

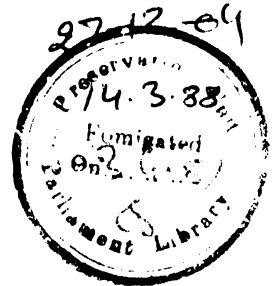
Monday, 10th March, 1941

**THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES**

VOLUME I, 1941

(19th February to 4th April, 1941)

**NINTH SESSION
OF THE
FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1941**



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COUNCIL OF STATE

Monday, 10th March, 1941.

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ARBITRATION CLAUSE IN THE CONTRACT FORM OF MESSRS. RALLI BROS., LTD., FOR THE PURCHASE OF WOOL.

80. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : (a) Is it a fact that clause 15 of the contract form according to which Messrs. Ralli Bros., Ltd., purchase wool on behalf of Government lays down that should any dispute arise in respect of any thing relating to the contract, it shall be referred to arbitrators or umpires, as the case may be, who shall be European merchants residing at Karachi and who shall either be themselves members of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce or managers or assistants in firms which are members of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce ?

(b) Have the terms of the contract into which buyers of wool are required to enter been fixed by Messrs. Ralli Bros. with the approval of Government or independently of them ? What steps do Government propose to take to remove the racial discrimination referred to above ?

(c) Does the arbitration clause in the contract forms of the Indian Stores Department impose no restriction of the nature referred to in (a) above but allows each party to a dispute to nominate its own arbitrator ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. DEC. WILLIAMS : (a) Yes.

(b) *First part.*—No, independently of Government.

Second part.—The Government propose to take this matter up with Messrs. Ralli Bros., Ltd.

(c) Yes.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Were Government so long unaware of this clause in the contract form of Messrs. Ralli Bros. ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. DEC. WILLIAMS : I cannot say how long it took them to find it out ; but when they did find it out they decided to take action.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION:

81. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Have Government recently appointed non-Indian officers in the Bureau of Public Information ? If so, what is their number ? What is the salary given in each case and what are the duties assigned to them ? Why was the work not entrusted to Indian officers ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Yes, three such officers have been appointed recently. I lay on the table a statement showing their salaries and the duties assigned to them. In two cases a knowledge of certain foreign languages was required and Indians with the requisite linguistic qualifications were not forthcoming. The officer originally selected for the third appointment was an Indian who first of all intimated that he was prepared to accept it but subsequently refused the offer.

Statement showing the names, salaries and duties of the non-Indian officers recently appointed to the Bureau of Public Information.

Name.	Salary.	Duties.
	Rs.	
Major G. E. Wheeler	1,780 per mensem	He is employed on work which requires a knowledge of German, Turkish, Persian, Russian and French.
Monsieur Robert Victor	1,000 per mensem	He is employed on translation work in French.
Miss Cecile Leslie	850 per mensem	She is employed in the collection and distribution of news and information to the Press and the public about the activities of Government.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

82. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is there a section in the Bureau of Public Information dealing with English newspapers ? If so, what is the number of officers employed in it ? How many of them are Indians ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Newspaper section the principal function of which is to make cuttings from all newspapers published in English for supply to the Departments of Government. This section consists of a Superintendent and a staff of ten clerks. It is directly controlled by an Assistant Information Officer and some of its work is also submitted to two other officers. All of them are Indians.

SHIPPING FACILITIES FOR THE IMPORT OF RICE FROM BURMA.

83. THE HONOURABLE MR. SHANTIDAS ASKURAN : (a) Will Government state—

- (i) whether the rice crops in Bengal for the 1940-41 season would be about 40 lakhs of tons less than what they are in normal year and about 19 lakhs of tons less than the final forecast for the last year ? If not, what are the prospects of the current rice crops ?
- (ii) whether the rice crops in Bengal are substantially less in the current season than what they are in a normal year ? If so, will India be required to import a larger quantity of rice from Burma than the quantity imported under normal circumstances ?

(b) Will the import of larger quantity of rice from Burma necessitate the berthing of a larger number of ships at the Burmese ports ?

(c) What is the normal number of steamers employed in the carriage of rice from Burma ports to Indian ports during the busy season from January to June and how many of the steamers are requisitioned at present ?

(d) Is it a fact that lakhs of tons of rice are awaiting shipment from Burma to India ? Are steamers for their carriage from Burma to India not available ? Have the steamers been requisitioned by the Government of India ?

(e) What steps do the Government of India propose to take to place an adequate number of steamers for the carriage of rice from Burma to India ?

(f) Has the carriage of foodstuffs been treated as a war measure in the United Kingdom ? Do the Government of India propose to treat the carriage of rice from Burma to India as a war measure ? If so, what steps do they propose to take to supply adequate tonnage for its carriage ? Do they propose to give preference to the carriage of rice from Burma to India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR : (a) (i) The yield of rice crops in Bengal during 1940-41 is likely to be 23·14 lakhs tons less than the normal, and 24·17 lakhs tons less than the final forecast for the last year.

(ii) *First part*—Yes.

Second part—This is probable unless the deficiency is made good by depletion of stocks and resort to other foodstuffs.

(b) If a larger amount of rice than usual has to be imported it will be necessary to berth a larger number of steamers.

(c) As the average amount of rice carried from Burma in these months is 956,532 tons it is estimated that in the past some 135 sailings were required for the carriage of rice from Burma to India during the busy season from January to June. It is not however in the public interest to disclose how many of the steamers engaged in this trade have been requisitioned by Government.

(d) Government understand that a considerable quantity of rice is awaiting shipment from Burma to India.

(e) and (f). Government are carefully watching the position. In the United Kingdom shipments of foodstuffs urgently required for the essential needs of the population are given priority. In so far as the carriage of Burma rice is necessary to meet essential needs of the population of India Government will do what is possible subject to Defence requirements to make available the necessary shipping.

CONTROL OVER MOVEMENTS OF SHIPS EMPLOYED IN THE COASTAL TRADE.

84. THE HONOURABLE MR. SHANTIDAS ASKURAN : (a) Have the Government of India any control over British ships registered in the United Kingdom and plying in the coastal trade of India or in the coastal trade of India, Burma and Ceylon ?

(b) If so, are the movements of ships referred to in (a) restricted by Government in the same manner as the movements of the ships on the Indian Register are restricted by them ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR : (a) I take it that what the Honourable Member means is whether the Government of India have power to control the movements of ships registered in the United Kingdom and plying

in the coastal trade of India in the same way as the movements of ships registered in India are at present controlled under the Defence of India Rules. If so the reply is in the negative.

(b) While the Government of India have no such power to control the movement of such ships their movements are as a matter of fact subject to the control of His Majesty's Government.

REQUISITIONING OF SHIPS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF COAL.

85. THE HONOURABLE MR. SHANTIDAS ASKURAN : (a) Are the British ships on the Indian Register under the control of the Government of India ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government state whether the ships on the Indian Register were requisitioned and placed at the disposal of the British Ministry of Shipping for the carriage of coal ?

(c) If so, why ?

(d) Is the outturn of rice in India substantially shorter than what it is in a normal year ? If so, do Government propose to give facilities for the import of foodstuffs for Indians ?

(e) Do Government propose to take back the requisitioned ships from the British Ministry of Shipping and to release the ships on the Indian Register requisitioned by them for carrying their normal operation and for carrying the rice from Burma to India ?

(f) Will Government state when the ships on the Indian Register requisitioned by them will be released for the purpose of carrying rice from Burma to India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The need was urgent and it was necessary to requisition those ships which were most readily available to meet the need.

(d) *First part.*—The outturn of rice in India during the current year is likely to show a decrease of 13·5 per cent. as compared with the average of the last three years. *Second part.*—Government will adopt such measures as are necessary and possible to ensure that there is a sufficiency of rice in India to meet the needs of the people.

(e) and (f). The ships in question will be released from requisition as soon as the urgent needs of the war situation render this possible.

(The Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha stood up to ask the questions standing against the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh).

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Have you been authorized by the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh to put the questions on his behalf ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA : No, Sir. I was authorized to do so on the former occasion.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Then you cannot put them.

EMERY PAPER.

86. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Is it a fact that the Superintendent, Rifle Factory, Ishapore, to whom an Indian firm in Calcutta submitted a tender for emery paper along with some samples made the following remark in his note to the Assistant Director of Contracts :—

“ This firm's products are acceptable due to the present emergency ; if, however, British made products can be obtained, they are preferred ” ?

(b) Do Government propose to make an inquiry into the above, and to state the facts ? What is the name of the Superintendent, Rifle Factory, Ishapore ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. DEC. WILLIAMS : (a) Yes. A copy of the communication referred to was laid on the table of this House on the 5th March, 1941 in reply to question No. 44 asked by the Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.

(b) The facts have already been elicited. They are that the products of the firm in question were not up to the standard of the imported article and were to be accepted only if the better article was not available. This is in accordance with the Stores Purchase Rules which enjoin preference in respect of indigenous products only when quality is sufficiently good for the purpose in view.

The name of the Superintendent, Rifle Factory, Ishapore, is Mr. W. G. Jenkins though the communication referred to was signed by an officer serving under him.

PURCHASE OF KHADDAR, WOOLLEN BLANKETS, ETC., FROM THE GANDHI ASHRAM, GADRO.

87. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Is it a fact that the Indian military authorities have purchased, or propose to purchase, khaddar, woollen blankets, and hand-woven stuff at the Gandhi Ashram, Gadro, Tharparkar District (Sind) ? If so, for what amount the above materials have been purchased ; and is it proposed to issue instructions to purchase Indian hand-woven products wherever available in India, and needed for war purposes ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. DEC. WILLIAMS : No khaddar, woollen blankets or hand-woven stuff has been ordered from Gandhi Ashram, Gadro, Tharparkar District (Sind) but orders for hand-woven blankets are being placed on Directors of Industries of Provinces and Indian States, who are free to distribute these orders as they like. Indian hand-woven products are being purchased whenever possible and in some cases the army specifications have been relaxed to enable certain cottage industries to participate in the war orders. It is not considered necessary to issue any special instructions in this respect.

REPAIRS TO THE TAJ MAHAL.

88. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state the present position with respect to the defect which was detected in the dome of the Taj Mahal in Agra ? What steps have so far been taken in this connection ; and what is the estimated cost of repair ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GIRJA SHANKAR BAJPAI : A Committee of experts examined the Taj on the 21st and 22nd January, 1941. The Report of the Committee has now been received and is under consideration. No estimate of the cost of repairs has yet been framed.

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON ALUMINIUM OR ALUMINIUM MANUFACTURES.

89. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state why have they stopped the import into India of aluminium or aluminium manufactures ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Note issued on the subject on the 2nd January, 1941, a copy of which is laid on the table of the House.

PRESS NOTE.

Import trade control on aluminium unwrought and manufactured.

The maintenance of ample stocks of aluminium for military purposes and, in particular, for the manufacture of aircraft for the British and Allied forces is a matter of vital importance and in order that this object may be in no way interfered with by demands from India on the supplies available in the world at large, the Government of India have decided to apply severe restrictions to the importation into India of aluminium in all forms from all countries, including the United Kingdom. Notifications are therefore under issue adding aluminium, unwrought and manufactured, to the Import Trade Control schedule and making these items exceptions to the open-general licences issued in favour of imports from various specified countries such as the British Empire, certain French Colonies and the Netherlands East Indies.

NEW DELHI ;

The 2nd January, 1941.

EXCAVATIONS AT RAMNAGAR.

90. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Have Government selected Ramnagar, about 20 miles from Bareilly (United Provinces) for a course of training for officers of the Archæological Department ?

(b) Have excavations been carried out at Ramnagar, and, if so, since how long and with what result ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GIRJA SHANKAR BAJPAI : (a) and (b). Yes. Excavations have been in progress at Ramnagar since the beginning of this cold weather and a few officers are under training there under the supervision of the Director General of Archæology. I place on the table of the House a short note summarizing the results of the excavations up-to-date.

