

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 25th JULY, 1934.

Vol. VI—No. 7

OFFICIAL REPORT



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SIMLA : PRINTED BY THE MANAGER
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS : 1934

Price Five Annas.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 25th July, 1934.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CHANGE IN THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CARRIAGE OF MAILS BETWEEN DELHI AND CALCUTTA.

203. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Will Government be pleased to give reasons for changing the old arrangements of carrying the mails between Delhi and Calcutta ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the mails are not carried by the down mail train between Delhi and Howrah ?

(c) What is the present arrangement for carrying the mails from Simla to Allahabad, and intermediary stations ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The old arrangement of carrying mails between Delhi and Calcutta had to be altered owing to the changes in the time tables introduced by the East Indian Railway with effect from the 1st October, 1933.

(b) It is not a fact that mails are not carried by the 2 Down Mail train between Delhi and Howrah.

(c) Mails from Simla for Allahabad are sent by the 14 Down Mail of the Kalka-Simla Railway from Simla to Kalka, by the Kalka-Delhi-Calcutta Mail from Kalka to Ambala, by the 6 Down Punjab Mail from Ambala to Partabgarh and by 4 A. F. Down Passenger from Partabgarh to Allahabad. Mails for intermediate stations are sent from Simla to Kalka by the 14 Down Mail train to Kalka. They are despatched from Kalka by the 2 Down Kalka-Delhi-Calcutta Mail to Delhi and therefrom a portion of the mails for certain important places is sent under weighment system by the Kalka-Delhi-Calcutta Mail while the rest of the mail is sent by the 16 Down Delhi-Mughalsarai Fast Passenger.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that by this new arrangement the delivery of the mails is delayed by one day ? Instead of being delivered on the following day, they are delivered a day later ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I have no information on that point, but I shall be happy to inquire. I hardly think it is likely.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The mails reach Delhi early in the morning and the whole day they remain lying in Delhi, and are sent at 10 P.M.

PROHIBITION OF BEARERS OF INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS FROM GOING NEAR THE CARRIAGES OCCUPIED BY UPPER CLASS EUROPEAN PASSENGERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

204. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that the North-Western Railway administration issued a circular prohibiting the bearers of Indian Refreshment Rooms from going near the carriages occupied by upper class European passengers ?

(b) Are they prohibited to approach Indian passengers travelling in upper classes ?

(c) Are these orders issued for economic or hygienic reasons ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member if there are still separate first class carriages for European passengers ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I am not aware of any.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it not a fact that the opening of Indian refreshment rooms is an eyesore to the Kellners and the Spencers whose income is going down ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I am not in a position to answer that question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The answer given to part (a) is "No." I have got a copy of the circular in my room, and therefore, the statement "No" is definitely incorrect.

Mr. P. B. Rau : If the Honourable Member will send me a copy of that circular, I shall make further inquiries. I have been informed by the North Western Railway that there is no such circular.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are more facilities given to Kellners and Spencers who cater for European passengers than to the Indian refreshment rooms ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : What are the facilities that my Honourable friend is referring to ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : One of the facilities, if I understand it correctly, is that any number of bearers of the European refreshment rooms are allowed to travel in railway trains if they are in charge of crockeries, while this facility is denied to the bearers of Indian refreshment rooms. That is one of the things.

Mr. P. B. Rau : I am not aware of that. If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I shall obtain information.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Was it to encourage the European caterers that the Members of the Central Legislature from the Madras Presidency are now allowed Rs. 33 extra to travel *via* Bombay and not necessarily *via* Nagpur ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : This particular notice was shown to me by Mr. Shafee Daoodi who is not here. If I show it, will the Honourable Member take action ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Most certainly.

STOPPAGE OF THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EDITORS AND OTHER PERSONAGES.

205. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Have Government issued instructions to the Post Masters, authorising them to stop transmission of telegrams to Government officials, editors and other personages under certain conditions ?

(b) What are these conditions ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). Telegraph Offices including Combined Offices which are in charge of postmasters are authorised, under rules 15 and 180 of the Indian Telegraph Rules, to refuse to accept or to forward any inland or foreign private telegram or radio-telegram or any part of such telegram of a plainly objectionable or alarming character or which appears dangerous to the security of the State or contrary to the laws of the country, to public order or decency. In cases of doubt, the matter is referred by the officer in charge of the Telegraph Office to a Secretary to Government or other officer nominated by the Local Government from time to time for this purpose if the office is located at a seat of Government, or to the Chief Civil or Military Officer, if the office is located elsewhere.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I just ask whether these telegraph officers are entitled to stop messages even if they are sent to higher Government officials ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I imagine if a telegram sent to higher Government officials offends against public order or decency, it will be subject to the same criterion as any other telegram.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If the telegrams give details of facts which have happened, are the Telegraph Department entitled to stop the message even if it is addressed to the Governor or any other high Government official ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : They have to follow the rules to whomever the telegram is addressed.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I can give one instance if the Honourable Member is prepared to inquire. There has been a great misuse of this power and in one case the telegrams addressed to the Governor have been stopped, and, therefore, the Governor had no opportunity to know the other side of the picture.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : If the Honourable Member will send me information about that, I shall be happy to make inquiries and see whether the orders were carried out or not.

NON-PROVISION OF LATRINES IN THE THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE BARSII LIGHT RAILWAY.

206. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there are no latrines provided in the third class carriages on the Kurduwadi-Miraj Section, and Kurduwadi-Latur Section of the Barsii Light Railway, and are Government aware that this causes great inconvenience and discomfort to travellers ?

(b) Do Government propose to take any steps to remedy this state of affairs ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) So far as Government are aware fourteen out of 49 third class carriages on the Barsi Light Railway are provided with latrine accommodation.

(b) The Honourable Member's question is being communicated to the Agent of the Barsi Light Railway for consideration.

NON-APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TO THE PORT ADVISORY BOARD OF KENYA.

207. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article, headed "Flimsy grounds", in the *Kenya Daily Mail*, dated the 13th June, 1934, on page 14, in which it is stated that there is no Indian appointed to the Port Advisory Board of Kenya ?

(b) Are Government aware that, in reply to a question in the Kenya Legislative Council on the subject, the Government stated that :

"The constitution of the Port Advisory Board provides for full representation of all interests primarily concerned in the administration of the Port, and Government considers that no useful purpose would be served by amending the Order in Council to provide for representation on a racial basis."

(c) Are Government aware that Indians are making use of the Port in Kenya in a greater degree than the Europeans, that the Indians are exporting cotton in large quantities, that their imports are definitely more than those of Europeans, and that Indians are, along with other sections, shouldering the responsibility of meeting the interest and sinking fund charges on loans taken for the development of the Port ?

(d) What is approximately the number of Indians and Europeans in Kenya ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Association of East African Chambers, and the Mombasa Chamber of Commerce have been given representation on the Board ?

(f) Do Government propose to enquire into this matter and take steps to see that the Indian Chamber which represents Indian commercial interests in Kenya, is also given representation on the Board ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpi : (a), (b), (c), (e) and (f). Government have no information beyond what is contained in the Press article referred to by the Honourable Member, but are making enquiries.

(d) According to the census of 1931, the Indian population in Kenya was 39,644 and the Europeans, 16,812.

NON-APPOINTMENT OF A SINGLE BIHARI HINDU MEDICAL GRADUATE AS MEDICAL OFFICER ON ANY OF THE STATE RAILWAYS.

208. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that there is not a single Bihari Hindu medical graduate, appointed as Medical officer, on any of the State-managed Railways in India ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is in existence a Medical College in Bihar which turns out about 25 medical graduates every year ?

(c) Do Government propose to take any steps in this matter ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Government have no information.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

LIQUIDATION OF THE EAST AND WEST CORPORATION, LIMITED, DELHI.

209. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Is it a fact that the East and West Corporation Limited, Delhi, was floated some time back to push on the sale of Lancashire piece-goods in the Indian markets and that the official liquidator's report says that about Rs. 2 lakhs worth capital subscribed by the Mussalmans is not accounted for ?

(b) Is it a fact that several European firms and banks, which had materially helped the Corporation, show large debit balances against the defunct concern ? What are the names of these European firms and banks ?

(c) Is it also a fact that several high officials helped the promoters to bring into existence this commercial organisation ? If so, who are these officials ?

(d) Do Government propose to place a copy of the official liquidator's report in the Library of this House ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : An enquiry has been made and the result will be furnished to the House in due course.

INTRODUCTION OF NIGHT FLYING FOR AIR MAIL SERVICES.

210. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government kindly state if night flying for Air Mail Services has been, or is going to be, introduced in India ? If so, on what routes, and since when ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The schedules of the air services operating in and across India, in the main, provide only for day flying. A considerable amount of flying before daylight and after dark is done, particularly when services are delayed and in the winter months.

The introduction of regular night flying depends on the provision of adequate aerodrome and route lighting, and this requires money. Government intend to provide the necessary equipment as soon as funds are available.

NON-REMOVAL OF BAN FROM THE RED SHIRT ORGANISATION.

211. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Is it not a fact that Government removed the ban from the Congress Working Committee and from all Congress Sub-Committees ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have not yet removed the ban from Red Shirt Organisation of the North-West Frontier Province ? What are the reasons for this differentiation ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 211 to 216, together. With one exception I think the points raised have already been dealt with in the replies given by me to questions Nos. 81 and 112 on the 18th and 19th July, and in the supplementary answers. The Red Shirt Organisation has never been

regarded by Government as a terrorist organisation, but as a revolutionary organisation, the object of which was to drive out the British from India by force. Specific acts of violence have included the murder of an Assistant Superintendent of Police by a mob of Red Shirts near Mardan, and an attempt to murder the Assistant Commissioner at Char-sadda following on the performance of a seditious drama containing direct incitement to his murder.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Has the Honourable Member seen the special cartoon in the *Hindustan Times* of today by Mr. Sarma in which he showed clearly that this terrorist movement is entirely the imagination of the Home Member and that he is looking into his own mirror ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I am afraid I have not had the privilege yet of seeing that cartoon.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Supposing there have been isolated cases of violence on the part of some members of the Red Shirt Organisation, does it follow that it is part of the creed of the Red Shirt Organisation ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir, not necessarily ; but our view is that the whole of the teaching and preaching of the Red Shirts was really directed to those results. After all the Red Shirts were definitely trying to stir up the trans-border tribes, and the latter were not going to act on principles of non-violence.

Sir Abdur Rahim : But is it not correct that the creed of the Red Shirts is non-violent non-co-operation, the same sort of creed as that held by the Congress ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I think if my Honourable friend will study some of the speeches of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan mentioned in those statements to which I have already referred, he will draw the same conclusion himself that he was not aiming at peaceful revolution.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not the creed of the Red Shirts that their activities should be confined to British India and not extended to tribal area ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir, it is quite definitely the case that their activities extended beyond the border.

Mr. B. Das : Have the Government documentary evidence that the Red Shirt movement was planned out as a revolutionary movement ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : We draw our conclusions from speeches and acts.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Is it not a fact that Mr. Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence, blesses the Red Shirt movement and adopts it as an intimate part of the Congress ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : That may be so, but the Red Shirts were at the time useful allies of the Congress, and that is how they regarded themselves.

RED SHIRT ORGANISATION.

*212. **Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Was not the Red Shirt Organisation a branch of the Congress, and formally recognised by Congress as such ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 211.

RED SHIRT ORGANISATION.

†213. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that the objects of the Red Shirt Organisation are identical with the objects of the Congress? If not, what are the points of difference?

RED SHIRT ORGANISATION.

†214. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Was the Red Shirt Organisation a terrorist organisation?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to mention the details of the political murders and political dacoities committed by the Red Shirt Organisation?

RED SHIRT ORGANISATION.

†215. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Did the Government of India consult the Government of the North-West Frontier Province about removing the ban from the Red Shirt Organisation?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what reply did the Frontier Government give?

BAN ON CONGRESS ORGANISATIONS.

†216. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is there any Province, other than the North-West Frontier Province, which has refused to remove the ban from the Congress Organisations?

RELEASE OF KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN.

217. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) When do Government propose to release Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan?

(b) What are the conditions which must be satisfied before Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan will be released?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 152 on the 19th July, 1934, and to the supplementary questions.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What is the answer to part (b)?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I think my Honourable friend will find that point dealt with in the supplementary questions.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I do not think there were any supplementary questions regarding the conditions to be satisfied for release.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Actually there were a number of questions on that point, and I referred to the previous answer. I said that the answer given was that he will be released when Government are satisfied that his detention is no longer essential in the public interest.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 211.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What are the conditions which must be satisfied before the Government are satisfied ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The conditions are that his release would not cause further trouble in the North-West Frontier Province.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it not a fact that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was at the head of this Red Shirt movement ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Yes, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it the contention of the Government that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan used to indulge in revolutionary and unlawful activities before he was detained ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : He was indulging certainly in activities which were tending to violence.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it fair on the part of Government to make this charge behind the back of a man whom they have kept in prison without giving an opportunity to him to justify his conduct ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I am not making this charge for the first time. The statements to which I referred were made simultaneously with the arrest of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Was he given a chance of repudiating or explaining those charges ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir. He was dealt with under Regulation III.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Why was not an opportunity given to him to answer those charges if there is any substance in them ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Because the Government considered at that time that the situation was such that he must be arrested and dealt with at once under Regulation III.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that prominent members of the Indian National Congress have issued a statement repudiating the charges made with regard to this gentleman ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have not observed this.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : In view of the fact that the general situation has now changed, do Government propose to give him an opportunity now to explain the charges against him ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Did the members of the Red Shirt Organisation commit any act of violence after it had been formally recognized as a branch of the Congress ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I am not quite sure at what date it was recognized formally as a branch of the Congress, but I do not think that that indicated any particular change in its policy. It had been working as an ally of the Congress since 1930.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will the Honourable Member kindly explain if they have any evidence in their possession that, after the lapse of these two or three years, if the Khan is released, the work of the organisation will continue in the same way, on the lines of preaching violence ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I am afraid, the view of the Local Government, with which the Government of India agree, is that the past activities of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in the Frontier Province were of such a nature that at the present moment it is not possible to contemplate allowing him to return to that Province.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Is it not a fact that the attitude of the Local Government of the Frontier Province has been greatly influenced by the political opponents of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, and that they are afraid that at the next election, if Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is free, his political opponents will find it very difficult to meet the electors ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir. I do not think that is a fair statement of the case. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's activities in 1930 and, later on, in 1931, produced such a state of disorder, unrest and insecurity in the North-West Frontier Province that the Local Government are fully justified in objecting to his release.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : If there is sufficient evidence in the possession of the Government, what, I ask, is the objection to their placing Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan before a Court of law and convicting him in a regular way ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Government are satisfied that they have a sufficient case for detaining him under Regulation III.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : And this case they are not prepared to make known before a Court of law or before the public ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : They have not considered it suitable to prosecute him.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Is it not a fact that the attitude adopted by the Government towards the Red Shirt Organisation and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan as distinct from the attitude they have adopted towards the Congress has led to a great deal of misunderstanding and uneasiness ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : According to my information, it has not led to any such results in the Frontier Province ; there is a certain amount of fictitious agitation in other parts of India.

REPORT OF THE TARIFF BOARD ON THE PROTECTION OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

218. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Will Government be pleased to give an opportunity to this House to discuss the Tariff Board Report on the protection of steel industry ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : The Honourable Members will have an opportunity to discuss the report when the Bill, embodying the decisions of the Government of India on the recommendations contained in the report, is before the House.

ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN ZANZIBAR.

219. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Have the Government of India made any representation to the Government of Zanzibar about the ill-treatment of Indians ?

(b) Are Government prepared to lay all the relevant papers on the table of this House ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 219 and 220, together. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer's question No. 196 on the 23rd July, 1934.

ANTI-INDIAN LEGISLATION IN ZANZIBAR.

†220. ***Sir Muhammad Yakub :** Will Government be pleased to state fully the situation arising out of the anti-Indian legislation in Zanzibar and the steps taken by the Government of India for protecting the interests of the Indians ?

SELECTION OF AN OBJECTIONABLE DRAMA BY THE TEXT BOOK COMMITTEE, DELHI.

221. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin :** With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 458, *vide* statement laid on the table on the 14th March, 1933, regarding selection of an objectionable drama by the Text Book Committee, Delhi, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of (a) nominating at least one Muslim to the Committee of Courses and Studies in English, (b) forfeiting to His Majesty's Government the drama in question, and (c) prosecuting the author, printer and publisher of the book in question ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Government have no power to nominate members of the Committee of Courses and Studies in the Delhi University. Moreover as stated in reply to part (h) of the Honourable Member's question No. 458, on the 14th March, 1934, they are quite sure that the Committee will always pay due regard to Muslim susceptibilities.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to parts (e), (f) and (g) of his question No. 458 on the 14th March, 1934.

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR DUFTARIES IN NEW DELHI.

222. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that the Standing Finance Committee has sanctioned the construction of 100 quarters at Delhi for duftaries ?

(b) Will Government please state if these quarters will be constructed according to the application and the map submitted by the Record-sorters and Duftaries Association ? If not, why not ?

(c) At which site will these quarters be constructed ?

(d) Is it intended to allot these quarters, when ready, to the staff of the Imperial Secretariat only, or to that of the Attached Offices also ?

(e) Are Government prepared to place on the table of this House the application and the map referred to in part (b) above ?

(f) Is Block No. 90 of the duftaries' quarters a permanent building or a temporary one ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Health Officer, New Delhi, has condemned the old type duftaries' quarters as being unfit for habitation ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 219.

(h) Is it a fact that there are more than one thousand peons' quarters ready and that the Standing Finance Committee has sanctioned the construction of 200 more? If so, what is the reason for not sanctioning the construction of more than 100 dufftries' quarters?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) No. The question was carefully considered by Government, and the design actually adopted was considered suitable, having regard to the status and pay of those for whom the quarters are intended.

(c) In the City Extension Area, New Delhi.

(d) To both.

(e) A copy of the application and of the plan is being sent to the Honourable Member.

(f) A permanent building.

(g) No.

(h) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, Government do not consider it necessary at present to build more quarters. With the completion of the new quarters the percentage of quarters to applications will be approximately 66 for dufftries and 81 for peons and this is regarded as sufficient for the present, as the demand is falling.

PROVISION OF A TURNSTILE GATE AT THE GARHI HARSARU RAILWAY STATION ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

223. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that there is a railway station on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway named Garhi Harsaru?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of railway passengers use that station day and night?

(c) Is it a fact that most of the trains on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway stop at that station in the night?

(d) Are Government aware that such railway passengers getting down at night at that station used to be without shelter from the inclemencies of the weather and without any protection against dacoits and ferocious animals owing to the want of waiting rooms?

(e) Are Government aware that with a view to help such railway passengers a generous minded philanthropic person built a Dharamshala at a cost of Rs. 50,000 by the side of the railway fencing of the said station platform for the use of all railway passengers using that station, irrespective of caste, creed or sex?

(f) Are Government aware that the said philanthropic gentleman has employed four men at his own cost, to supply water to railway passengers either in the train or on the railway station platform?

(g) Is it a fact that the said philanthropic gentleman requested the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway authorities for providing a turnstile gate on the railway wire fencing nearest to the station road for the convenience of the railway passengers using the said dharamshala?

(h) Is it a fact that the District Traffic Superintendent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway recommended the provision of the turnstile gate nearest to the dharamshala and the station platform ?

(i) Is it a fact that some officers of the Engineering Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway demanded from him some money for the provision of such gate ?

(j) Are Government aware that on the refusal to comply with that demand the provision of a turnstile gate was refused by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway authorities ?

(k) Is it a fact that the proprietor of the dharamshala expressed his willingness to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway authorities to execute a bond waiving all his rights over the said turnstile gate if provided by the Railway Administration ?

(l) Do Government propose to enquire into the causes for such a refusal to provide a gate for the convenience of the Railway passengers and do Government propose to remove the said grievance of the railway passengers of the said Garhi Harsaru Railway Station ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Will you permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 223, 225 and 226, together. Enquiries are being made from the Railway Administrations and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

VACANCY AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

224. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that there is going to be a vacancy among the Members of the Railway Board in the near future ?

(b) Is it a fact that generally the Members of the Railway Board are recruited from amongst the incumbents of the posts of Agents of the different Railways ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many vacancies among the Members of the Railway Board occurred during the last ten years and how many of such vacancies were filled by the recruitment of Agents of State Railways and other Railways ?

(d) Do Government propose to fill the next vacancy by promoting one of the Indian Agents of State Railways, if there be any ? If not, why not ?

(e) Is it a fact that generally Government fill up the vacant posts of the Members of the Railway Board by men with technical qualifications of Railway Engineering together with the qualifications of general administration of Railway management as Agents ? If so, do Government propose to recruit such a qualified Indian Agent of a State Railway or a Company Railway, if there be any ? If not, why not ?

(f) Are Government aware that this House always insisted, during each Railway Budget discussion during the last so many years, for bringing in qualified Indians as Members of the Railway Board ? If so, do Government propose to give effect to these popular demands of this House by recruiting an Indian with Railway Engineering qualifications as well as with the qualifications of running a railway administration as

Agent of a Railway in India to fill up the post of the Railway Board Member, if there be any vacancy in the near future? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Since the re-organization of the Railway Board, there have been 11 permanent Members (including Chief Commissioners, but excluding Financial Commissioners). Of the officers holding these posts, five had been permanently Agents of Railways before appointment; and four others had officiated as Agents.

(d) Mr. Tylden-Pattenson, Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, has been selected for the post.

(e) All relevant factors are taken into consideration and the most suitable officer is selected. Engineering qualifications are not by any means essential in the case of all Members of the Board.

(f) Government are aware that this opinion has been expressed during the discussion of the Railway Budget, but Government have more than once explained that these appointments must be filled by selection from the most suitable candidates, irrespective of nationality.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask the Honourable Member if no Indian is available to fill up the place of one of the Members of the Railway Board? Has any attempt been made in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : My Honourable friend may take it from me that, after taking into account seniority and other factors, the choice has, in the opinion of the Board, fallen upon the most suitable candidate.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ALLOWING THE USE OF THE CAB ROAD BETWEEN PLATFORMS NOS. 6 AND 7 OF THE HOWRAH STATION.

†225. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that there is a cab road between the platforms Nos. 6 and 7 of the Howrah Station?

(b) Are Government aware that Indian passengers going to the platform of the Howrah Station to entrain the outgoing Bengal Nagpur Railway Bombay Mail are not allowed to take their motors through that road upto platforms Nos. 6 or 7?

(c) Are Government aware that European motorists are allowed to take their motors right up to the side of the platforms?

(d) If Government are not aware of these facts, do they propose to enquire into the matter? If not, why not?

(e) Will they be pleased to state the reasons for this racial discrimination by the Howrah Station authorities?

(f) Do Government propose to remove immediately this racial discrimination between Indian motorists and European motorists? If not, why not?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why this road should be closed for motorists, either European or Indian?

(h) Is it a fact that owing to the absence of side fencing and barrier to the two platforms, Nos. 6 and 7, the road is being closed? If so, do

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 223.

Government propose to put fencing on the road side of the two platforms with an entrance gate on either side of the two platforms adjoining the said road? If not, why not?

