prepared to do ? (Hear, hear.) Therefore, my submission is that your case is bad and you have made it worse by pleading all sorts of untenable pleas. It would have been more honourable for you to have come forward and said that, in the heat of the moment, in the belief that we were doing something good, we happen to have resorted to an act which, in the light of subsequent events, we discovered that we were perhaps not strictly justified to do. Sir, on these grounds, I maintain that the Government case is very weak and it is not improved by the speech of the Army Secretary. I, therefore, heartily support this motion. (Applause.)

Mr. F. E. James (Madras : European) : In the first place, I wish it to be clearly understood that my intervention in this debate is on my own individual responsibility and that, any views, I may express, do not necessarily represent the views of the members of my Group, though I hope I will continue my friendly relations with them ! In the first place, I should like to say that the Army Secretary, in spite of the very lawyer-like speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Puri, which one might expect from a lawyer who had accepted a brief in Court, and, had not had the time to look it up, things being what they are, has made out a very powerful case for the particular operation which took place.

At the present moment, in the absence of any International Agreement or Convention, bombing from the air is a recognised form, a form which is recognised by every Government in the world, of operation in war or policing in peace. And there are many reasons for that, particularly in peace time. The air still possesses a prestige particularly on unruly tribes which is not possessed by ground forces. The air is, as a rule, in operations of this kind, economical ; as has been pointed out, it is more humane. It is certainly more convenient from the military point of view, and the argument is advanced by people who have a right to express an opinion on this point that this means of policing is far more efficacious than the use of ground troops. Yet, when all that has been said, there still remains the fact that there is a very great division of opinion both in military circles as well as in civilian circles as to whether, although this method may attain its immediate object, it is equally successful in its ultimate results. Nothing is more impressive than the movement among the younger generation in the United Kingdom which finds expression amongst the younger Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords in favour of the total abolition of this form of operation either in peace or in war. Reference has been made, Sir, to the wider aspect of the question by the Honourable gentleman who moved the motion. He referred to the attitude of India in following the attitude of the United Kingdom in regard to this matter of bombing for police purposes, and I think one or two Members of the House are under some misapprehension as to the precise position. It will be remembered that there is at the present moment before the Disarmament Conference a draft Disarmament Convention which was drawn up by the British delegation. Article 34 of this Convention,—I may say that the Convention covers all forms of warfare, whether naval or military or in the air,—Article 34 of this Convention deals with the prohibition of police bombing and, in the original draft, there is a reservation which would retain this form of operation “ for police

[Mr. F. E. James.]

purposes in outlying districts,"—that is the actual phrase used in the reservation.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : May I know where the Honourable Member finds this ?

Mr. F. E. James : I had a copy of the actual draft Disarmament Convention with me in my own office and I extracted these words from it, and I also have that in an article here in a publication which refers to those words which I shall be glad to hand over to my friend afterwards. My point in this connection is this, that this reservation is part of a big draft Disarmament Convention which covers practically the whole field of Disarmament. So far, almost every country, which has discussed this Draft Convention, has made substantial reservations and the one country which in a sense has made the smallest reservation in regard to police bombing only in outlying districts and which is prepared to accept more than any other country in the world is Great Britain ; and I wish to make that perfectly clear. It is not to be expected that a Convention of this kind will be accepted by all the countries without considerable discussion ; it is not to be expected that there will not be various reservations made by various countries. My point in putting the thing in its proper perspective is that the reservation made by Great Britain affects one Article only and only refers to one particular type of warfare used for police purposes in outlying districts.