NOTE.

The latest finds at Ramnagar indicate that the latest settlement on the western part of this city may be assigned to the 8th Century A. D., particularly on the evidence of hoards of Indo-Sassanian coins known as Gadhaiya and the inferior quality of the sculptural fragments which indicates the degeneration of art after its climax in the Gupta period. The second stratum which comprises of some jerry-built structures may be assigned to the 5th-6th Century A. D., while the third stratum, which is now being exposed at a depth of nearly 10 feet below the surface, goes back to the 4th Century A. D. Trial excavations on an isolated mound in the eastern section of the city have confirmed the idea that that part of the city was abandoned earlier and that antiquities of the early

centuries of the Christian era may be found on the surface. Several scores of coins of the Mitra rulers, Guptas and Indo-Sassanians, some beautiful seals of officials and private persons, terracotta figurines of different periods between the Sunga and early mediæval periods and a bewildering variety of pottery, which is being studied for the first time, are among the main finds. Special mention may be made of beautiful earthen bowls with stamped decorations hitherto undiscovered in any other site in India.

A large temple of the Gupta period with three terraces rising to a height of nearly 30 ft. has been carefully examined and reveals the constructions of at least four different periods. Among the structures brought to light in the main site may be mentioned several blocks of buildings containing over a dozen houses of the last period of occupation with several streets, lanes and alleys. The examination of the lower strata is confined to a limited area where a number of shrines lining a street belonging to the 3rd-4th Century A. D. have been found. Besides three Assistant Superintendents and two Government scholars, three scholars from Indian States are at present receiving training at the excavations.

FLYING TRAINING FOR BURMESE CADETS.

91. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Is there any proposal before Government for the training of Burmese cadets for air force training in India ? If so, how many of such Burmese cadets are proposed to be trained ; and what will be the approximate expenditure involved in the training which will be borne by the Government of Burma ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Government of India have been asked to provide flying training for Burmese cadets and have agreed to do so on the understanding that facilities for training Indian cadets are in no way reduced. The number to be trained will depend on the supply of extra aircraft and instructors for the purpose by His Majesty's Government and the whole cost of the training—approximately Rs. 250 per flying hour will be borne by the Government of Burma.

GALLANT PART PLAYED BY INDIAN TROOPS AT SIDI BARRANI, ETC.

92. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government make a statement indicating the prominent part played by the Indian troops in the war in Eritrea, and other parts in Europe and Africa ; and the description of Indian units involved in the successful prosecution of the campaign in these parts, so far as this can be done without divulging secret information ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : I welcome the opportunity afforded me by the Honourable Member to pay a personal tribute on the floor of this House to the magnificent part troops from India have played in destroying the threat of Italian aggression in and from North Africa. Brigades and divisions comprising both British and Indian troops sent from this country, some of them as far back as the summer of 1939, have shown and continue to show a quality of training and fighting spirit second to none. For many months these troops had to fill a role involving waiting on the defensive in anything but comfortable conditions on the hot desert plains of Western Egypt and the Sudan. They faced an enemy immensely superior in numbers and possessed at that time of overwhelming superiority in the air. In conditions far from inspiring, our troops never flagged in their zeal, and, as more and more equipment of the most modern type was supplied to them, they trained day after day with a remarkable will and cheerfulness. The result is already history. When the time came, General Sir Archibald Wavell was able, despite the numerical superiority of the enemy, to take the initiative with confidence and to turn defence into attack.

The North African campaign will go down to history as one of the greatest achievements of the armies of the Commonwealth. British and Indian troops had the honour of dealing the initial blow which shattered the Italian threat to Egypt. When these troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Wilson made that swift sweep forward from Mersa Matruh in the early days of December the Italian morale in North Africa was unshaken. The forward troops of Marshal Graziani's army were encamped in force in and around Sidi Barrani, waiting the moment to launch an attack. Suddenly, in one of the most carefully planned battles, of all time, they found themselves overwhelmed in less than 48 hours. It must, I think be recognized that against a stouter enemy the almost miraculous perfection of what is now known as "the Battle of Sidi Barrani" might have been less overwhelming. Nevertheless it was the surprise achieved which was the main factor in that victory, and that surprise could only be gained and exploited by troops who knew their business down to the last man.

After a short, well earned rest, many of the units from India who had played so decisive a part at Sidi Barrani were rapidly transferred to the south, where their experience on the North West Frontier of this country would be of special value. This experience was peculiar to them. Their appearance in the Sudan was the signal for a general onslaught on Italian East Africa. When I broadcast shortly after my arrival in India a few weeks ago, I quoted a warm message of congratulation from General Wavell on the wonderful performance of Indian troops in what he described as "the most brilliant pursuit of the Italians from Kassala to Keren". I have lately received from him the following confirmation of that message—"As detailed information of fighting in Eritrea reaches me it confirms the magnificent performance of Indian troops at Agordat, Barentu and Keren. India may well be proud of these fine troops".

At Keren, the Italians have concentrated the cream of their East African army in an attempt to stave off collapse. Details of the part played by troops from this country in the swift drive which took our forces from the vicinity of Kassala to the precipitous and strongly fortified heights around Keren have been published in a series of Press Notes as fast as they have become available here. The story as it unfolds fully justifies the warm praise General Wavell has accorded our soldiers. The many acts of individual gallantry and determination by Indian troops of all classes are too numerous for me to mention here, and it would be invidious to select any particular one. Suffice it to say this. We all know in India how in inhospitable country with few communications, like the tribal areas of our North West Frontier, bold tribesmen armed only with rifles can and do give considerable trouble to better armed troops. It does not require much imagination therefore to visualize the difficulties of overcoming an enemy fully equipped with all modern weapons of war and firmly established in mountain fastnesses with his own internal lines of communication. When, added to this, we realize that here again the Italian possesses numerical superiority, the attack which has driven him back through Eritrea to the defences of Keren can be appreciated at its full value.

I will not at this stage say more, but I would like to pay a tribute to the Air Forces who have been operating with our troops in this campaign. Their efforts have been so effective that whereas only a short few weeks ago Italian aircraft continually harassed our troops on the borders of the Sudan, enemy machines now rarely appear and the perilous operations of our troops are being conducted without the additional handicap of inferiority in the air. The campaign in North Africa can well be described as one of the greatest co-operative enterprises of the forces of the Commonwealth. Indian and British

troops cracked the morale of Marshal Graziani's forces at Sidi Barrani. British and Dominion troops have swept the Italians from Eastern Libya. That splendid corps, the Sudan Defence Force, have led the van of the British and Indian assault on Eritrea, while South African forces have swept the Italians north from Kenya and have already captured the capital of Italian Somaliland. Indian troops are also, I am proud to state, giving invaluable support to the heroic activities of the Patriot Forces of Abyssinia, which are now harassing the enemy in the heart of that country.

I would like, Sir, to remind Honourable Members that Africa is not our only battlefield. The Royal Indian Navy have, since the outbreak of war, and particularly since Italy entered the war, performed an arduous and dangerous task in the closest co-operation with the Royal Navy. Its ships and its sailors have been continuously employed in guarding our trade routes and convoys in all conditions of weather and climate, and the climate of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, is not too pleasant in the height of summer, I speak from experience. We must not forget them.

Then we have our troops in Malaya and the Far East, who though not actually in a theatre of war, are many of them living under active service conditions, and enduring hardship and discomfort as well as separation from their relations and homes.

Lastly let us remember our land and air forces on our western frontier. Officially they are not at war and they get none of the privileges and concessions which quite rightly fall to the lot of their comrades overseas. All the same in actual practice, on that turbulent border, now as always they carry their lives in their hands and can never relax their vigilance. A soldier or an airman on the Frontier needs to be an expert at his work, and we should be thankful that we have such soldiers and airmen who without fuss or advertisement guard our marches for us day in and day out and in all weathers.

APPELLATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX IN ORISSA.

93. THE HONOURABLE MR. N. K. DAS: (a) Is Government aware of the fact that assesses in Orissa are called to Purulia and to Patna to attend the Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax and the Excess Profits Tax Officer?

(b) Is there any proposal before Government for issuing directions to the said officers to hear and decide appeals at the headquarters of the provinces of their origin, in course of their tour to these places?

(c) If not, do Government propose to inquire into the feasibility of the proposal contained in (b)?

(d) Will Government state whether there are any difficulties in following the proposal contained in (b)?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES: I shall answer all the parts together.

The Appellate Assistant Commissioner whose jurisdiction extends over Orissa was asked in November last to stop his tours with a view to economy. These orders have since been withdrawn and the Appellate Assistant Commissioner has resumed his tours so that assesses in Orissa will no longer have any ground for complaint.

The number of Excess Profits Tax cases in Orissa is too small to justify the appointment of a special Excess Profits Tax Officer for that province.

RESOLUTION *RE* INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces : General) :
Sir, I beg to move :—

“ That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to withdraw the orders (i) restricting the number of candidates appearing for the I. C. S. examination in India and (ii) fixing the provincial quotas.”

Sir, the Government of India recently issued a communiqué for the purpose of eliminating a large number of candidates who, according to them, are unsuitable for the I. C. S. examination at which they apply to appear. The sum and substance of the scheme is that, according to the Government of India, the Public Service Commission has found it impossible to hold the written and oral examination for a large number of candidates for the I. C. S. examination in Delhi. Moreover, they say that according to the examiners' report a large majority of the candidates are unsuitable for the Indian Civil Service. Therefore, Sir, they thought of this scheme and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State they have decided to hold the examination in the year 1942 under this scheme. Under this scheme they have fixed quotas for provinces and the total number comes to about 275. They have fixed 6 for Assam, 45 for Bengal, 23 for Bihar, 5 for Orissa, 11 for the Central Provinces and Berar, 50 for Madras, 48 for the Punjab, 6 for the North West Frontier Province, 22 for Bombay, 6 for Sind and 53 for the United Provinces. The remaining 25 seats will be at the disposal of the Federal Public Service Commission to be allotted each year among selected areas in their discretion. The Government of India state in their Communiqué that this system exists already so far as the Indian Police examination is concerned and they further state that this scheme was also applied to the examination for the I. C. S. from 1922 to 1928. If in any selected area the number of applicants is more than the quota fixed for that area, then the Selection Committee consisting of a member of the Federal Public Service Commission, who shall be the President and four members, the Chairman or failing the Chairman a Member of the Provincial Public Service Commission, a member representing the provincial University or Universities or the Department of Education who is to be nominated by the Governor in his discretion, an executive officer of wide administrative experience to be nominated by the Governor in his discretion ; and the fourth member a non-official member to be nominated by the Governor in his discretion, and they have to weed out those unsuitable for the job and send the suitable ones for the I. C. S. examination in Delhi. Sir, this is the gist of the Communiqué that has been issued by the Government of India. Now, Sir, I want to know from the Government why, if this system was followed from 1922 to 1928, it was discontinued ? Admittedly I think it was discontinued because it could not achieve the result for which it was brought into being. Now, about the quotas, in my humble opinion I think the quotas have been fixed arbitrarily, because I do not find any principle why a large number of candidates is fixed for a particular province, while the quota of other provinces is small. Have the Government fixed the quotas on population basis or have they fixed it because a particular province pays more revenue, or have they fixed the quotas because some provinces have got more universities than others ? For instance, take the case of the Central Provinces and Berar. The Central Provinces and Berar has got only one university, while the United Provinces

has got three or four universities. Have they fixed the quotas according to the number of universities in the province? One cannot find any reason or any principle on which the quotas are fixed. I have not heard of fixing of quotas for candidates for appearing for a particular examination in any of the countries in the world. So far as my information goes, even in England there are no quotas fixed for say, Scotland or Wales or for counties of England because there are a large number of candidates coming for Home Service examination. In our universities I do not think—I think my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru will speak more authoritatively on this point—they have fixed quotas for examinations. They have not fixed quotas for particular colleges, but so far as the present practice goes, they take a test examination in colleges and the number that comes out successfully in that test examination is sent for the final examination. Sir, this is a novel scheme, and if I may be excused to call it so, it is practically nomination in a disguised form. When this scheme was published in the papers it was attacked by public men; it was very seriously attacked by the Bombay University and from the reports in the press I learn that they are communicating with the Government of India about this scheme and they are bringing pressure to bear on the Government of India to withdraw the scheme. Public men in India do not appreciate the motives underlying this scheme. Some of them apprehend that there is something dangerous in this scheme which proposes to have nomination instead of competition for open competitive examination for the I. C. S. My Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam is not here today, but I may tell him that the question I am now dealing with is not about communal representation in the services, but is about getting the best men from that particular community, because for that particular community reservation is already there. My object in discussing this Resolution is to get best men of best brains and capable of competing in the open competitive examination who will be able to stand the test and who will come out successful after fulfilling all those conditions laid down by the Public Service Commission. So my Muslim friends should not worry over this matter, but they should appreciate the spirit in which I am moving this Resolution and I hope they will support my Resolution. It is just possible that if this scheme is brought into effect, even in the minority community those who are well connected may come out successful in the preliminary selection and the best men who are poor, who cannot afford to placate this member or that member may not get the chance of coming out successful and appear for the I. C. S. examination. I therefore submit that my Muslim friends also should support my Resolution.