ACQUISITION BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AUTHORITIES OF LANDS ATTACHED TO HINDU PLACES OF WORSHIP AT AZIMGANJ.

†226. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Are Government aware that there are two idols of the Hindu god—Shiva—situated close to the railway line passing between Azimganj Junction and City Station on the East Indian Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities have decided to take possession of the lands attached to those two places of worship and to remove those idols?

(c) Are Government aware that on the day of the last Chaitra Shankranti when, according to the usual old custom prevailing there, a fair was being held on the grounds of that Hindu place of worship, the Railway authorities sent police to prevent people from going into that place of worship?

(d) Are Government aware that the said place of Hindu worship was desecrated by the Muslim constables sent by the Railway authorities, or under the instruction of the Railway authorities?

(e) Are Government aware that there is strong resentment being felt by the Hindu population of Azimganj City owing to the attitude of the Railway authorities in trying to demolish the temples and the usurpation of the lands belonging to such places of Hindu worship?

(f) Is it a fact that the Railway authorities have left only 10 square feet area of land for one of the temples in place of the original 100 square feet area?

(g) If Government are not aware of the facts mentioned in parts (a) to (f), do they propose to enquire into the allegations of high-handedness and *zulm* of the railway authorities concerned over the Hindu public of Azimganj?

(h) Do Government propose to return the old lands attached to those places of Hindu temples? If not, why not?

CONTROL OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MADRAS PORT.

227. *Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they exercise any control over the administration of the Madras Port?

(b) What are the harbour dues and landing charges prevailing in the Madras Port as compared to those in the other ports of the Madras Presidency?

(c) What is the fall in the volume of traffic in the Madras Port during the last three years?

(d) What is the number of Indian and foreign insurance companies with whom the properties of the Madras Port Trust are insured against risk of fire?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 228.

(e) What is the proportion of Indians to Europeans on the Madras Port Trust Board ?

(f) (i) What is the daily average number of quays that were vacant during 1933-34 in the Madras Port; (ii) how many vessels discharged cargo in the moorings during that period; (iii) to what company or companies those vessels belonged; and (iv) what amount did the Port Trust pay to such companies on account of discharge having taken place in the moorings rather than at the quays ?

(g) What is the total amount spent by the Madras Port Trust in connection with the insolvency of Messrs. C. K. Narayana Iyer & Sons, who are the solicitors, and what was their share of the amount so spent ?

(h) Is it not a fact that even the Chairman of the Madras Port Trust overdraw salary or allowances due to him and whether the Trust Board did not recover the amount but condoned it ?

(i) Do Government propose to appoint a Committee of Inquiry to investigate and report on the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Indian Ports Act, 1908, and the Madras Port Trust Act, 1905, which define the statutory powers of Government over the administration of the Madras Port.

(b) to (i). The Government of India are making enquiries on the subject and when information has been obtained, a reply will be laid on the table.

MEETINGS OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

228. ***Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of the meetings of the Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railway Advisory Committees held in 1933 and 1934 ?

(b) Did the two Railways hold any periodical conferences with merchants, as is done in Bombay and Calcutta ?

(c) Are their mercantile coupon tickets interchangeable as between themselves and over other Railways in India ? If not, why not ?

(d) Have those two Railways appointed any traffic canvassers as has been done on the Great Indian Peninsula and Bengal Nagpur Railways, etc. ? If not, why not ?

(e) Did the Agents of the two Railways, or their deputies, or other officers, accompany Mr. P. B. Rau to the Southern India Chamber of Commerce meeting on his two visits to Madras ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) *Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.* In 1933, there were held five meetings of the main Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway at Madras and four of the branch committee, the meetings of which are generally held at Hubli. In 1934, the meetings held up to May were three and one, respectively.

The South Indian Railway Advisory Committee had four meetings in 1933, and two up to May, 1934.

(b) No. The Agents of these two Railways consider that their administrations are sufficiently in touch with commercial interests to make such conferences unnecessary.

(c) No. Interchangeability is not practicable owing to the basis of charge for such coupons on the different railways not being uniform.

(d) Government have no information. I am forwarding this suggestion to the Agents for consideration.

(e) They did not, because they were not asked.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : With reference to part (c), are the rates of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway the same, and how do they differ from the other railways with the result that the interchangeability cannot be put into practice ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have no information at the present moment as regards the actual rates for coupons on different railways, but if my Honourable friend wants the information, I shall be glad to supply it to him.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Previously they were interchangeable. May I ask what were the rates then ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand that at present the basis of charges is not the same.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are these mercantile coupon tickets issued on State Railways also ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not think they are issued on all railways.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are they issued by the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsular Railways ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I must ask my Honourable friend to give me notice of that question.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Regarding part (e), will the Agents of the two Railways accompany the Member, whether he is an Indian or a European in the future.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not quite understand that question.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : When European Members used to go there, the Agents of the two Railways used to accompany them when they met the two Chambers of Commerce, but in the case of an Indian Member, when he went to the Southern India Chamber of Commerce last, the two Agents were conspicuous by their absence.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not think that my Honourable friend is entitled to make that inference. The fact was that when I met the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber did not ask that the Agent should accompany me, and, in the absence of such an invitation, I did not ask the Agent to accompany me either.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : But in previous years no invitation was sent to the Agents and still the Agents used to accompany the European Member ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not know anything about previous years.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Will the Honourable Member please make inquiries in the matter ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I think it does not matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask if the Honourable Member did not want them because there was no necessity for them to accompany him ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I understood that the Chamber wanted to meet me.

MADRAS TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

229. *Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : (a) Will Government be pleased to state, whether the Madras Telephone Company, Limited, which is a public utility concern, pays a dividend of nine per cent. ?

(b) How much have its shares appreciated since the formation of the company ?

(c) Were its shareholders given free bonus shares from the General Reserve ?

(d) Were its shareholders given new issues of shares at a nominal premium of rupee one when the market premium was seven or eight times that amount ?

(e) Have Government received a representation from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce for reasonable reduction in the monthly rental and other charges of the company ?

(f) Do Government propose to ask the company to reduce the charges accordingly ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A dividend of 9 per cent. was paid by the Madras Telephone Company during the calendar years 1932 and 1933 only, dividends paid during the previous years being less than this rate.

(b) and (d). Information has been called for, and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Madras Telephone Company, Limited, have already decided to make a reduction in their monthly telephone rent charges with effect from the 1st January, 1935, and the Government have accorded their approval thereto. Government do not propose to ask the Company to make any further reductions at present.

FORMATION OF A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT TO LOOK AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDIAN COMPANIES ACT IN MADRAS.

230. *Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are not aware of grave defects in the Indian Companies Act, 1913 ?

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(b) Is the Registration Department of Madras looking after the administration of the Companies Act as also of the Indian Partnerships Act ?

(c) Is the administration of the Acts in Bombay and Bengal in a separate department ?

(d) Has Government's attention been drawn by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce to the necessity of improving the position ?

(e) Do Government propose to form a separate department in Madras also for the purpose ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : (a) Certain alleged defects in the existing company law have been brought to the notice of Government and it is proposed now to undertake a revision of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, at an early date.

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

(e) The question is already under the consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. B. Das : May I ask, Sir, if the amendment of the Indian Companies Act will take place in this Session of the Assembly or will it be postponed till the new Constitution ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : I can remove all anxiety on that score from my Honourable friend's mind. It will certainly not be brought before the Assembly this Session.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Is it possible for the Government to name the gentleman who will be in charge to look after the business of these amendments ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : A communiqué will be issued in due course.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that the Standing Finance Committee has already given sanction to appoint a special officer to prepare the preliminary draft ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : That is quite right.

Mr. B. Das : Will Government consult the different Chambers of Commerce and get their opinion about the amendment of the Indian Companies Act ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : I have no doubt that all responsible opinion, which is concerned in this matter, will be consulted.