Now, Sir, there was one part of Mr. Tottenham's speech with which I cannot find myself in entire agreement. He asked whether it was reasonable to expect that any country such as Great Britain with her responsibilities would voluntarily forgo,—I think that was the phrase that he used,—a reservation of this description. And that is where I join issue with him. As one who has been, ever since the war, interested in this disarmament question, I think it is reasonable, for the sake of world-wide agreement on the disarmament question, for the representatives of this country and for the representatives of His Majesty's Government to forgo even this. And, in support of that contention, I have on my side a most valuable opinion which has been expressed in Great Britain.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Sir, may I explain one point ? I did not say that I thought it would be unreasonable for Great Britain or India to forgo this reservation. What I said was that it would be unreasonable to give up the use of air bombing pending a discussion and decision on this reservation.

Mr. F. E. James : I am very glad to have this correction and I think probably Mr. Tottenham and I are in complete agreement on this point. Now, he has explained that particular aspect of the matter. But I was about to say that I have on my side, in suggesting that not even this reservation should hold us back from agreeing to a complete scheme of disarmament, one outstanding name in British politics, the name of Sir Austen Chamberlain, who has deliberately and carefully decided with all his vast experience behind him, that Great Britain would be utterly unjustified in insisting on this reservation to the point of wreck-

ing the Disarmament Agreement. I further say that Sir Austen Chamberlain has behind him a great body of public opinion, and, from what one knows of the situation in Great Britain at the present time, I am absolutely convinced that the British Government will not allow even this to stand in its way if there is a reasonable chance of securing a world-wide disarmament plan. My friends on the other side of the House are not the only nationalists here ; I am also a nationalist. I have never been so proud of my own country as I have in recent years with regard to this question of disarmament. If there is one country in the world which has been consistent and progressive and sincere in regard to disarmament, it is Great Britain. My friends on the other side of the House may complain that at the moment India has no foreign policy, for India has no control of her foreign policy. The time will come when she will control her foreign policy ; when she can control her army, when she can control and pay for her navy, then she will control her foreign policy. But until that time comes, I suggest that, at any rate in this matter, the Indian delegation, which I believe included a distinguished member of the Muhammadan community, in fact a distinguished leader of the Muhammadan community,—His Highness the Aga Khan,—was in good company in following the British delegation in regard to its general policy. I do hope that if public opinion at home and public opinion in this country—and I am glad to find it is beginning to be expressed on the floor of this House in regard to these wider matters—insist that Britain and India shall go forward to the extent even of giving up this one reservation, the delegations concerned, when the time comes next month for crucial discussions, will yield to the force of that public opinion and will be prepared to abandon this particular reservation. Then those who come after the Convention has been, as I hope it will be, signed in the early part of next year will not be forced, as is Mr. Tottenham, into the position of having to defend air bombing of villages on the frontier.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I whole-heartedly join hands with my Honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, in censuring the Government for air bombing on the frontier. When I censure the Government, I do not want to censure my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, and I dare say without any hesitation that his replies were very plain and not a bit unsatisfactory as far as he himself was concerned. But, certainly with all the power in my command, I censure the Government for this inhuman and barbarous act of air bombing.

The main sources of information which have been given by my Honourable friend on behalf of the Government are three. All three sources from which Government have come to know what were the losses on the frontier are very funny and unreliable. These are, the air source, the army source and the political source. I cannot say anything about the Political Department, because it is a *harem of purdah* and so it is difficult to say anything about that source. As regards the air source, I can say this : The air bombers were hundreds of feet above the village : they dropped bombs and the houses collapsed : how was it possible for them to know how many people were in those houses and how many human beings have lost their lives ? As regards the army, I will say this : My Honourable friend has admitted that there was no road, not a

[Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad.]

single soldier entered the village, and the army did not march. There was no raid or anything of that kind and the army did not enter the village : how then was it possible for the army to know what was the loss in a particular village ? (Interruption.) I do not want to be interrupted, because my time is very limited. I, therefore, say that the air source is unreliable, because they were not in a position to know : the army source is unreliable, because they did not enter the village at all. The Political Department's information is a second hand information. Then, what is left ? They have got nothing to show what was the actual loss in a particular village.