Sir, the difficulty is that, if we stick to this scheme, there is every possibility that we may not get the best men. It should not be our aim to create any class feeling in the I. C. S. cadre. The candidates who have passed the open competitive I. C. S. examination may look down upon those candidates, that is those new entrants who go through this preliminary test and come out successful in the I. C. S. examination. This Service has gained a reputation for efficiency in the whole world. This is one of the most important Services and it should be our attempt not to interfere with the efficiency of the Service by importing nomination in a disguised form. Sir, here is a competitive examination. Anybody who has got brains, anybody who has got capacity and who can stand the test, can come out successful, but it should not be our motive in framing schemes like this that some people because they have got a good background should be successful, while others who have got good brains should lose their chance because under the new scheme if they fail in the preliminary interview test they cannot appear for the I. C. S. examination. Sir, the quotas fixed for

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the provinces create another complication. Let us take the case of my own province which is called a backward province. You have fixed a quota of 11 boys for my province. Now, supposing 11 boys from my province do not come out successful in the preliminary interview test. Is it the intention of the Government that representation in the I. C. S. should be given to all provinces? I may further explain the point. Supposing 20 boys come before the committee that you have appointed under the scheme and none of them satisfy the requirements of suitability and the committee rejects all the candidates. Then there will be no candidate from the Central Provinces for the I. C. S. examination. But in fixing quotas there is an apprehension in my mind that you want that all provinces should be represented in the Service, whether the candidates coming from the provinces are good or bad. In my humble opinion, I would not like any unsuitable candidate from my province to go in for an I. C. S. job if he is not suitable for it.

I think these appointments are made not to give jobs to this province or that province but these appointments are made from the best of boys who come out successful in the open competitive examination, whether they come from Bombay or the United Provinces or the Central Provinces or the Punjab. Another thing that strikes my mind is this. Under the present conditions, we are not,—at least those of us who could send our boys to England for examination,—are not in a position to send them there for the I. C. S. examination. My Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith will remember that in 1936, Sir Henry Craik, the then Home Member of the Government of India, replying to the Adjournment Motion moved by Mr. Satyamurti as a protest against the action of the Secretary of State for issuing new regulations for taking British recruits into the Indian Civil Service, said that the Delhi examination ought to be the main source for recruiting Indians. Sir, with your permission I shall read a portion from his speech to show what he meant. He said:—

“The figures of the average of the last five years are rather striking. They show that 190 to 200 Indians compete in Delhi for three or four vacancies; whereas in London about 240 Indian candidates compete for fifteen vacancies. Obviously the scales are weighted very heavily in favour of the London examination. This is one and perhaps the most important matter in which the present system has failed to achieve its object”.

Further on, on page 153, he says:

“The Delhi examination has failed completely in its primary object of being the main door to Indian recruitment and of giving Indians, except those that are of the richer class, a reasonable chance of entering the Service”.

So the view of the Government of India was then that the majority of Indians should be recruited from India through the Delhi examination. Sir, in my humble opinion, I think if you put obstacles in the way of worthy candidates by enforcing this scheme, you defeat the very object which the Government of India had in view in 1936.

Then, Sir, I think there is another danger in the scheme, and public men in India should be careful to take full account of it and bring pressure to bear on the Government. Sir, if after an experience of five or six years after the scheme is brought into effect, unfortunately the efficiency of the Service is impaired, I am afraid the British reactionaries who are always there to block our progress will say: “Look here, we started an examination in India for getting the best people. We are not getting the best people from the examination in India and therefore we must not only decrease the number taken from

India but we must increase the ratio of the British element in the Indian Civil Service." Sir, we all talk of Indianization and we have a right to talk of Indianization. We want that as far as possible without impairing the efficiency of any Service, Indians should have a major share in the Services in India. If this scheme is brought into effect and if unfortunately efficiency is impaired I am afraid we shall be giving a handle to the British reactionaries to refuse our demand.

The Government of India have fixed quotas for the provinces. I want to know whether the Provincial Governments were consulted when the quotas were fixed, because it is for the Provincial Governments also to consider whether the present system of examination is sound or not and whether it requires any revolutionary change. If the Government of India consulted Provincial Governments in this matter, I also want to know whether the Provincial Governments agreed to the scheme that has been propounded by the Government of India.

Another point is this. Why have the Government of India not taken the Central Legislature into their confidence? The Government of India could have brought a Resolution before the Central Legislature about the scheme and could have enlisted their sympathy if the scheme was sound. We were not given an opportunity of discussing the scheme before it was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and before final orders were passed. I have serious objection to the procedure that has been followed by the Government of India, because, this system of examination in Delhi has been in existence since 1922 and it has been very successful. We have not been able to find any defect in that system and the Government of India ought to have placed the matter before the Central Legislature and consulted them before taking the present step.

Under the scheme, the candidates will not have a fair chance at the preliminary selection examination because the avowed object of the primary selection examination is to reduce the number. I think the Government of India are tackling the problem at the wrong end. With some reforms in the examining agency, I think they would have been able to bring about the weeding out of unsuitable candidates—

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat that? I did not quite catch what he said.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: What I said was this. The candidates will not have a fair chance at the selection test or interview carried out by the Provincial Committee because, after all, the avowed object is to reduce the number of candidates. If there are candidates in excess of the quota, they will try their utmost to reduce the number. If the Government of India think they cannot manage the enormously large proportion of candidates, they should introduce some reforms in the examining system itself but they should not reduce the number in this way.

There are so many public examinations in India at which a large number of candidates appear, and only suitable candidates, who stand the test, can come out successful. If it is intended to weed out the unsuitable candidates, I think competition is a better form of selection. This system involves the principle of nomination and to some extent gives the go-by to the principle of competition.

Sir, I do not want to take the House into the past history of this examination, but I may submit that since the time of Lord Macaulay, who succeeded in

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introducing competitive examination so far as the I. C. S. is concerned in 1855 all the Public Service Commissions that have come out to India have been in favour of competition rather than of selection or nomination. The words used by Lord Macaulay at that time in the House of Commons were as important then as they are now. With your permission, Sir, I will read a sentence or two from the speech of Lord Macaulay, which he made then. He said :—

“ Under a system of competition every man struggles hard to do his best ; and the consequence is that, without any effort on the part of the examiner, the standard keeps itself up. But the moment that you say to the examiner, not ‘ Shall A or B go to India ? ’ but ‘ Here is A. Is he fit to go to India ? ’ the question becomes altogether a different one. The examiner’s compassion, his good nature, his unwillingness to blast the prospects of a young man, lead him to strain a point in order to let the candidate in if we suppose the dispensers of patronage left merely to the operation of their own minds ; but you would have them subjected to solicitations of a sort it would be impossible to resist. The father comes with tears in his eyes ; the mother writes the most pathetic and heart-breaking letters. Very firm minds have often been shaken by appeals of that sort. But the system of competition allows nothing of the kind. The parent cannot come to the examiner and say : ‘ I know very well that the other boy beat my son ; but please be good enough to say that my son beat the other boy ’. ”

These remarks are always important in the eyes of the public men in India. Another English writer, Leonard deWhite—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Your time is nearly up. You will have to bring your remarks to a close.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : If you will allow me five minutes, Sir, I will finish my remarks. This writer says that “ universal agreement is in favour of competitive examination as the safest mode of recruitment ”.

Sir, as my time is up, I just want to make out one more point before I finish. Sir, the I.C.S. people are appointed to very high and important jobs in the administration of the country. They carry on the administration of the provinces. They are appointed Executive Councillors in the Centre. They are appointed in the Political Department, and this Service, Sir, let me say to its credit, has produced the best men up till now. If by this scheme the efficiency of the Service is impaired, the blame will be laid at the doors of the Government of India and the Secretary of State and not at ours. Public men in India have condemned this measure and I hope the whole House will support me in this Resolution.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the Honourable Mr. Kalikar has dealt very exhaustively with this Resolution, but before I go on to the points that I wish to raise I would like to ask the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith whether universities and public bodies were consulted before this step was taken ? Apparently the universities were not consulted. I happen to be a member of the Executive Council of the Allahabad university and as far as I know the Allahabad University was never consulted. If it had been I should have known, because I never found this item on the agenda of the Executive Council. Well, if the universities and public bodies were not consulted, then what is the reason for their not being consulted ?

Perhaps Mr. Conran-Smith will also tell us why this step was taken without any reference to or consultation with public bodies which have a right to be consulted in regard to matters of this vital nature.

The second question I should like him to consider is this. What are the difficulties with the I. C. S. examination so far as numbers are concerned ? How do numbers make the I. C. S. examination more difficult to conduct ? So far as the written test is concerned, the candidates are charged a certain fee for it. You have examiners and you can appoint more examiners if the number increases. The real difficulty as far as I can see comes in in the *viva voce* test. The present position with regard to the *viva voce* test would seem to be this. Candidates who fail to reach a minimum standard in the written test are not sent for and only those who have reached a certain specified standard are asked to appear at the *viva voce* test. A *viva voce* test after a written test is a satisfactory test. I think the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith knows what the practice is in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The *viva voce* is held after the written test, and it is generally held to determine a man's class, a man perhaps on the border line ; should he get a first or a second. The *viva voce* helps the examiners to decide. They have the written papers before them and the *viva voce* is the deciding test. I know that the system so far as the I.C.S. examination is concerned is a little different. But here again you have the written papers of the candidates before you and you have sent for those who have satisfied a preliminary test. Therefore that system from the educational point of view is a more sound one than the one which has recommended itself to the Government. You want to eliminate candidates for the examination itself by this latter system of *viva voce* test first. That is I think what this Selection Board will do. It will rely, not on a written but mainly on an oral test. Now it is very difficult to estimate a candidate's worth in an interview of five or ten or fifteen minutes. A candidate comes to you in a tie and collar and shirt, very neat, and he has a nice suit. Perhaps his father has a little money or he happens to be the son of Sir so and so or Rai Bahadur or Raja so and so. His father may have rendered very eminent services to the State or his grandfather was a talukdar and sanad holder. All these are qualifications in the eyes of the examiners. They note those qualifications and they start with a prejudice in the candidate's favour. Then he may have been to an Anglo-Indian or European school. He speaks with an affected European accent. He can talk colloquial English and he can answer a few questions on current politics and current affairs a little satisfactorily. Probably his home atmosphere has been a little better than the home atmosphere of the village boy and you at once put him down as a candidate who is fit for entering a Service in which initiative, ability, driving power, energy and intellectual ability of a high order are required. Now that I think is a very unsatisfactory method of eliminating candidates. The poor boy, who is probably shabbily dressed, who has not had the advantage of a cultured home—who only gets the advantage of a cultured home after he gets into the Civil Service—the boy who has not these family advantages or traditions is at once put at a disadvantage by this system.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Is that your experience of young men who entered the I.C.S. in the past ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Sir, I have come into contact with young men who enter the Civil Service and I know lots of them who come from very, very poor families, who after they get into the Civil Service marry into very rich families, who give their daughters to them in marriage. If they