RICE IMPORTED INTO THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

231. ***Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of imported rice into the Madras Presidency by coasting and foreign trade and what is the quantity of the production in the Presidency during 1932-33 and 1933-34 ?

(b) How much has the price of rice fallen during that period ?

(c) How much has the export of Madras rice diminished during the period and is it not expected to diminish more and more in the future ?

(d) Do Government propose to negotiate for recapturing old markets, and to order a substantial reduction in the railway freight ?

(e) Do Government not propose to stop the import of rice, at least for the time being, in order to try to raise the price level ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

(c) The exports of rice abroad from Madras have not diminished, but increased from 66,912 tons in 1932-33 to 79,344 tons in 1933-34.

(d) The Ottawa Agreement has already had the effect of substantially improving the export of Indian rice to the United Kingdom. The recent Crop Planning Conference recommended that the question of improving prospects in Ceylon and British Malaya should be taken up. This suggestion is already receiving attention. As regards railway freights, the Railway Board have already advised the various Railway Administrations that where special rates are required to facilitate particular movements of special crops, the question should be sympathetically considered.

(e) I would refer my Honourable friend to the reply given to Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's starred question No. 18 on the 16th instant.

Statements showing the imports, production and prices of rice in the Madras Presidency.

Imports :

(i) By sea from abroad—

	1932-33.	1933-34.
	Tons.	Tons.
Rice in the husk	10	4,381
Rice not in the husk	35,418	77,665
Total	35,428	82,046

(ii) By sea coastwise from other parts of India—

Rice in the husk	69,399	80,696
Rice not in the husk	445,374	533,927
Total	514,773	614,623

Production :

1932-33.	1933-34.
Tons.	Tons.
54,06,000	50,90,000

(Fort St. George Gazette.)

Retail Prices of Rice.

(in Rs. per md. = 82 2/7 lbs.).

First week of	West Goda-vari.		Tanjore.		Tinnevely.		Malabar.		Madura.		Trichinopoly.		Madras.	
	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.
January ..	2.50	3.15	3.41	3.70	3.50	3.86	3.16	3.66	3.45	3.93	3.19	3.94	3.89	4.74
February ..	2.48	2.87	3.57	3.06	3.59	3.71	3.08	3.57	3.55	3.69	3.49	3.73	3.63	4.69
March ..	2.41	2.89	3.08	2.96	3.31	3.66	2.99	3.32	3.33	3.28	3.28	3.35	3.48	4.49
April ..	2.43	2.69	2.93	2.69	3.20	3.43	2.97	3.25	3.18	3.14	3.30	3.45	3.24	4.49
May ..	2.49	2.68	3.12	2.62	3.32	3.27	3.05	3.19	3.29	3.10	3.45	3.42	3.24	4.31
June ..	2.75	2.75	3.14	2.86	3.10	3.30	3.20	3.20	3.33	3.31	3.43	3.41	3.26	4.45
July ..	2.81	2.81	3.25	3.23	3.10	3.58	3.23	3.31	3.30	3.44	3.57	3.64	3.47	4.53

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: May I ask, Sir, if the negotiations with the foreign Governments in the matter of rice have progressed any further, and can the Honourable Member throw any more light on the matter ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: They have progressed no further except chronologically, I presume, since I made my last answer.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

232. ***Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter from the correspondent of the *Madras Mail*, dated the 2nd July, 1934, stating how the provisions of the Sarda Act are being violated by performing marriages in Yauam, a French territory in the Madras Presidency ?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to enforce the provisions of the Sarda Act ?

(c) Do Government propose to draw the attention of the High Courts in India and request them to instruct the Courts to inflict punishment by way of imprisonment, along with the fines, so as to deter the public from violating the Sarda Act ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig: (a) Yes. I am making enquiry into the facts.

(b) and (c). Government do not consider that any special steps are called for.

Mr. B. Das : Have Government communicated with the French Government not to permit British Indians to violate the British Indian laws in the French territory ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir. I said that I was making enquiry into the facts of this case and nothing can be done until the facts are ascertained.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya: If the Government do not propose to take any further action, will it not be defeating the Act which has been passed by the Legislature ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I cannot anticipate whether any action will or will not be taken when the facts have been ascertained, but I submit that the first thing to do is to ascertain the facts.

TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND CEYLON.

233. ***Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article of the *Hindu*, dated the 4th July, 1934, regarding "Trade between India and Ceylon" ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what the Indian commodities are that suffer under the new prohibitive duties imposed by the Ceylon Government ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of India as a whole and of the Madras Presidency in particular ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have no information beyond what is contained in the Press reports. Enquiries have, however, been made and the matter will receive the careful consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Have the Government of India taken any action to prevent the dumping of copra from Ceylon to the west coast of India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I am not prepared to say whether it is dumping or not, but as my Honourable friend knows, there is a very substantial import duty on copra.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : On account of the ten per cent. concession allowed to Ceylon Government under the Ottawa Agreement, is not Ceylon enabled to dump copra on the west coast ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : The Ottawa Agreement gives them a ten per cent. preference, but if my Honourable friend will remember, we did not reduce the duties, but we gave preference by increasing the duties against others.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Will the Government increase the duty still further ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I made it clear to the House on a previous occasion that we were awaiting the report of the special officer who has been appointed to conduct enquiries in regard to the coconut industry. We can do nothing, nor can I make any announcement to the House until the report of that officer has been considered.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : When is the report expected ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I do not know.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Would it be the next season ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : The officer was not appointed by the Commerce Department, and I am, therefore, not able to give my Honourable friend any definite information on the point.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Who appointed that special officer ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I think it was the Imperial Agricultural Council.

Mr. B. Das : May I ask the Honourable Member, Mr. Bajpai, as to when the report is likely to be published ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I shall have to make an enquiry on the point.

Mr. B. Das : Is it because Madras is a benighted Province that much interest is not taken in its affairs ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The mere fact that an officer has been appointed disproves my Honourable friend's suggestion that Madras is neglected.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Madras is well represented in the Executive Council also.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not think I need stress the obvious for the information of my Honourable friend.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : May I protest against the remark of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : There is no point in the protest. Do these gentlemen deny that they do not belong to the Madras Civil Service ?

GRANT OF SUBSIDIES TO THE BRITISH SHIPPING INDUSTRY.

234. ***Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to Reuter's telegram of the 3rd July, published in the newspapers on the 5th July, 1934, about Government's conditions for granting subsidies to the British shipping industry ?

(b) With reference to the telegram wherein Mr. Runciman said "that it was essential to have the co-operation of the Dominions and India with whom the Government were consulting in the matter", will Government kindly lay on the table of this House the correspondence in the matter and indicate to what extent and on what conditions India is expected to co-operate in this scheme ?

(c) Will the Central Legislature be consulted before the Government of India render any financial help for granting subsidies or special facilities to the British Shipping Industry ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) Government have seen the Press telegram referred to.

(b) The Government of India have not so far been consulted in the matter.

(c) Does not yet arise.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Will the Central Legislature be consulted in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Should the occasion arise, I have no doubt that Government will take appropriate and suitable action.

Mr. B. Das : Have Government received any communication from the Indian Shipping Companies regarding the point referred to, namely, Mr. Runciman's speech ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I must ask for notice of this question.

PROVISION OF MORE SPACE FOR CLERKS WORKING IN THE NORTH BLOCK OF THE SECRETARIAT IN NEW DELHI.

235. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Is it a fact that in some offices located in the North Block of the Delhi Secretariat, there is great congestion in the rooms occupied, by the clerks, while the space provided for officers is more than what is admissible ?

(b) Is it also a fact that some of offices have more space for their clerks, while in others the rooms occupied by the clerks are very much overcrowded ?

(c) Are Government aware that the congestion in the rooms affects the health of the clerks and is a source of discomfort, specially in summer months ?