I shall leave that question for a moment. I ask my Honourable friend, if, instead of 24 hours, 72 hours' notice were given to bomb London, will he accept this notice as sufficient ? How is it possible for children and women to leave their houses and take all the utensils, all the valuable articles, all the goods and all other things from their houses ? Further, Mr. President, after all, this was the rainy season : If it be agreed that the victims were in caves to save their lives and my Honourable friend's air forces went there and dropped 90 bombs and destroyed only a few houses in the villages, may I ask, Sir, what was the fate of those children and women who were living in caves and are still remaining there in this rainy season ? From where they are getting their food in the caves ? After all, they are human beings. They have innocent women and children with them. As I said, this is the rainy season and, after this, the winter will come. I say, it is much better to kill a man once instead of cutting his feet first and then his hands, and so on. The Government are doing like that on the frontier. They have destroyed the houses, they have destroyed the foodstuffs, they have destroyed the clothes, they have destroyed everything that were in those houses and then they are starving them. Those Muslims have no clothes to wear and no food to eat. That is the condition there.

My Honourable friend says that he treats that area as part of India. I say, if that is a part of India, then we are entitled to put questions and know every detail about it. But, my Honourable friend, whenever questions are put, says that he is not in a position to give details of this nature. I say, if it is a part of India, then we are entitled to know all these things. But, if it is not a part of India, then, why are we asked to spend lots of money on this ? As has been pointed out, this is a symbol of the forward policy.

Further, in this connection, I want to warn the Government that we Indians are not prepared to spend a single pie for the benefit of other countries. If these bombardments have been done for the benefit of other countries like Afghanistan or any other country, we are not prepared to spend a single pie for them. In these days of depression, we ourselves are in great trouble.

It has been said in this House that Mr. Henderson and others have expressed their view that they do not like this air bombing to be continued in future. I ask, why should not the Government of India come forward and say that whatever may be the convention, they will not follow it, and that they are ready to abandon air bombing completely ?

Why not they come forward and show the world that they have abandoned air bombing ?

I will say one thing more : our religious duty is that if we find anything bad, there are three alternatives for us : one is to check it by force : second, to refuse our co-operation ; the third, to dissociate ourselves from it. In this case, I cannot check this air bombing by force. We cannot do anything else ; but we can protest ; and we protest strongly that we do not approve of this : rather we hate this idea of air bombing.

Some Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Sir, I shall make only a very brief speech, because I know many other speakers are very anxious to take part in this important motion.

—Our grievances against the Government are two-fold. Firstly, we on this side do not approve of the policy of the Government in bombing innocent people ; secondly, we are not satisfied even now with the reply that we have received from the Government as regards the questions put in this connection. As I understand it, the Government's justification is only this : that they have succeeded wonderfully in their great venture. What was their object ? Their main object was to get back these few absconders. I ask the Honourable the Army Secretary to say if they have got back those absconders. If not, how can they claim that they have succeeded wonderfully by this air bombing in attaining their object ? As regards the two main points, we would like to make it perfectly clear that we Indians do not approve of any barbarous action of this kind of bombing in these civilised times. As regards the incompleteness of the answers, we maintain that we do not still know how many were the persons whom this Government wanted to be made over. We do not know anything about the charges against these people. If they are Indians, certainly proceedings could be brought against them in a Court of law (Laughter) and the ordinary procedure might be followed. Laughter will not make up for argument. When there is lack of argument, I know people take recourse to laughter. Why are you spending, I ask the Army Department, crores of money on the frontier watch and ward ? You have the frontier militia ; you have the frontier constabulary. Will the Army Secretary tell me how many crores of Indian money are spent for preserving order in the frontier ? What is the reply ?.....

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Not one pie is spent in Bajaur.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will the Honourable Member tell us if it is beyond the Durand line or it is within the British sphere of action ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : It is within the Durand line ; it is within the borders of India.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it then correct to say that not a pie was spent on the borders of India on the frontier militia, frontier constabulary and all the watch and ward on that side of the country to preserve order in the frontier ? Anyhow, the Honourable the Army Secretary has not replied to my 1st question, whether he has succeeded in getting back the undesirable people that he wanted.....