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had not got into the Civil Service they would have remained as ordinary poor clerks with *dhotis* and *kurtas* and with no proper two meals a day. After they enter the Civil Service their whole outlook changes. I have a particular young man in mind who used to be a student of mine when I happened to be teaching in a part-time capacity in the University. I remember that boy used to come in a *dhoti* and *kurta* and I would never have thought that he was any good if I had been an examiner in the Civil Service examination. He sat for the examination, he topped the list, he married very well. He is now in England and will probably be coming out to India shortly. If you had this system of preliminary examination, the poor boy would have had no chance, because—

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS : You would have rejected him ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Even I who always start with a bias in favour of poor boys might have been influenced by a good tie, by good socks, by well made shoes and that sort of thing. I do not look upon this preliminary test as a very satisfactory test. Another point that I would like to be considered is that too much power has been given to the provinces in regard to this matter. The composition of the Board is very unsatisfactory. A member of the Federal Public Service Commission will be the President, the Chairman or failing the Chairman a member of the Provincial Public Service Commission to be nominated by the Chairman—I do not want to reflect in the least upon the Provincial Public Service Commission, but the traditions have yet to be built up so far as the Provincial Public Service Commissions are concerned. The traditions of the Federal Public Service Commission are very high. I do not know whether you can say the same thing yet about the Provincial Public Service Commission. The constitution provides for a member representing the provincial university or universities or the Department of Education, to be nominated by the Governor in his discretion—I would like to emphasize the words “nominated by the Governor in his discretion”—an executive officer of wide administrative experience to be nominated by the Governor in his discretion. We know the bias of executive officers. They attach value to certain things which do not attract us very much—one non-official Member to be nominated by the Governor in his discretion. The Selection Committee will interview candidates assigned to that area and select those who are adjudged by them to be suitable for the I.C.S. up to the number prescribed for that area. I would say that the composition of the Selection Committee is very unsatisfactory. You have certainly—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Is that covered by the Resolution ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : We attack the whole principle of the scheme.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Resolution is quite specific enough.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Barring a member of the Federal Public Service Commission and perhaps a member of the Provincial Public Service Commission—I am not quite sure about that—I do not think there is satisfactory representation on this Board at all. The Selection Board will be nominated by the executive Government in its discretion. I am frankly

opposed to this reservation for certain provinces of certain quotas. We have introduced the principle of communalism in our services. Now, Sir, we want to go a step further and we want to introduce the principle of provincialism also into our services. I said the other day that there is one thing I should like to see reserved in the future constitution of this country, whatever it may be, and that is the all-India character of the I.C.S. I think the all-India character of the I.C.S. will be affected if this system of provincial quotas is accepted, and on what basis are you going to reserve these quotas? Assam is going to have 6, Bengal is going to have 45, Bihar with a population of about 42 millions is going to have 23, Orissa is going to have 5, the Central Provinces are going to have 11, Madras 50, the Punjab with a population of only 22 millions or so is going to have just two less than Madras with a population very nearly double that of the Punjab, the North West Frontier Province is going to have 6 and Bombay 22. Bombay has very nearly the same population as the Punjab and is going to have 22, whereas the Punjab is going to have 48. Sind is going to have 6, the United Provinces 53. That is the province with the largest population and the largest number of universities also and with two all-India universities also situated in the province; it is going to have 53. Why these provincial quotas, why these arbitrary limitations? If you must select why can not you select on an all-India basis? Why must you say that there must be reservation, so much for this province and so much for that. If you accept that principle, you will probably have to go further and you should have divisional representation, district representation and you should have university representation, you should have taluka representation, tehsil representation, and you will carry the principle to ridiculous lengths. If Madras captures all the seats in an open competition, let it; if the United Provinces captures all the seats in an all-India competition, let it. By fixing these arbitrary quotas you make it difficult for Madras, or the United Provinces or Bengal to capture all the seats and provincialism is going to be a factor which is going to be recognized so far as the future is concerned in the recruitment of what is and should remain an all-India service. If it is considered desirable to restrict the number of candidates for the I.C.S. examination, I suggest that there are indirect methods of doing this thing. Co-operate with the universities. We have in our province *bureaux* for advising students who want to appear for the I.C.S. attached to the universities. Make these bureaux work. Let there be greater co-operation between the Public Service Commission and the University Bureaux and the University Bureaux should as a policy, as a deliberate policy, discourage men who have no chance of success in the I.C.S. examination from sitting for that examination. The University Bureaux will be in a more authoritative position to do this work, for they will be composed of people who know these young men; they know the worth and the value of these young men. These young men before they apply for the I.C.S. examination should get into touch with these University Bureaux. The University Bureaux should maintain contact with these young men and some system should be devised whereby these young men can be advised as to whether they should sit for the I.C.S. examination or not. A number of candidates sit for the I.C.S. examination who have no chance. If you only tell them that they have no chance they would not sit for the examination, but the man says "Let me try my luck". We all believe in this country in *karma* and *kismet*. If the astrologer says that the stars are good and we may have a chance, we just sit for the examination. If you change this environment, if you change these social conditions, you will not have a large number of candidates sitting for the I.C.S. examination. Sir, I therefore think that the method

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which has recommended itself to Government is a very unsatisfactory method. I am not in favour of any preliminary selection. I believe in the principle of open competition. I believe in the principle of no favour for anybody. If you want to have communal representation, have communal representation for the Service but select the best among the Muhammadan candidates. But I do not believe in this nomination *plus* selection or selection *plus* competition. I believe in the principle of open competition and, as this decision attacks the principle of open competition, I have no option but to give my support to the Resolution which the Honourable Mr. Kalikar has moved, and I hope the Government will see the wisdom of withdrawing this scheme.

12 Noon.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution. In the I.C.S., which is one of the gifted Services in India, we must have the best brains and the best intellect and ability. Now, Sir, when we have the idea of democracy amongst us, we must not limit the number of candidates who should appear in the I.C.S. examination. Public Service Commissions were established in the various provinces. As far as the Punjab is concerned, I know of instances, definite instances in which the Ministry has interfered with the findings of the Punjab Public Service Commission and have at times dictated their policy. These Public Service Commissions, when they were established, the underlying idea was that there should be no ministerial influence in the selection of candidates for the various services. But as I have already related, that object was not achieved in the Punjab. I presume that what has happened in the Punjab must be happening in other provinces also. Sir, there was some fear in the public mind that Madrasis being the most intellectual people would practically secure all the posts in competition. Well, Sir, if Madrasis are intellectual, let them have the posts. They are Indians after all. I hold that other provinces are becoming as intellectual and very soon they will be able to secure more posts. But when you want the best intellect, why should there be a quota fixed for each province. I hold, Sir, that this introduction of communalism in the Service is one of the grossest blunders which Government have committed. In this Service we must have the very best intellect. Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Saprū has observed that generally it is the boys from rich and well-to-do families who are generally selected by the preliminary boards. I might inform the House in that connection that that is not always the case. In the Punjab, for instance, a young man who was an M.A., LL.B., who came from one of the noted blue-blooded families of the Punjab was not selected in preference to a depressed class candidate of lower qualifications. So, Sir, as far as the me it of old family and blue blood is concerned, in a period of democracy it is being brushed aside. On the other hand, the claims of old families and families who have rendered services for generations are being ignored. That is the result of the democratic policy. But even when Government does adopt a democratic policy, Sir, why should there be a limit fixed to the candidates appearing in the examination? As I observed the other day, the I.C.S., which is one of the most gifted Services in India and which has done a great deal to develop this country, ought not to be allowed to have members who are poor in commonsense, in ability and in education. Sir, the time is now coming when the policy of communal representation must stop. It is now, Sir, creating discontent.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : On a point of order, Sir. May I suggest that communalism does not arise at all on this Resolution nor is it in any way relevant to the Government scheme. The Honourable Member is, I think, talking about communalism. He might raise a point about provincialization, but there is no taint of communalism at all in the scheme that Government propose to work.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Very well, Sir, I will finish by saying that this Resolution ought to be supported by us all and I hope the Government will accept this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD YAKUB (Nominated Non-Official) : Mr. President, it was a pleasant surprise to me to hear the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution showering encomiums upon the I.C.S. Up to this time, Mr. President, we have been hearing that the steel frame of the I.C.S. was the cause of all the vices and mischiefs in this country and it was a pleasant departure when my Honourable friend the Mover of the Resolution said that the I.C.S. was one of the best and most efficient services in the country and that its efficiency should be maintained. I do not know, Sir, whether this expression of view reflects the personal opinion of my Honourable friend the Mover of the Resolution or whether the general condemnation against the I.C.S. has been withdrawn by the dictator of the political opinion in this country. Anyhow, the change is welcome and commendable. Mr. President, so far as the subject-matter of the Resolution is concerned, I think that it makes an exhibition of much ado about nothing, and that a mountain has been made out of a molehill. The scheme of Government which is the subject-matter of the Resolution does not in any way seem to contain any of the vices which have been attributed to it or to be open to any of the objections which have been raised against it. Nobody says that competition should be replaced by nomination. Nobody says that the efficiency of the I.C.S. should be lowered. On the other hand, I think that if anything is intended by the scheme, it is to raise the efficiency and the standard of the I.C.S. Experience of the last five or six years, since competitive examinations were started in India, shows that hundreds of graduates, and even under-graduates, good, bad and indifferent students of the universities in India, have applied to appear for the I.C.S. examination and sat for it. Most of them were not fit to come out successful in the I.C.S. examination. But by not putting any restriction upon the candidature of these students, the result was that months and months were taken in examining hundreds of copies, hundreds and thousands of rupees were paid to the examiners for examining, and when a very large number of candidates were asked to come to Delhi for appearing before the Federal Public Service Commission, poor people had to spend hundreds of rupees for their travelling expenses, with the result that they were disappointed, and very few of them were found to be fit for the I.C.S. Sir, two years ago, Government had to introduce a system by which they said that only those candidates will be asked for the interview who had secured a certain number of marks. That was a restriction and no complaint was raised against it. By the present rules a better system has been adopted. Not only has no relaxation been made in the competition, but a double competition has been introduced, and I thought that it will be approved by the exponents of competitive examinations.

Now, Sir, the chief objection has been raised about the personnel of the Selection Board in the provinces. The Selection Board will not consist only

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of Members of the Provincial Public Service Commissions, and even if it was so, I would not have raised any objection to it. Sir, very often we say that Indians are capable of performing all duties. We are always told that Indians are capable of administering their country without any favour and without any weakness in their character. But speakers on the Resolution today have condemned Indians with their own mouths—

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : How ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD YAKUB : After all, the members of these Boards will be Indians, and if the Indians are accused of favouritism, if they are not capable of selecting good candidates for a small examination, then I do not think we can say that Indians are capable of administering this country.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : They said that they will be selected by their ties and dress.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD YAKUB : If the members of the Selection Board—some of the highly educated and most capable administrators in the provinces—if they will select candidates only by their ties and shirts, then I think that the fate of India is sealed for ever. Even under the present system a very large number of marks is reserved for the interviews by the Federal Public Service Commission, and even if this new system were not adopted, the selection of the candidates mostly depends upon the result of the interview. If in the interview people are selected only by their ties and shirts, then I think Government will not be unjustified in reverting to the old system of having the I.C.S. examinations in England and not in India, because there is no free agency in India which can select the candidates. Mr. President, this system of having previous sanction for appearing in the examinations is not peculiar to the I.C.S. In the Accounts Examination and in the Indian Police Examination in India, candidates have to obtain previous sanction before they sit for the examination and that has never been objected to by anybody up to this time.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : It has not worked well in the Indian Police.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MUHAMMAD YAKUB : I do not know, but I think there are certain examinations for which preliminary sanction has to be obtained before candidates sit for the examination and no objection has been raised to it. So, I do not think that there can be any objection to obtaining sanction. It will be in fact for the good of the students themselves. So much expenditure will be avoided and so much waste of time will be saved.