(d) If the replies to the preceding parts are in the affirmative, do Government propose to accord equal treatment in all offices and provide more space for the clerks ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). No.
(c) and (d). Do not arise.

SPACE ALLOTTED TO EACH CLERK, SUPERINTENDENT, ETC., IN THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT IN NEW DELHI.

236. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Will Government please state whether there is a standard scale of space to be occupied by a clerk, a Superintendent and a gazetted officer in the Government of India Secretariat in New Delhi ? If so, what is that scale for each class of officers ?

(b) Is the space occupied by racks and almirahs for keeping current records, etc., included in the scale ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The standard scale of space allowed is 40 sq. ft. for a clerk and 64 sq. ft. for a Superintendent. No standard scale is prescribed for gazetted officers and the accommodation allotted to them depends on circumstances. Some gazetted officers are given rooms to themselves, while others share rooms. The space actually available in the New Delhi Secretariat is considerably in excess of the standard scale.

(b) Yes.

REPORT OF THE VARMA COMMITTEE.

237. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) When was the Report of the Varma Committee presented to Government ?

(b) When was it printed ?

(c) What action have Government taken, or propose to take, on that Report ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) to (c) The Report was available in print in June, 1933. Consideration of the Report was, however, deferred for reasons explained in the reply to Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred questions Nos. 178 and 179 in this House, on the 21st November, 1933. Government have recently received the views of the Director-General on the Report and hope to pass orders shortly.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask whether the orders will be passed sometime in this Session of the Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I should think it somewhat doubtful.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I know the reason for delaying the consideration of this report specially when it was urged that it was of an urgent nature and that tax-payers were losing money ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I shall be very happy to satisfy my Honourable friend's desire for information on that subject. The fact is that the report is a very technical one and involves issues of the greatest importance to the Telegraph Department. It was, therefore, felt necessary, as I have already explained in this House in reply to a question put by my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, that the views of the Departmental Associations should be taken on the report before the Director-General's recommendations were submitted to Government. That naturally took

time. Sir Thomas Ryan was busily engaged on the report when his tragic death took place. It had been his desire to submit his recommendations to Government before he retired. But unfortunately his death prevented his doing so. The notes he left were not complete and that meant that the new Director-General, being fresh to the Department, had to go through the report from beginning to end. I received his recommendations on the subject a few days ago, and I hope to pass orders on them as soon as possible. The report, as I have said, is a very technical one and difficult to deal with, and it is possible that my pre-occupations with this Assembly will prevent my dealing with it before the end of this Session. That is the position. The delay is very much to be regretted, but it is, I think, the House will agree, due to circumstances over which we have had no control.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Will the Honourable Member please see that copies are placed in the Library before Government passes any order ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I am replying to that in answer to another question. Copies have already been placed in the Library of the House.

REPORT OF THE VARMA COMMITTEE.

238 ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Is it not a fact that Government considered the establishment of the Varma Committee very urgent on the ground that tax-payers were daily losing money ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The Committee was appointed to investigate the methods adopted to determine the number of posts in the telegraph traffic establishment and to make, as early as might be found possible, recommendations to secure the most economical organisation compatible with efficiency.

REPORT OF THE VARMA COMMITTEE.

239. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Do Government propose to circulate the Varma Committee Report among the Members of the Legislature ?

(b) Are Government prepared to give an opportunity to the Legislature to discuss the Report ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). The replies are in the negative. In this connection the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to Mr. Dudhoria's starred question No. 890 in this House, on the 23rd March, 1933. I may add that a copy of the report has been placed in the Library and is available for such Honourable Members as may desire to study it.

RURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN BRITISH INDIA.

240. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) What is the probable amount of rural indebtedness in British India ?

(b) What is the amount in each Province ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). The total rural indebtedness of India was roughly estimated at about 900 crores of rupees by the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee in 1931. The figures for the Provinces are given in paragraph 77 of the Committee's report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I know whether Government have calculated the amount in 1933-34, and have they calculated by any method the usual rate of interest charged?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: There has been no calculation so far as I am aware since 1931.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Has any attempt been made in any Province in India to bring the figures up-to-date?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: According to my recollection of the proceedings of the Provincial Economic Committee, all the representatives of the Provinces took their stand upon the Banking Enquiry Committee's calculations, which, as I have already stated, were up to 1931.

RURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN BRITISH INDIA.

241. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Have Government framed any policy of meeting the rural indebtedness? If so, what is their policy?

(b) Do Government propose to help the Provincial Governments who cannot make up their minds?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). This question was discussed at the Provincial Economic Conference held at Delhi in April last. The general view of the Conference was that the diversity of the conditions of the agricultural classes in India was so great, both in respect of land tenures and general economic status, that any legislative measures to afford relief must be primarily provincial. The question of ensuring a regular exchange of information on this matter between various Local Governments is under consideration.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: What is the answer to part (b) whether Government propose to help the Provincial Governments who cannot make up their minds?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I would rather leave that task to my Honourable friend.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: We know that the Government, to which the Honourable gentleman belongs, could not make up their mind for the last four or five years.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do not think my Honourable friend is correctly representing the position when he says that he and I belong to the Government of the United Provinces, at least I do not.

CIRCULATION OF COUNTERFEIT RUPEE COINS.

242 ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware that since lately a very large number of false, counterfeit and suspicious rupee coins have got into circulation in India and in consequence thereof there is no safety and convenience in generally accepting any rupee coin?

(b) Are Government aware that by ordinary scrutiny nowadays it is difficult to distinguish a good rupee from a bad one and therefore rupees are being rejected on a mere suspicion by Government banks, treasuries, post and railway offices, which affects the commercial and general currency of them?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to meet the situation and to eradicate the mischief caused thereby and the fraud perpetrated ?

(d) Do Government propose to issue one-rupee notes at least until such time as the spurious and suspicious coins are excluded from circulation ? If not, what other method do Government propose to adopt ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The number of counterfeit rupees which came to notice increased substantially between 1928 and 1930, but since 1930 there has been comparatively little change. The total for 1933 is slightly higher than the totals for 1930 and 1932 but slightly lower than the total for 1931.

(b) Government have received no report to this effect.

(c) and (d). Government do not consider it desirable to issue one rupee notes so long as India has a large surplus holding of silver. Measures for the suppression of counterfeiting are, however, engaging the attention of the Departments concerned, and any marked increase in the number of counterfeit coins reported in any particular area is brought to the notice of the appropriate Local Government.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : May I inquire whether there is more counterfeiting in currency notes or in coins ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Is it not a fact that the Bank of England does not issue any note below £5, and, in view of that, is it not necessary that India should not issue any currency note below Rs. 5 ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir, that is not correct. The Bank of England now issue currency notes of the denominations of £1 and 10 shillings.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : With regard to clause (b), my object was to show that at present there are suspicious rupees in circulation, and people are inconvenienced, because the scrutiny applied is very strict, and the coins are returned on the slightest pretext. May I know from the Honourable Member if he is aware of this fact ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : My answer to clause (b) was that Government have received no report to this effect. But I would like to make it clear that if the Honourable Member has in his possession conclusive evidence to that effect, I will be very glad to consider it if he would furnish me with it.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Will not one-rupee postal stamps do instead of printing fresh one-rupee currency notes ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is a new question, and I should like to have notice of it.