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I have already replied that these people have disappeared and the danger has, therefore, disappeared with them.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Now, is he in a position to guarantee to this House that they will not return within a week or ten days ?

Then, my friend may say that the people deserted these places. I think his main argument was that they merely wanted to destroy property and not human lives. Anyhow, in a deserted place we could get at least one dead or wounded man, and that shows that perhaps the air-officials are not in a position to tell us definitely whether there have been any more casualties or not. However, Sir, we on this side maintain, with all the emphasis we can command, that if you want our support, you should disclose to us all facts, you must satisfy the House with all the facts and figures to prove that Government were justified in the step they took in resorting to bombing. The facts that have been disclosed to us so far will not justify, in our opinion, the use of bombs ~~under the particular~~ circumstances. On these grounds, I support the motion of my friend.

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur (South Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, before offering any observations of mine on this momentous question, I wish to recite a Persian couplet which runs as follows :

“ *Bahar rang-e Ke Khahi Jama me poshe
Mun andaze Khadat ra me Shinasam.* ”

When translated, it means this, “ you may put on dresses of different kinds to avoid identification, but, from your very stature, I can see who you are and what you are about ”.

Sir, our contention is that this bombing has been resorted to not so much to stop the harbouring of the absconders, but merely to adopt the forward policy. We have been told that some undesirables sought shelter in the tribal area, and those that gave them shelter would not come forward to make them over to the Government, when called upon to do so ; and, therefore, this inhuman action was resorted to, and, then, it was pointed out that in taking to bombing, every precaution that was humanly possible was adopted. Sir, so far as we, elected Members, are concerned, it must be said that this method was barbarous. Sir, this is not our view only, but it is also the view of the English press and of all right-thinking Englishmen, because they have all said that these methods are barbarous, outrageous and inhuman,—all these attributes have been given to the action which the Government of India have adopted recently on the Frontier towards the innocent people. It is all very easy to say that the Government of India had no other alternative but to adopt this method of bombing in order to maintain peace and order. We would ask some of the supporters of this action whether our English friends would have agreed to the adoption of the same methods if European lives were involved ? Would my friend, Mr. James, then come forward and support such an action on the part of the Government as a representative of the European Group ?

Sir, I was very much pained to hear that one of the elected Members,—and that too a Member of the Muslim community,—should have said that this should not be regarded as a Muslim question. Sir, in matters like this I do not attach much importance as to whether this is a Muslim or a non-Muslim question, but is this not an Indian question, a question in which humanity is concerned, and should it not be sup-

ported by one and all of us ? So far as the Nominated Member was concerned, though he poses himself as one who is in the know of the situation, inasmuch as he comes from the North-West Frontier Province, Sir, he, as a Nominated Member, can say anything and everything, he has free licence to express his views against his own people, but the great pity is that one of the elected Members should have tried to follow him and justified the action of the Government to a certain extent.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan : Does the Honourable Member say that Nominated Members have no right to express their opinions ?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : No, Sir.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : Whatever opinions they give expression to will have the same weight as the opinions expressed by Government Members. We know, Sir, what amount of interest my friend, the Nawab Sahib, evinces in these matters. He wants to surpass even the Army Secretary. (Applause from the Nationalist Benches.) When the English press and all right-thinking Englishmen have condemned this action on the part of the Government, why are the Government of India trying to justify their action in which they cannot at all succeed ? Sir, we are perfectly justified in condemning, in censuring the action of the Government for this kind of indiscriminate, highhanded and inhuman action, for this kind of barbarity perpetrated on innocent men, women and children, for this kind of atrocity that has been committed in that part of the country. Of course, those who were to be punished for their crime, if any, could have been punished by other means, and we would not have grudged it, but the method of punishing them by bombing cannot but be highly objected to.