The other part of the Resolution is about fixing quotas for the provinces. I think there can be no objection to this also. It has always been said that democracy means rule by all classes, all communities and all provinces. I do not think that the work of administration should be made the monopoly of only one province or the other. After all, Sir, competitive examinations mean book cramming and mere success in the competitive examination does not show that a man can become a good administrative officer. We know many students who have passed the highest examinations by book cramming, who have got very high Degrees by passing examinations, but have got no

capacity for any administrative work and they have not succeeded in the world. Therefore, I say that it is only right and just that the people of all the provinces should get a chance to take part in the administration of the country and quotas should be allotted to all provinces. That is not a matter against which any objection ought to have been raised.

With these remarks, Sir, I oppose the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I regret I cannot share the view of the Honourable Sir Muhammad Yakub when he said that we were making too much fuss about nothing. I think the Council is indebted to the Honourable Mr. Kalikar for raising this question which has already aroused considerable public interest and is, in any case, a matter of grave concern to a large class of would-be candidates. The subject is many-sided and is beset with difficulties. I do not intend to traverse the points which have already been dealt with in some detail by previous speakers. I shall confine my remarks to one or two, what seem to me to be, main points which have a bearing on this general question. The justification for the new Government scheme, I believe, rests or is supposed to rest on certain considerations among which the desire to minimize or avoid administrative inconvenience is an important one. The inconvenience relates to the practical difficulty of conducting an examination on a large scale. I have been an examiner for many years and I have been connected with a University for almost a lifetime. I cannot help feeling that the evil which is supposed to emanate from the necessity of conducting an examination on a large scale is somewhat exaggerated. In any large scale examination there will be difficulty in securing an absolute uniformity of standard. That is admitted ; but for all practical purposes we can conduct a large scale examination with an approach to a standard of uniformity which will be sufficient for all practical purposes. Another point : I think I am right in saying that the fixing of provincial quotas introduces, formally at any rate, for the first time the principle of provincialism. Now I am not at all surprised at this development and I would have expected this at any moment. I am not quarrelling about that. But it seems to me that the logical extension of that principle is to leave to the provinces the selection of the candidates ; that is to say to conduct, either by the provinces or on their behalf by the Federal Public Service Commission, separate examinations for the candidates from different provinces or to conduct a common examination but fixing for each province the number of recruits that it requires and will be entitled to supply. That, I confess, is the logical extension of the principle underlying the fixation of provincial quotas. Coming to restriction, I do not object to the restriction of numbers as such. There can be no objection to any preliminary restriction. The only consideration is what method you are going to adopt to effect this restriction ? Now, after the picturesque exposition of the atmosphere which is supposed to prevail at interviews, by the Honourable Mr. Sapru. I do not think it necessary for me to stress the point that interviews and nominations are in the public mind, rightly or wrongly, generally associated with the exercise of what may be called the personal element, which ought if possible to be avoided in any satisfactory method of selection. It seems to me therefore that the method proposed in the new scheme to appoint Selection Boards at the different provincial centres is open to objection. In any case the method is not likely to inspire that trust and confidence among the general public or—and that is an important point—among the would-be candidates. I therefore ask whether, if the Government is committed to the policy of initial restriction, it cannot devise a better method of securing the limitation aimed at than through Selection

[Sir Ramunni Menon.]

Boards? Why cannot we have a preliminary examination of the candidates from each province? That will be at any rate free from the objection based on any play of the personal element.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: May I ask if by preliminary examination the Honourable Member means a preliminary examination in the provinces?

THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON: An examination in one or two subjects which are considered very essential. That will rule out a very large number of candidates. One of the suggestions made by the Honourable Mr. Sapru was that the Federal Public Service Commission should enter into some sort of arrangement with university bureaux. Well, it seems to me that that method will be open to the same objection as the proposed Selection Board is. Sir, though there are difficulties in conducting an examination on the present scale, in view of the consideration that any decision that the Government may arrive at will be open to some objection or other, and on general grounds also it seems to me that it would have been preferable if the Government had postponed taking action of such drastic nature to the time when, as I said the other day, a post-war review of all such questions would become almost inevitable. But the Government have taken a certain decision and I can only express the hope that they will devise a method of effecting the preliminary restriction which will not be open to the objection to which the proposed method is open. I would like to add that no candidate asks for any favour in a competitive examination. All that he expects and that should be conceded to him is a free field and no favour, no favour either for himself or for anybody else. If the Government can devise a system which will have this quality of impartiality I think they will do well.

THE HONOURABLE SIR A. P. PATRO (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I will say only a few words on this Resolution. It was agitated for long in the country when provincial autonomy was to be granted that the provinces should have the right of selecting the officers necessary for the purpose of carrying on the provincial administration. The provinces demanded this right and liberty of selecting their own officers. So it seems to me that while the provinces should have a voice in the matter of selection of candidates, in what are known as the Central Services the Central Government should have their own officers and agencies for carrying on their work in the provinces. That was the principle which was advocated for a very long time. Now, the Government scheme is only a modification of that desire which was expressed by the people of this country. In the case of allotment of the quotas, it may be that at present there is no uniform principle on which it is based, as may appear from the numbers allotted to the different provinces. But I think on the whole in this matter it is not merely the population but also the economic condition of the provinces and other important matters relating to the administration which was taken into consideration in fixing the quotas for each province. It may seem invidious, it may sometimes seem unequal also when these quotas are taken by themselves, but taken with the background, the reasons for which the quotas are fixed, it seems to me that there is ample justification for fixing quotas. Each province at present requires to have so many hands for the purpose of the administration of that province. I do not see why the Government of India should interfere with the right and freedom of the province in

the matter. The system which has been devised in this scheme is only preliminary to provincial autonomy being real. The Resolution refers to restriction in the number of candidates appearing for the I. C. S. examination in India. This is too wide an expression ; there is no restriction proper, but on the other hand what is done is to eliminate the wastage, to eliminate persons who may not be able to stand the test of examination and selection. Therefore it is in the interests of the candidates themselves and in the interests of the Public Service Commission it is necessary that a certain restraint should be placed upon the number selected for the purpose of the examination. How is it done? The proposal is that there should be a Provincial Board consisting of independent persons, persons who have had experience in the selection of candidates. I am sorry for the reflections which the Honourable Mr. Sapru made against Provincial Public Service Commissions. I do not know other provinces, nor have I experience with regard to them, but taking my province, the Madras Presidency and the Madras Provincial Public Service Commission, I do say that I yield to none in the matter of their independence, integrity and impartiality in the selection of candidates and in the recommendations made to the Government. There has not been such friction as is alleged between the Government and the Public Service Commission ; nor have we got the sad spectacle referred to by the Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das that the Punjab Government deliberately interfere with the decisions of the Public Service Commission. I do not think he was justified in saying that without explanation that the Punjab Government is guilty of that crime. I do not think that there is any basis for his complaint at all. Therefore it seems to me that the system is simply to help candidates, to save them from considerable waste. What would happen if all of them, 400 or 500 candidates, were to sit for an examination when there were only five or six vacancies at Delhi—to come not merely for the preliminary examination but also for interview? I have heard from a very reliable source, from members of the Public Service Commission, that it is a tremendous task. It is impossible for them to conduct this kind of preliminary examination or this kind of interview in the course of a short time. It not only involves strain on the Public Service Commission but the results are bound to be haphazard. Again candidates have to come and wait for a number of days in Delhi and hang about. Therefore it seems to me that the Selection Board in the provinces is a very proper method by which preliminary selection could be made. If people who cannot get through the test are weeded out, it would be better for all concerned. One of the members of the Public Service Commission, a very important member, Mr. Ruthnaswami, has published a report during his Chairmanship, which shows that candidates who had University degrees were asked, “ Who is the Commander-in-Chief?”, “ What is the interest that you have got in the matter of economic conditions of the country?” and their answers were surprising ; the answers are also published as a sample for people to see. These people, M.A., M.Ls., from the Madras University and not from other universities, have absolutely no information beyond that contained in the text books ; they cram the text books and vomit them at the examination and they come out very high, but in actual matters of commonsense they are not able to stand the general test. It has been pressed that competitive examination is the soundest method and perhaps the best method of selecting candidates. Experience has given me the knowledge that competitive examination is not the safest test for selecting the best candidates. I have seen people of very small size, poor health, and no personality at all get through the competitive examination, and when they are put in charge of division or district administration they are not able to come up to the mark ; in times of crisis they have to fall back on other people. They are able to mug up and cram text books and repeat them.

[Sir A. P. Patro.]

in the examination—they are able to reproduce the text book things by memory, because memory is part of the equipment of the priestly class—but when they are put in actual business, they fail. Many of these I.C.S. instead of taking executive charge prefer the judicial line, and after training as Sub-Judges, they become District Judges. They dare not face the difficulties of the administration as an executive officer. Therefore it seems to me that competition is not the only test, it is not the best test possible. As has been devised here, a combination of selection and combination seems to me a very wise combination ; if it is worked wisely it may end in giving the best results. It is the fashion everywhere to say that we must have competition, but who are the class of people who demand competition ? It is only the few intellectual classes that demand competition. Is the public service intended as a monopoly for these intellectual classes in India ? What about the other classes of people who have not had the advantage of that education, the advantage of university training all these years ? Therefore it seems to me that in order to have justice and fair play all round there should be a combination of both, competition as well as selection and this scheme which is now proposed by the Government aims at removing the difficulties of the existing competitive examination.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH (Home Secretary): Sir, I am glad that my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar has tabled this Resolution, because it gives me a chance of putting the case for Government and I hope to remove some of the obvious suspicions, if I may say so, and misapprehensions which are abroad. I am aware that the scheme has been criticized both in the press and otherwise and the debate to which I have listened this morning shows that Honourable Members are not happy about it. I recognize that Honourable Members have spoken out of conviction. They feel that this is not the best way of meeting the difficulty. Indeed, my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru spoke with great conviction. His pathetic story of the boy in the *dhoti* almost drew tears from my eyes, but I confess I was not quite sure what moral to draw from it—whether it was because the boy had not got a collar and tie that he got into the I.C.S. or not was not clear. I am sorry to find the Honourable Mover is so deeply suspicious of Government ; he suspects sinister motives. He suspects attempts to introduce the system of nomination. He also, I was sorry to find, saw in it the hand of British reactionaries. I think I ought to clear that point immediately. The difficulties which have necessitated the introduction of this scheme were felt by the Federal Public Service Commission, an experienced body, with a large Indian element who, as I have said, found the difficulties so real that they were compelled to raise the matter with Government. Now, the question as I see it is this. What are the difficulties ? Are they real and, if so, have Government selected the best method of dealing with them ?

Sir, this question has been under consideration between Government and the Commission since 1937 and it has probably had as full examination and consideration as any other question that ever has been decided,—I mean any question of administration. I myself have personally discussed it with the Commission and have been through with them each of the possible solutions that have been put forward as a means of overcoming the difficulties. Now, those difficulties are two. The first I may describe as the mechanical difficulty, —that is to say, the difficulty of seating so large a body of candidates. And

the second is the difficulty of actually examining them. Now, my Honourable friend Sir Ramunni Menon, who as an experienced educationist is entitled to be listened to with the utmost respect, did I think recognize that the difficulty was real but he suggested that Government had not chosen the best method of dealing with it and he himself indicated what he regarded as an appropriate method. On that I shall say a few words presently.