Mr. B. Das : Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member's predecessor, Sir Basil Blackett, had to stop the circulation of one-rupee notes, because there were losses caused to the poor people in the villages because these paper notes got destroyed in water ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I was not aware of it, but I am quite prepared to take it from my Honourable friend that it is so.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Is it not also a fact that Government found that the circulation of one-rupee notes was costing them too much, much more than the coins in circulation ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : There also I have no information myself, but I am quite prepared to take it from my Honourable friend.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : What testimony does the Honourable Member want me to give him with regard to the inconvenience caused to the people ? Shall I take him to the stamp vendor downstairs and prove it by offering him a rupee ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir ; the evidence I would like to receive is the indubitable evidence which the Honourable Member says he has in his possession.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I never said there is any evidence in my pocket. I only say it is common knowledge that the scrutiny of rupees at present is very strict, and even genuine rupees are rejected on very flimsy grounds. Will the Honourable Member make inquiries about this ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : All I can say is that I have received no report to that effect. The Honourable Member said it is common knowledge. If it is common knowledge, it must be quite simple for him to produce instances and bring them to my notice.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Is the Honourable Member prepared to inquire even from his own office people ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Presumably the answer which I have given the Honourable Member was not prepared in any other office, but my own. (Laughter.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INTRODUCTION OF MOTOR BUS SERVICES BY RAILWAYS.

20. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** What are the names of the Railways which have opened motor bus services since the passing of the Railway (Amendment) Act on this subject, and from which place to which place ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : None of the Railways affected by the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1933, has as yet instituted road motor services.

SPACE PROVIDED FOR OFFICERS IN THE NORTH BLOCK OF THE SECRETARIAT IN NEW DELHI.

21. **Mr. S. G. Jog :** Will Government please lay on the table of this House a statement showing separately the area of accommodation provided for officers of different classes in the several offices located in the North Block of the Secretariat in New Delhi, both in summer and winter, with the number of officers of different classes ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The information is not readily available, and Government do not propose to collect it, as the result would not justify the labour involved.

THE INDIAN CARRIAGE BY AIR BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to give effect in British India to a Convention for the unification of certain rules relating to international carriage by air.

THE INDIAN AIRCRAFT BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to make better provision for the control of the manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of aircraft.

THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT SUPPLEMENTARY (EXTENDING) BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume consideration of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Supplementary (Extending) Bill.

The question is :

“ That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil (Bombay Southern Division : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

‘ 2. In part 2 of section 1 of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment (Supplementary) Act, 1932, for the words ‘ three years ’ the words ‘ six years ’ shall be substituted.’”

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras : Indian Commerce) : Sir, on a point of order. We find from the supplementary agenda that the Indian Iron and Steel Duties Bill will be given preference over any other business today. What has happened to that Bill ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Indian Iron and Steel Duties Bill will be introduced at about 1 o'clock. Copies of the Bill have not yet come from the press.

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil : Sir, in moving my amendment, I feel that most of the important points have been already fully threshed out in this House, and that very little remains for me to put before the House. However, I should like to place before the House my points as to why this amendment should be accepted. In the first place, my amendment assumes that this terrorist menace exists in Bengal. It further assumes that the Bengal Government are confronted with a serious situation. Lastly, the amendment also assumes that some help should be given to the Bengal Government at this juncture. But the amendment seeks to protest against making the provisions of Act VIII of 1932 a permanent feature of the Statute-book. Sir, in reply to yesterday's debate, the Honourable the Home Member stated perhaps as his foremost ground that because from time to time Government were required to place before the Legislature similar measures, it is no use fixing a time limit for this

[Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil.]

Bill, but that once for all it should be made a permanent one. In placing this argument before the House the Honourable the Home Member referred to an Act of 1915 known as the Defence of India Act. I may submit, Sir, that this reference to that Act does not take the case of Government any further. The Great War began in the year 1914, and it was necessary for the Government of India as well as the Government of Great Britain to enact such measures, and it was in order to safeguard the interests of the State as a whole that this Act was enacted in India. Let me point out a few provisions of that Act to show that it had nothing to do with the terrorist movement in Bengal or in any other part of British India. In section 1 (4), it is stated :

“ This Act shall continue in force during the continuance of the present war and for a period of six months thereafter.”

This conclusively shows that this Act had absolutely nothing to do with the terrorist movement. In my humble opinion, the Government of India's first resort to this procedure of transferring detenus from the Province of Bengal to the other Provinces started in the year 1925. Therefore, the argument which was put forward as the one justification for making it permanent does not hold good at all. On the one hand, we know that it has become difficult for the Government of Bengal to accommodate a large number of detenus and also to segregate them in a proper manner, and to prevent them from making unauthorised communications with the sympathisers outside the jail. We know also that, on the other side, there are serious objections to the continuation of this procedure of transferring the detenus to jails outside Bengal. My Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, the other day protested against this procedure of sending detenus to his own Province and causing any contamination to take place in his own Andhra Province. May I bring to the notice of the Honourable the Home Member that it is not one individual Member who has protested against this procedure, but practically every Provincial Government and every jail authority had something to say against this when opinions were called for in 1932. That being the case, what justification have the Government of India to force upon the people of other Provinces and upon their Governments to accept the detenus in their jails ? My Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, also alluded to some instances that recently occurred in Poona. In my opinion, by this Act, the Government of India are doing a great injustice in forcing upon the other Provinces to accept these dangerous detenus. Here I assume that all the detenus are dangerous ; but if that is not the case of Government, if they say that all of them are not so dangerous as some of us think or as some Provincial Governments think, then I urge why should they not be kept in the Province of Bengal itself ?

Another serious objection taken is with regard to the personal inconveniences of the detenus themselves. We have heard during the last two years a number of questions put forth from this side of the House with regard to the treatment of detenus in other jails. We have heard that no facilities are given, if any are given at all in a few cases, to the relatives of these detenus to visit them. We know that the detenus are hard put to in the matter of maintaining their families. We know that with regard to food and the surroundings, and different climates, the detenus are greatly inconvenienced. These are certainly serious matters.

Then, we have to weigh the inconveniences on both sides. If the Government of Bengal still think that it is necessary that these detenus should be removed from the Province of Bengal, it is up to them to make their own arrangements. They have had sufficient time. I do not think they hoped that it would end sooner than now. I do not think that the Bengal Government are not spending money for the suppression of this movement. We know that lakhs of rupees are lavishly spent in suppressing this movement. Then, why should they not make proper arrangements for accommodating all these detenus? They are, after all, 1,500 at present. My Honourable friend, Mr. Sen, the other day suggested, as also my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, that the Civil Disobedience prisoners being let off, there is sufficient accommodation in the jails in Bengal. These being my few reasons in addition to whatever has already been urged before the House, I should like to deal with one or two other points.

It appears that the Government are under the impression that in 1932 this House accepted the principle of sending these detenus outside Bengal in perpetuity. That is not a fact. Any one who refers to the debates in 1932 can very easily see that it was not so. The question then was whether the Bill introduced in 1932 would automatically be tagged to the local Act if that Act were extended before it lapsed. The opinion of the then Honourable the Law Member was that if it was extended before it lapsed, the Bill before this House would become tagged to that local Act, but if it was extended after the Act had exhausted itself or lapsed, it would not be so. Under those circumstances, and fortified with the legal opinion which was placed before this House, this House accepted the time limit of three years. Sir, may I submit that this House did not accept the principle of making it a permanent measure? It only gave a qualified support to the Bill.

Then, Sir, another argument advanced by some of the Honourable
 12 Noon. Members as well as by the Honourable the Home Member is that such time limit gives encouragement to these detenus. Now, let us consider what will be the position when the time limit is over. The result will be that these detenus would be taken back to the jails in Bengal. How can their mere transfer back to Bengal jails give them any encouragement? Under the local Act, they would still be kept in prison. The Local Government will have all the powers under the local Act to deal with these terrorists. Sir, I do not see any relation between these two things. It cannot give them any encouragement. But, I am sure, Sir, if they are taken back to Bengal, you will remove the anxiety of other Provinces, the burden on their jails, and at the same time you will temper the administration with justice. For these reasons, I commend my amendment for the consideration of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

‘ 2. In part 2 of section 1 of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment (Supplementary) Act, 1932, for the words ‘ three years ’ the words ‘ six years ’ shall be substituted ’.”

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur (North Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to oppose this amendment. It occurred to me that after the most lucid and convincing speech which the Honourable Mr.

[Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur.]