As regards the weakness of the case, my lawyer friend, Mr. Puri, has clearly pointed out that the advocacy of the Army Secretary supplemented by that of the Nominated Member cannot hold water for a minute. Those who have an iota of sympathy for humanity, even though they are Nominated Members, cannot but condemn the action of the Government. So, though they may say in so many words that their object was not to take to forward policy, still we can find out from their actions what their real object is. Sir, throughout the whole of India this action of the Government has been censured and condemned and in almost all important centres meetings are being held condemning the Government for this barbarous, outrageous and inhuman action. With these words, I resume my seat.

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Though the cry is that the question be now put, I feel that on such an important occasion like this the elected Members of this House should have their say. This is not a matter which can be ignored or trifled with. The matter is very serious, though the speech of the Army Secretary tells us a different tale. First of all, he said that it was absolutely necessary on the part of the Government to take such action. In the next breath, he said that the damages were very little. However little the damages may have been, only for driving out a few people, an entire village has been bombarded ! He says that only 17 houses were damaged, but who is going to pay for these damages ? It is the Indian Exchequer who is going to pay for

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

the hobby of the military. I say hobby, because the Government have not been able to make out any substantial case for this aerial bombardment. I may tell my Honourable friend, Mr. James, that this method of bombardment has been condemned by the Disarmament Conference. He cannot deny that ; nor can the Army Secretary. By all people this action has been condemned to be a barbarous one. I may warn the Government that if these actions are perpetrated very often and without discrimination, it will yield no good result to the administration. For driving out only a few culprits, a whole village has been bombarded. Who is to pay the compensation ? The Indian Exchequer, and, unless the Government can justify their action, the Army Secretary cannot expect any vote for their side.

Several Honourable Members : Let the question be now put.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur (West Coast and Nilgiris : Muhamadan) : Mr. President, there are some links missing in the able statement of the Army Secretary who was clever enough to put such a poor case in such a masterly fashion. Sir, it was said that the "pretenders" took refuge in a certain village. It was also said that it was not our concern—we have got the statement of the highest in the country—we were not directly concerned with the movement or agitation in that part of the country as it was not directed against India. It is also conceded that it was a noble act on their part to give shelter to a refugee and to refuse to hand him over to his enemies. But what about the mighty Britisher ? You have got to consider the mighty British Government on this side ! Those people must be aware that we have got aeroplanes and bombs to throw at them ! "We asked them to hand over those men to us." But why should they be handed over to us ? Were these pretenders pretending to get anything out of the British Government ? What were they pretending to ? You did not tell us what they were pretending to or aspiring to. Government do not dare or do not like to come out with the truth of that. There is something behind all this. The Indian Government were not directly concerned, and still they have spent from our Exchequer the hard earned money that is squeezed out of our hands—we are asked to pay for something which they are not prepared to disclose to us. Now, Sir, what have the Government done ? They have bombed this village. They say that they gave previous notice to the people. I think it was Mr. James who said that bombing is fair in warfare. Whom are we at war with ? They themselves had admitted that these people were not at war with us. Then, where was the necessity for them to bomb those people ? How did they offend you ? So far, they have refused to tell us the real reason for this bombing. They have done it for somebody else. Do protect the peace of neighbour, International Obligation, humanity,—feeling for the neighbour—good words to conjure with, but it requires a little more salt for us to swallow all that. We cannot easily swallow all these things. Is it International Obligation on the part of the British Government to bomb innocent people ? Those agitators or pretenders who were responsible for all this, as soon as they got the notice, would have certainly vacated that place, and would have taken refuge in safer place, but only the innocent villagers, women

and children would have remained. Therefore, you have bombed innocent villagers if you have bombed anybody. You yourselves say that it was a noble act on the part of the village to have given refuge to those men, and still you punish them for this act of nobility ! For their nobility they are punished.....

(It being Six of the Clock.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. The House now stands adjourned till eleven o'clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 5th September, 1933.