Another aspect of the problem is the interest of the candidates themselves. Are we right in allowing a large number of totally unsuitable candidates to appear for the examination? That there are a large number of totally unsuitable candidates has been admitted by several Members who have spoken this morning. Are we justified in allowing these lads to waste time and money in taking this examination, not to mention the waste of time of the examiners? My Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro who has lightened my task in replying himself spoke of the unsuitability of many of the candidates who applied. Mr. Sapru has also, I think, recognized that fact but his solution would be apparently to allow a university bureau to dissuade unsuitable candidates. In other words, he would substitute the university bureau for the selection committee. I must confess I do not see the value of that. The bureau would only dissuade but it would be placed in the same position as the selection committee would be, that is to say it would have to decide whether a candidate was a possible candidate or not.

There is just one more thing I would like to say about the mechanical difficulties. The preparations which the Commission had to make on the basis of the entries for the 1940 examination would have involved giving up every bit of room they had, including even their private rooms. Even so, if anything like the candidates expected had appeared, the room would have been insufficient. If therefore some check had not been imposed, then it might have been necessary to build at considerable expense.

I hope I have shown that the Commission's difficulties were very real and if I have, then the only question is: Have we chosen the right solution? Now, in the course of our discussions with the Commission we covered not only the suggestions put forward by Honourable Members this morning, including particularly Sir Ramunni Menon's, but many others as well. Sir Ramunni Menon suggested as a possible solution a preliminary provincial examination. I think I am right in understanding him in that sense. Well, the objection to that proposal is this. You will presumably fix certain compulsory subjects in which the candidates would undergo a preliminary examination. I think, if my Honourable friend Sir Ramunni Menon will ponder the question, he will realize that it would mean very often that able candidates who had reckoned on making a good showing in the subjects they took in their degree would be eliminated right away on the few compulsory subjects. But their proficiency in their own particular subject they would have no opportunity at all of showing in the examination.

We also considered the possibility of prescribing an Honours or Pass degree, but the Honours degrees in different universities vary considerably. The Pass degree in some cases is held in two parts and the candidate might get one class in one part and not in another. So that solution also had to be abandoned. The device of fixing minimum qualifying marks for the *viva* does not really help because it does not eliminate the large number of candidates who wish to sit. It does not meet the mechanical difficulty.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Will the Honourable Member repeat what he said?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : I said that one method of reducing the number of candidates was to prescribe that only those candidates who obtained a minimum mark in the written examination would be called to the *viva*. But that does not meet the mechanical difficulty of finding seating accommodation for the numbers who want to sit.

Well, that is Government's position and the scheme now settled is an honest endeavour on Government's part to meet the difficulty. I do not claim that it is perfect. There are admittedly defects in it. But it was the considered opinion of Government and the Commission after two years' examination of the subject that we had selected the best method in the circumstances.

There are one or two particular objections raised by Honourable Members that I would like to deal with if I may. The question of quotas has, of course, been raised. My Honourable friend the Mover said that the quotas were apparently fixed on no principle and with no reason. The quotas were fixed after taking into consideration the following facts: (a) the population of the provinces, (b) the graduate population of the provinces, and (c) the actual number of candidates who have appeared in recent years. If a province is found to have a larger allotment than her area or population appears to warrant, then the explanation is that other factors have operated, e.g., a larger number of candidates have appeared in the past in that province than in others.

Another criticism has been that we are attempting to introduce provincialization. That I most vehemently deny. I cannot see how the allotment of a quota to provinces for the purpose of this preliminary elimination can be described as provincialization. The examination remains an all-India one and it is only in order to enable us by this preliminary selection to keep down the numbers to manageable proportions that we have settled on provincial quotas.

There were certain objections taken to the composition of the selection boards, although the form of the objection differed with different speakers. In some cases the criticism proceeded on a distrust of the provinces which, I must confess, I deprecate. Actually the selection board has been constituted by Government with an eye to securing the strictest impartiality, and I maintain that the composition laid down is likely to achieve that object.

A certain amount was said about the merits or demerits of a *viva voce* test. A good deal of what the Honourable Mr. Sapru said was merely a criticism of *viva voce* tests in general and did not particularly pertain to the form of *viva voce* we are contemplating for the preliminary selection. It was he, I think, who deprecated or disliked the conferring of so much power on the provinces. He said he did not want to reflect on the Provincial Public Service Commissions and then proceeded to do so. I can only repeat that so far as Government are concerned, they are perfectly satisfied that the composition of the selection boards is such as will secure complete impartiality.

There are one or two minor points which perhaps I had better answer before I sit down. The Honourable the Mover referred to the fact that the method now proposed had been applied in the past from 1922 to 1928 and he said that the reason why it had been given up was not stated, but obviously, it had failed to achieve its object. My Honourable friend is under a misapprehension. The system was laid down but it was not actually applied because the numbers did not rise above the proportions fixed, and it did not in fact operate. Other Honourable Members asked whether Provincial Governments were consulted. My answer is, "Of course, they were". They were consulted at considerable length and their opinions were received.

In conclusion, I would like to remind Honourable Members that this system has worked for some time in the case of the Indian Police and I believe it has worked very satisfactorily. That being so, there is no reason to suppose that it will not work equally satisfactorily in the case of the I.C.S. I would ask Honourable Members of this House, in view of what I have said, to have patience and see how the new system works in the coming year and not to condemn it out of hand, or if I may say so, on *a priori* reasons. In view of what I have said I regret that Government cannot accept the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. President, the only reason given by the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith for opposing the Honourable Mr. Kalikar's Resolution is that the number of candidates appearing at the I. C. S. examination had become unmanageable, and that it was difficult both to interview and to examine so large a number of candidates. Let us first see what the magnitude of the evil is. The largest number of candidates appeared at the examination held in 1940. As many as 467 candidates participated in this examination. The number was certainly high. But, on the other hand, it does not seem to me to be so large as to require the restrictions that the Government scheme which is under discussion now involves. According to the scheme laid down by Government 300 candidates will be allowed annually to take part in the competitive examination. The difference between this number and the number of candidates who have actually appeared so far at the examination is not so large as to require the imposition of the check that Government have resorted to. The number is large but it is not too large as compared with the number which Government themselves are prepared to allow to take part in the examination.

(At this stage the Honourable the President vacated the Chair which was taken by the Honourable Sir David Devadoss.)

Then, Sir, it does not seem to me that Government have limited the functions of their Selection Committees in the provinces to the weeding out of the unfit candidates. If that alone was their object, as the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith contended, there was no reason why a quota should be fixed for every province. It is quite possible in theory that the number of suitable candidates for participation in the I.C.S. examination may be larger in a province than the quota allotted to it by the Government of India. Will not the selection of the required number of candidates then become purely arbitrary? If the object of the Government was to prevent those candidates who were manifestly unfit from wasting their time and money, surely they could have empowered the Universities to make a preliminary selection. That I think would in any case have been better than selection by a committee of the kind proposed in the scheme promulgated by Government. The Universities would not have had to limit the number of candidates desiring to appear in the I.C.S. examination to an arbitrary figure fixed by the executive Government. Apart from that, their decision I think would have been received with less dissatisfaction by the students than the decision of the provincial selection committee.

Sir, we have been told in the course of the debate that there are several examinations in which the selecting authorities resort to a *viva voce* examination. There is no objection of course to a *viva voce* examination, but there is a great difference between a *viva voce* test which comes after the written examination and a *viva voce* test which precedes the written examination. A *viva voce* test which precedes the written examination is a sort of nomination which has been objected to all over India. It is true that there are some services

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

in which the selection takes place previous to the written examination, but the method adopted has not given satisfaction to the public. I know that in the case of several services young men who, judged by any ordinary standard, should have been allowed to take part in the examinations at which they wished to appear were rejected. There did not seem to me to be any ground justifying their rejection. Every one here can from his own experience point to such cases which go to show that whatever the constitution of the selecting authority may be the method chosen by Government is in itself unsatisfactory.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : On a point of explanation, Sir. May I say that the Selection Committee will have before them the academic record of the candidate in the same way as the university would have. I cannot therefore see the difference between the Selection Committee deciding what the academic record was and the university also depending on that record.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : There is first of all the question of public confidence. Apart from this, if all that Government desire is the rejection of the unfit why should they fix a quota for any province ? It is the fixation of the quota that is most objected to both by the universities and the public. I know, Sir, we all know, that some time ago candidates for the competitive examination for Sandhurst were subjected to a preliminary scrutiny. It was the Provincial Governments who examined the candidates. But the system gave rise to serious complaints and the Skeen Committee recommended its abandonment. The number of candidates appearing at that examination too was growing. A good many of them had no chance whatsoever of succeeding in the examination. Nevertheless the old method was given up and what has been the result ? In course of time our young men have come to know that the examination held for the Indian Military Academy is pretty stiff and that only those boys have a chance of succeeding in it who have carefully prepared themselves for it. I have no doubt whatsoever that a similar recognition on the part of our young men will lead to a reduction in the number of candidates desirous of appearing at the I.C.S. examination. The character of the examination will in course of time provide the remedy that Government are in search of, and I think that we might well leave the difficulty of which Mr. Conran-Smith has complained to be remedied by the operation of natural causes.

A good deal has been said here about the inadequacy of competitive examinations by themselves as a test of merit. The people who have brought forward this objection surely know that every written examination is followed by a *viva voce* test. But they evidently wanted to run down the competitive system itself. They seem to argue in such a way as to suggest that common-sense was the monopoly of those who had received insufficient education. Frankly, they seem to me to have voiced the feelings of those who think that they will have no chance in life unless they can secure the patronage of Government. The views of such people are entirely out of court.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith told us of the various methods which Government thought of employing in order to reduce the number of candidates for the I.C.S. examination before adopting the scheme which we are objecting to. I have no doubt whatsoever that every one of the schemes that he mentioned was open to some objection, but I do think that a preliminary selection on the basis of the university qualifications would have been fairer

than selection by provincial committees. Again, Sir, it seems extraordinary that the quota allotted to the Punjab should be greater than that allotted to Bengal. Is the population of Bengal less than that of the Punjab or is the number of graduates in Bengal less than that of the Punjabi graduates? I am sure not even my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith will reply to either of these questions in the affirmative. The relative quotas assigned to Bengal and the Punjab therefore require a more serious explanation than has so far been vouchsafed by him.. I might institute another comparison, a comparison between the Punjab and Madras. While the Punjab, as I have already said, has been allotted a quota of 48 that of Madras is limited to 50. The population of Madras too is not less than that of the Punjab; nor I should imagine is the number of Madras graduates less than that of the Punjab graduates. This illustration also shows how arbitrary the quotas are. I am therefore unable to approve of the scheme which has been laid down by Government. Considering the evils of the method chosen by Government, knowing the complaints that it gave rise to in the case of the Indian Military Academy examination and the complaints that it is now giving rise to in the case of the Indian Police examination which takes place separately in each province I cannot but strongly object to the scheme which is dealt with in Mr. Kalikar's Resolution. I cannot express my feelings more strongly than by saying that if there were no other way of controlling the number of candidates than by adopting the scheme laid down by Government I would say, "Do not control the number." I would let the present evil continue rather than limit it by the method chosen.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : How would the Honourable Member meet the practical difficulty? Would he seat the candidates in the street or build a large and expensive hall?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : You have been able so far to provide for the examination of 467 candidates.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : With great inconvenience.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I am quite certain that in course of time the number will go down, but if it does not I suggest that the educational authorities should be asked to prevent those boys from appearing who have obviously not the slightest chance of succeeding in the examination. I am quite certain that the restraining influence of the universities will be accepted with less dissatisfaction than the control of Government. This is my constructive suggestion. But my hope is that want of success in the examination will soon have a chastening influence and will in course of time sensibly diminish the number of candidates. For these reasons, Sir, I give my whole-hearted support to the Resolution moved by Mr. Kalikar.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Sir, the points raised by my Honourable friend the Home Secretary in his speech have failed to convince me of the necessity of the scheme he has put forward. I must substantiate the argument I advanced that the scheme would give a handle to the British reactionaries to block our progress in this matter. I base this argument on a rule which appears in the Gazette of 4th May, 1940. These rules are made by the Secretary of State for India. It is as follows :—

"The maximum number of candidates admitted to the examination may in the discretion of the Governor General in Council be limited to such number not being less than 200 as the Governor General in Council may decide".

[Mr. V. V. Kalikar.]

The origin of the present scheme which has been propounded by the Government of India is in this rule. Therefore when I read this rule and the Press Communiqué I apprehended that the Government of India were forced to put this scheme into effect at the instance of Whitehall. I wish my apprehensions should prove incorrect. Then, the arguments that have been put forward for eliminating the candidates, about space, about the wastage of money on the part of parents and the candidates, were considered by eminent educationists in India and some of them propounded a scheme under which the candidates should be examined orally as well as in a written examination in the provinces and then those who get through that test should be sent up for the I.C.S. examination. I gave my thought to the scheme which was propounded by one of the eminent educationists and I find that that scheme will involve multiplicity of examination and cause more strain to the candidates. I submit if the Government cannot find out a way to meet the present situation and if they desire to eliminate unsuitable candidates by adopting the present scheme which they have adumbrated in the communiqué, I prefer the scheme of having two examinations—one in the province, written as well as oral, and then another for the regular I.C.S. examination. In spite of the strain that the candidates will have to bear, I do not want that the public as such should lose confidence and that there should be the least chance of impairing the efficiency of the Service. We must have the best brains, as I said at the beginning of my speech and you cannot get the best brain by this sort of scheme.

Sir, so far as the principle underlying the scheme is concerned, my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru has given a definite reply to the points raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith. I wonder, Sir, whether the Government of India cannot arrange for the examination of 600 or 700 candidates if they really want to hold the examination. I find universities arranging examinations for over 2,000 and 3,000 candidates. So, no question of space should come in to defeat the purpose of competition. The suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru and by my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru deserves some support, but if the Government are not willing also to consider that position, I submit, let the number come up, let the candidates think that it is waste of time and energy and money for them to go for the I. C. S. examination and let the number drop naturally, but do not create any suspicion in the minds of the public and curtail the number by fixing quotas arbitrarily.

Sir, I do not want to reply to the irrelevant matters which have been brought up in the debate. I have not referred nor was it my object to refer to communal matters in this discussion. Sir, I thank all my friends who have given me support and I hope the House will accept the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : With your permission, Mr. Chairman, may I add one or two observations. My Honourable friend the Mover has suggested the possibility of provincial examinations. I want to refer to that suggestion because I am anxious the House should realize that Government and the Commission have explored this and every other possible avenue of approach to the problem. The objection to preliminary provincial examinations is that if you adopted that method you would secure no uniformity throughout India, and that is, I think the House will agree, a serious objection to my Honourable friend's proposal.

As regards the quotas,—if I might take this opportunity to answer as far as I can a point made by my Honourable friend Dr. Kunzru,—in the first place I may say that the Provincial Governments were consulted as regards

the quotas. In the second place, I would like the House to bear in mind that as regards the actual quotas themselves, each province will have a chance to secure a large proportion of the vacancies,—if the candidates from the province in question are good enough,—and indeed the bigger provinces could quite conceivably absorb all. I say that in order to show there is not really any danger that real merit would be crowded out.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : My objection, Sir, was that the quotas had been arbitrarily assigned.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : I think I have already answered that, Sir. I said the quotas were fixed in consultation with the provinces.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Were the Provincial Governments told what it was the intention of the Government of India to do ? That is, was the list fixing the quotas circulated to all Governments ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : I have said that the Provincial Governments were consulted about the quotas and given full information. As regards Dr. Kunzru's rather optimistic forecast —

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Did the Provincial Governments agree to the quotas fixed by you ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : This House has been informed more than once that it is not the custom to reveal what Provincial Governments say in their replies to references from the Centre, but I may say that these quotas were generally accepted.

As regards Dr. Kunzru's rather optimistic forecast of a decrease in the number of candidates appearing at the examination, I can only say that it is not justified by our experience. The number of candidates has gone on increasing and there is no reason, as far as I can see, to suppose that it will stop at the present figure. His suggestion to enlist the help of universities in fixing the number of candidates appears to me to involve the fixation of a quota just as much as the Government's scheme. I do not know if my Honourable friend heard me then. The suggestion which my Honourable friend made was that the universities should be called in as it were to limit the number of candidates ; that suggestion equally involves the fixing of a quota. Otherwise, how can the university know how many candidates can be sent forward from that area. However, Sir, it has been clear to me from this debate that Honourable Members are genuinely apprehensive about the merits of this scheme and I am prepared, if it will satisfy the Honourable the Mover, to give an assurance that Government will review the position after the experiment has worked for one year with the intention of seeing how far the scheme has worked satisfactorily and fairly. Possibly that assurance will satisfy the Honourable Member.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : When is the first examination under the new system going to take place ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : The examination is in 1942.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Well, I personally think, Sir, that it is time the Government reviewed the situation now.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN : What do you say Mr. Kalikar ? Are you prepared to withdraw your Resolution on this assurance ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Sir, I am very sorry we do not see our way to accepting the assurance that the Government would review the position after a year.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN : Well, you cannot expect them to review the position before they try it once. They must try it once and if there is any fault they can rectify it. How can they judge of it before they have tried it ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The Council then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Council reassembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

RESOLUTION *RE* UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, I beg to move :—

“ That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that the University Training Corps in India be trained and utilized like the Officers Training Corps at the British Universities.”

Sir, when I gave notice of this Resolution, what I had in mind was the training normally given to the O. T. C., that is, the training given to it before the war broke out and the manner in which the services of the members of the O. T. C. were utilized. Since the outbreak of the war the position may have changed in England, but, as I am asking only that the O. T. C. and the U. T. C. should be placed on the same footing in every matter, I hope that His Excellency the Viceroy, who said the other day that questions relating to the U. T. C. were under his consideration, will be able to view the Resolution with favour.

Sir, the central purpose of my Resolution is to ask that the training of members of the U. T. C. should not be limited to that given to the rank and file. Our highly educated young men should be given training which would enable them to perform the duties of officers. Before Lord Haldane became War Minister of England, the old Volunteer or Cadet Corps at the British Universities was, I understand, trained in much the same way as the U. T. C. is in India today. But Lord Haldane changed the system that prevailed. In an address which he delivered to the citizens of Bristol on his installation as Chancellor of the Bristol University he said :—

“ The Officers Training Corps differs widely from the old Volunteer or Cadet Corps which used to be all that our Universities contributed to the defence of their country. Five years ago, when I was at the War Office, we came to see that it was waste of splendic.

material to aim at the production of nothing higher than this from among University students and that what we needed most was to get from them a Reserve of educated men who had sufficient training as officers to be available in the event of war”.

I ask that the same object should be kept in view in training the U.T.C. Advantage should be taken of the education that the cadets have received to fit them for the performance of more responsible duties than the rank and file are called upon to perform. The Regulations laid down for the training of the U.T.C. are in theory, I believe, meant to give effect to this idea. In fact, in the Regulation which points out the object of establishing the U.T.C., it is pointed out that its purpose is to fit the cadets for taking the initiative and to develop the qualities of leadership in them. But, in practice, the training has fallen far short of the ideal aimed at in this Regulation. The main reason for it seems to me to be that no definite endeavour was made to utilize the products of the U.T.C. as officers either in the Regular Army or in the Territorial Forces. So far as the O.T.C. at the British Universities is however concerned it was laid down in the very first Regulation that the O.T.C. existed “to build up a potential reserve of junior officers to meet a national emergency and to supply junior officers for the Supplementary Reserve and the Territorial Army”. I ask, Sir, that the same end should be kept in view in India in training our young men in the U.T.C.

The Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee which was presided over by General Shea, dealing with the U.T.C. said that—

“for many years to come the U.T.C. must be regarded as the most important section of the Territorial Force” and that it should “be viewed as the foundation stone of the national army”.

I am afraid, Sir, that the U.T.C., far from having been dealt with as its importance required, has been treated more or less as a toy to please the political classes. It has never received the attention that its importance deserves. Recently, Sir, the U.T.C. has been expanded. In the Allahabad University at least, two more platoons have been added to the company that already existed. But no uniforms have been provided for the members of these platoons. I know the difficulties with which the military officers are confronted. But I have a very strong feeling that had they been inclined to view the development of the U.T.C. with favour, had they treated the U.T.Cs. seriously, had they had any intention of utilizing it in the same way as the O. T. C. is utilized in England, they would have found some means of providing the additional platoons with the necessary uniforms and equipment. In another respect also the practice falls far short of the recommendations of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee. In order to encourage the members of the U.T.C. and in order to provide them with higher training the Committee recommended that—

“a special certificate or certificates of proficiency should in course of time be instituted in the U.T.C. units on the lines of the A and B certificates in the O.T.C. in England, the holders of which should be entitled to a proportion of marks for the competitive examination for Sandhu”.

The Committee further asked that so far as the grant of King's Commissions was concerned

“other things being equal, preference should be given to those who have undergone previous military training in a U.T.C. and who are in possession of satisfactory discharge certificates from their Corps”.

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

The attention of the military authorities has been repeatedly drawn to these recommendations. A few men trained in the U. T. C. have received commissions in the I. T. F., but these are the exception rather than the rule. Generally speaking, the recommendation of the Shea Committee to which I have just referred has been completely ignored. Nor has the certificate B examination been instituted. In England the situation, at least till the war broke out, was very different from that in India. In the first place the O.T.C. was given a higher training than is given to the U.T.C. yet in spite of the changes made in the system of training in 1937. In order to encourage the attainment of a high standard by the cadets, two certificates known as A and B had been instituted and the holders of B certificates are utilized by the military authorities in respect of the provision of officers. They are used, or they were normally used, in two ways. In the first place a certain number of them were admitted to Sandhurst without having to go through the competitive examination for admission to it. In the second place some of them were granted direct commissions. I understand that university men of both these categories formed about one-fifth of the total number of officers who received commissions annually. Further, those university men who received direct commissions were entitled to receive ante-dated commissions. Generally speaking, an ante-date of 18 months was allowed. In India, in spite of our repeated demands, the military authorities have obstinately held to the view that members of the U.T.C. must take their chance in the matter of admission to Sandhurst and of obtaining commissions along with other candidates. I moved a Resolution in September, 1937 the object of which was very similar to that of the Resolution which I am moving now. One part of that Resolution referred to the institution of the B certificate examination, but even this modest request was turned down by His Excellency's predecessor.

Sir, I have spoken so far with reference to the conditions which prevailed in England and in this country before the war. I do not know that has happened in England since the war broke out, but changes have taken place in regard to the grant of commissions in this country since then. In the first place only emergency commissions are being granted at the present time, and in the second place a special College has been established at Mhow for the training of officers for the grant of emergency commissions. The training at Mhow is of six months' duration. The candidates are interviewed and selected by a Selection Committee. The members of the U.T.C. and university men are not therefore required to pass a competitive examination in order to gain admission to the Mhow Military College. All that they have to do is to appear before a Selection Committee. If they are approved by it, they will be sent to the Mhow institution for training. This is perfectly true, but what I should like is that even at the present time a certain number of cadets should be chosen every six months from the U.T.Cs. and sent to Mhow for being trained as officers. When normal conditions return the same thing can be done in regard to admission to the Indian Military Academy. But at the present time there is no reason why special efforts should not be made to select a few men from among the members of the U.T.C. for training at Mhow. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief needs a large number of officers. It is desirable therefore that all possible sources of recruitment for this purpose should be fully utilized. If he adopts the step that I suggest I have no doubt that he will stimulate recruitment and will at the same time get men who are in every way suitable for being appointed as officers after a certain amount of preliminary training. Again, Sir, even at the present time I suppose it will be possible to institute the B certificate examination so that the members of

the U. T. C. might feel that they could know something more than what the ordinary soldier knows. Nothing has tended to reduce the popularity of the U. T. C. and to kill the enthusiasm of our young men than the elementary character of the training that is imparted to the cadets. If, however, training befitting their education is given to them and the prospect of being selected for commissions is held out to them, I have no doubt that both enthusiasm and proficiency will increase considerably and that it will be a great advantage to the State to encourage the young men at the universities to receive military training.

I believe, Sir, that the demands that I have made are of a very modest character and I hope that they will meet with the acceptance of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. I ask that changes should not be deferred till the war is over. It is possible to take certain steps even now to make the U.T.C. more attractive and to utilize its products in a better way than is the case at the present time. Let them be taken immediately. It may be possible to go further after the war; further measures might be adopted then. If the end that I have insisted on is kept in view, if it is granted that our educated young men should be trained so as to develop powers of command and be available as potential officers in an emergency, I have no doubt whatsoever that the military authorities will take such steps as may be necessary to achieve this purpose both now and hereafter.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution, if I may say so without presumption, to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON (Nominated Non-Official); Sir, my object in intervening in this debate for one brief moment is merely to place before the Council and in particular before His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief a certain disadvantage under which a class of university students are at present labouring. I believe—I am speaking subject to correction of course—one of the regulations governing recruitment to the Indian Army relates to the candidate's nationality, by which I mean that the candidate's eligibility depends on whether he is a British Indian subject or a subject of an Indian State. Now, I do not wish to raise this large question of the ineligibility of Indian States subjects. I can well understand the justification for limiting recruitment to British Indian subjects, in as much as there are many States which maintain State forces; but there are States—I know there are in the South—which do not maintain any military force. In large presidency towns, notably in a place like Madras, we get a considerable proportion of students from Indian States among the university students. Those students who are Indian State subjects are entitled to admission to the U.T.C., but I believe they are precluded from recruitment to the regular Indian Army because they are not British Indians. I should like His Excellency to consider whether the time has not now come to remove this particular disqualification in the case at least of those Indian State subjects who are students of universities and who are entitled to admission into the U. T. C. and many of whom are as a matter of fact members of the U.T.C. I should be very glad—and I am sure the students affected will be very grateful—if this point is considered by His Excellency.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution. I have already on various occasions advocated encouragement of the U. T. C. and for its members being given commissions. Students who like to adopt military career should not be discouraged, because it is their sense of duty to their King and country which leads them to decide to take up that career. So far enough encouragement has not been given to members of the U. T. C. in the matter of

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

granting them commissions. My Honourable friend Dr. Kunzru has dealt in detail with the subject and I need not waste the time of this House any further except to express the hope that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will accept the Resolution and give every encouragement to those young educated persons who offer their lives for the defence of the country.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Sir, my Honourable friend the Mover of this Resolution has said in his speech that the Resolution really refers to conditions existing before the war rather than conditions as they exist today and that is quite correct. So far as I know the Officers' Training Corps in England have practically ceased to function since the war began. They are certainly not now producing officers in the sense that they were producing before the war, as was clearly and correctly described by my Honourable friend. Since the war began that function has ceased, so far as I know. Officers for the army in the United Kingdom are now procured by means of Officers Cadet Training Units, which are called "Octus" for short. Every candidate for a commission has to go through one of these units. It does not matter whether he comes from one of the universities or schools or from the ranks or anywhere else. That is the condition as it is today. And that is also the condition in this country today, as Honourable Members know. We have the same Officers Cadet Training Units. We have them at Mhow, Bangalore, Dehra Dun, and elsewhere. The courses at each of them differ slightly in accordance with the qualifications of the cadets when they enter them. But generally speaking they are the same.

Well, Sir, even if that were not the case, I would like to say that I do not think it is necessary for us in this country to be bound entirely by what they do in the United Kingdom and I do not propose myself to be so bound. There are many good things we can get from the United Kingdom but there are many things they do in the United Kingdom which are not really suitable to Indian conditions. We must, of course, follow the general broad principles of organization and training of the armed forces which are applicable throughout the Commonwealth, but within those principles I think we can adopt in practice such modifications as our local conditions make necessary or desirable.

The Honourable Member, the Mover of the Resolution has, I am sure, correctly traced the history of the U.T.C. in India and he has shown that in his opinion little or no action has been taken to implement the various recommendations which have from time to time been made to increase the value of these Corps as officer-producing units. He has shown that very clearly. Well, here again, Sir, if I may be allowed to, I would submit that we need not now be unduly concerned with what has happened in the past or whether what was or was not done was right or wrong. The times are urgent and our present problems are very pressing. In fact, they get more pressing every day, as I have good reason to know. I would, therefore, like to clear my mind of the past and look only to the future.

As I have said more than once in this House, our immediate task is to win this war and to win it quickly. If we can agree to combine our energies and ideas to this end, then I for one shall be more than content. I think, Sir, I could have argued for the rejection of this Resolution on the technical ground that it applies to conditions which no longer exist. But I have no intention of taking refuge behind quibbles of that kind and so I will deal with the Resolution in the spirit rather than in the letter, that is, in the spirit of the Honourable Member who moved it. And I believe I am right in saying that

the spirit behind the Resolution is that more use should be made of the U.T.Cs. as officer-producing units, and that it does not really matter whether these corps conform to the British or any other model so long as they fulfil this purpose. As I said, it is with the spirit rather than with the letter of the Resolution that I wish to deal.

Well, Sir, I am very much concerned with securing an adequate supply of young men of the right stamp and with the requisite qualifications to fill vacancies in the officer ranks of the army. If I can get these young men from the universities, if they are men of the right stamp and with the requisite qualifications, I shall be only too glad to take them. As a matter of fact, I think it is well known that we are taking them already. Perhaps not as many of them as my Honourable friend the Mover of the Resolution would like. But we are taking them and we have been taking them for some time. And it is the case that previous to the war the fact that a candidate for a commission had served in the U.T.C. and in many cases risen to non-commissioned rank, was taken into consideration by the Interview and Record Board which decided the suitability of Indian candidates. I have more than once sat on that Board or attended it and I know very well that that factor was taken into account. It did not carry any definite marks—I admit that. But it was definitely taken into account by the Board and I think there are Honourable Members here who will support me in that statement. However, I realize quite fully that my friend the Mover of the Resolution wants to go further than that. And I think what he would wish is, to extend and modernize the syllabus of training in these Corps, to provide new weapons and vehicles for instruction in this more extended syllabus and eventually the granting of a certificate of efficiency which would be a substantial help to a candidate in his efforts to obtain a commission in the face of open competition. I think that, stated briefly, is what he desires.

Well, Sir, I will say at once, if I may, that I realize that there does exist keenness to learn and serve among many members of the U. T. Cs., I know that. And therefore I have much sympathy with the desire of the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution and his supporters to see that the best possible use is made of this keenness. I sympathize with that desire very much. I have already issued instructions—I think we have had the fact mentioned already today—that the training syllabus of U.T.Cs. is to be reviewed and improved with a view to making it more comprehensive and up-to-date. This work is now in hand. It is in the hands of the General Staff.

With regard to the provision of more modern equipment and more varied forms of equipment, I cannot, I am afraid, give any definite guarantees at the moment. I will explain why. I think, Sir, Honourable Members are well aware of the situation which prevailed not only in this country but throughout the British Commonwealth at the beginning of the war in respect of equipment, arms, and munitions of war of all descriptions. I think they know also what strenuous efforts have been made and are still being made to improve the situation, and to provide arms, equipment, vehicles, clothing and munitions of all sorts for the armed forces which have been and are being so rapidly expanded. And Honourable Members will realize, I hope, that the first call on these arms and on these munitions which are now being produced in ever-increasing quantities, must lie with those forces, those troops which are actually in training with the imminent object of being engaged with the enemy, that is to say, going on service. Those units and establishments less urgently concerned must perforce be content with what is left. That, I am afraid, is an unavoidable fact. I think Honourable Members will realize that it is unavoidable.

[H. E. the Commander-in-Chief.]

Secondly, I would like to make it quite clear now that I am not contemplating at the moment, and so far as I know I do not think I will contemplate, any radical change in the system by which officers are at present recruited for the army, that is, the system I explained at the beginning of my speech. That is to say, I would not agree at the moment, while this war is in progress and while this system is in existence, to any system of direct intake from the universities or elsewhere into the officer cadre of the army. I am convinced that the present system is the right one. It is a war system and I am convinced that it is a right one. I am convinced that everybody must go through the same mill, that is to say, through the Officer Cadet training institutions that are now at Bangalore and elsewhere. I hope that Honourable Members will agree with me that it is the only possible course to take in the present conditions.

The Honourable the Mover of the Resolution said that after the war things will be different or may be different. But while the war is with us, I do not propose to make any radical change so long as I am here in the present system of recruitment and training of officers.

Thirdly, I would like to make it quite clear—I do not think the time has come and I do not think the present conditions will warrant it—I could not agree that the grant to any individual of a certificate of efficiency gained in a U.T.C. would of itself entitle him to a commission in the army, without any other qualifications. I think that follows logically on my second point. What I will do is this. *First*, I will do all I can to provide a syllabus of military training for the U.T.Cs. which will be more attractive, more in accordance with the needs of modern war and as comprehensive as possible. When I say “comprehensive” I mean a syllabus which will afford training in the work of branches of the service other than infantry. I will do what I can towards that. The putting into effect of this improved syllabus will, however, demand the services of a large number of skilled and experienced instructors and also a good deal of equipment for training purposes and neither the instructors nor equipment are easy to come by at the moment. We are hard put to it to find instructors and equipment to train our expanding army, and that is the case I believe with every army in the world today, even in Germany. *Secondly*, I will give my immediate consideration to the possibility of introducing a certificate of efficiency, the possession of which might confer a definite advantage on the holder when he appears before the Selection Board as a candidate for a commission. What form that advantage might take requires a good deal of consideration, as I am sure you will realize, but that would be my object. The possession of such a certificate by a candidate for a commission might very well result in a shortening of the time for which that candidate will be required to be under instruction as a cadet before he received his commission. That would depend on his efficiency. That would be an added advantage. I do not wish to give any definite guarantees or to enter into obligations which I may not be able to fulfil. As I said before, these are critical times and demands on such resources as I have are being continuously made on me from all sides every day and all day. It is not an easy matter to apportion these resources between one demand and another.

That is all I have to say, and in the light of what I have said, I very much hope that my Honourable friend will be willing to withdraw a Resolution with the spirit of which, as I think I have shown, I am in sympathy. Its literal application would not, I think, in any way improve the object which the Honourable Member has in mind.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Mr. Chairman, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has made two important announcements with regard to the steps that he proposes to take to improve the training given to the U.T.Cs. and to give its members an advantage in the matter of obtaining commissions. I am glad to know that efforts are already being made to modernize the training given to the U.T.C. cadets and that a certificate will soon be instituted which will make it easier for its holder to be selected for military training and at the same time shorten the period of his training. I welcome these changes. I had hoped that His Excellency would have something to say about another proposal also which I made and which, I think, could be accepted even at the present time without granting direct commissions to U.T.C. cadets. I suggested that the cadets belonging to the U.T.Cs. might be interviewed separately from other candidates and that every effort should be made to select officers from among them for training at Mhow. I am keen that they should not be left to take their chance along with other candidates who might present themselves before the Selection Committees. I think that if the encouragement I have asked for is given, the military authorities will have no occasion to regret the step. I think it will in every way prove advantageous. It will not contravene any of the principles which His Excellency is determined to adhere to at the present time. I appreciate the manner in which he spoke and the spirit which underlay his remarks. I feel, however, that this particular suggestion will not in any way lower efficiency or conflict with the decision which His Excellency has arrived at for the time being. I hope that His Excellency omitted to refer to this matter only by accident and that he will be able to give us as satisfactory a reply on this point as he has done with regard to the question of training and the institution of a higher certificate—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : It will certainly have my consideration.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : These are the three main points which I had in view in bringing forward my Resolution. I admit that the system in England has changed since the war broke out. In view of this and in view of the spirit of His Excellency's remarks, which I have no doubt has been keenly appreciated on all sides of the House (Applause) I beg to ask for leave to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1941.