Studd made yesterday, my friend, Rao Bahadur Patil, would not move his amendment, but as he has moved it, I think I should place my view of the case when I rise to oppose this amendment.

Sir, the objection raised is that this Bill should not be placed permanently on the Statute-book. My friend, Mr. Studd, yesterday pointed out the necessity for a permanent legislation of this character, and he also, in the course of his very eloquent speech, said that the fair name of India is being sullied by acts of terrorism, and that, in the interest of the preservation of law and order in this country, the terrorists should know that a drastic measure of this type is going to remain on the Statute-book for all time. Sir, from one point of view, I admit, that we should have a permanent legislation of this kind on the Statute-book. It is a slur to Indians, no doubt ; but, at the same time, I must say that from another point of view it is a still greater slur on the Government of the country when they introduce this measure as a permanent one, but while they do so, they must be feeling that they are compelled to do it. Knowing as they do that terrorism ought to be stamped out of this country by any means and under any circumstances, and knowing as they do that the credit of the Government of this country would be lowered in the estimation of the outside world by the introduction of such a measure permanently on the Statute-book, that the Government of the country are bringing discredit to themselves, they still maintain that such a legislation is necessary, whatever may be the consequences, and however much their reputation may be lowered in the estimation of the outside world. Sir, I say that the Government are prepared to do it simply because the necessity demands it. Terrorism is an exceptional malady, and it requires exceptional treatment. That is admitted on all hands, and if it is alleged, as some Honourable Members did, that terrorism was due to the unpopularity of the Government, then I ask them, how is it that it is peculiar to the Bengal Province alone. If the Government of the day is unpopular, it is equally unpopular in every Province, and not in Bengal alone. While I admit that there must be some cause, political or economic, and that we have not tackled these questions in the way we ought to, still the fact remains that we have got to legislate some such law, we have got to take drastic measures as a palliative until the root cause is discovered.

Then, Sir, dismissing the question of the legality or the illegality, fairness or otherwise, of detaining persons without trial, I should say that it is a matter entirely foreign to this debate. It is a matter which has been conclusively determined by the Legislative Council of the Bengal Province, and we have nothing to say further upon it. But, in the course of the discussion, it was pointed out that when persons are detained without trial, it almost amounts to their being detained on the barest suspicion. That is what my friend, Mr. Mitra, said yesterday. I should think, Sir, that although there may be a certain margin of error in these arrests and detentions without trial, although it cannot be claimed that these detentions have that margin of certainty which exists in the case of an ordinary judicial trial, still we have to consider the fact that, even in the case of ordinary judicial trials, there is a certain margin of error in many instances. In the case of acquittals and convictions in ordinary trials, can my friend, Mr. Mitra, assert that they are always right ? There is

a certain margin of error even in the case of judicial trials. Well, my friend, Mr. Mitra, might say,—then do away with judicial trials altogether. I say,—No, why should we do away with judicial trials? We are dealing here with a peculiar set of circumstances, we have to deal here with a peculiar disease, and we need a peculiar prescription for it. I think if my Honourable friend, Rao Bahadur Patil, applies his mind to it for some time more, he is bound to change his opinion. I think he will be on my side and would say that “I shall not move my amendment”. (*An Honourable Member* : “Question.”) In my opinion, what is exactly needed is a strong, lively and vigorous public opinion expressed in unequivocal terms, public opinion which exerts itself every moment. It has occurred to me that my Honourable friends from Bengal, those who are anti-terrorists, if I may say so, have not applied their minds in the way they ought to. For instance, when in any city there is a scare of kidnapping, as we have had in some cities in India, every home is vigilant, is on the alert to find out who the kidnapper is, and some such sort of feeling ought to exist in Bengal if they are determined to root out this malady. With these words, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal : European) : Mr. President, I rise to oppose this amendment. From the speeches I have heard in regard to this Bill, most of the speakers have been dealing with the result of the administration of the Bengal Act of 1930 and the Supplementary Act of 1934. The Bill before us merely deals with the question whether the three years should be omitted from the Bill. The Bengal Act of 1930 will remain in force whatever we do with this Bill. The 1930 Act was put permanently on the Statute-book. Our Act of 1932 expires in 1935, the date on which the original Bengal Act of 1930 would have expired, and it is to bring it into conformity with the Act now in force in Bengal that the Government wish to have this Bill passed. That, I take it, is the plain issue before us at the moment. Sir, with regard to the terrorism in my Province, a good deal has been said about stirring up public opinion. I would like to inform the House that within recent months public opinion is being stirred. In Chittagong, in Dacca, in Calcutta, there is a good deal going on to try and combat this terrorist movement. I myself have attended anti-terrorist meetings of the British Indian Association in Calcutta, both a general meeting and also the committee meetings, and I am co-operating with them in every way. They are now working out the question of propaganda. They are co-operating with Government with regard to propaganda in the districts and they are proposing to have committees at some big centres like Mymensingh, Comilla, Dacca, and so on, and in that way to help to tackle this unfortunate movement. Sir, as regards the Calcutta Committee there are many eminent Bengalis connected with it, and I am glad to say that my friend, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, now the Mayor of Calcutta, is one of the prominent members of that committee. He would be in a position to do a great deal, so far as Calcutta is concerned, because there has always been a suspicion that the schools of the Calcutta Corporation certainly did not help to stop this terrorism, whatever they may have done to keep it more or less alive. Mr. President, I want my Honourable friends to understand that apathy has now been broken. It is not easy to get a general interest in anti-terrorism, but a beginning has definitely been made. I may mention also that we are in close touch with the Educational Officer of the Bengal Government with a view to helping the students in schools and colleges to

[Mr. G Morgan.]

a proper perspective of the situation, and I have every hope that some real good will come out of this anti-terrorist movement inaugurated by the public in Bengal.

Sir, I am sorry to have to refer to the administration of the Act, but I should like to say that one of the difficulties of the position referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, is that the bulk of the administration in India is carried on by various grades of officers, and it is very difficult to control the last rung of the ladder. The top rung of the ladder will always get the blame of whatever objectionable may happen in the lower rungs of the ladder. Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, is not here. I believe he has entirely forgotten what Bengal climate is like when he refers to the terrible ordeal of waking up in the morning at Ajmer and finding the *punkah* had stopped. All I can say is that when I had to sleep under the old pull *punkah*, it would be more trying from the time I went to bed and the time I had to get up in the Bengal climate than the Ajmer climate, if the *punkah* had stopped. (Mr. S. C. Mitra : "To Mr. Morgan.") My Honourable friend, Mr. Patil, said,—at least I understood him to say, it was very difficult to follow what he was saying,—I understood him to say that the Government of Bengal are not spending any money to combat this movement.

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil : I said that the Government of Bengal were lavishly spending money.

An Honourable Member : Not slavishly !

Mr. G. Morgan : Quite unwillingly. Unfortunately as you, Sir, know, the coffers of the Bengal Government are not what you might call overflowing. I think I am right in saying that it cost Rs. 7 lakhs on account of extra administration, police, and so on, for the year 1933-34. Mr. President, I have nothing more to say about the Bill before the House. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. J. M. Chatarji (Bengal : Nominated Official) : Sir, I appreciate the opportunity that has been allowed to me of saying a few words on the measure now under discussion which concerns my Province. The necessity for the measure.....

An Honourable Member : Louder please. We cannot hear.

Mr. J. M. Chatarji : The necessity for the measure and other points have been discussed so threadbare that I do not propose to go over them again. We are not considering whether the old Act of 1930 should have been placed permanently on the Statute-book, but we are considering whether the powers which this Legislature gave to Bengal in 1932 for a period of three years should be made permanent. We have had a lot of discussion over matters which are cognate, though not strictly relevant, to the measure under discussion. I do not propose to touch on any of those points, but in case I happen to digress into some of them, I hope I will be pardoned for being in good company.

I listened to the speech of my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, with the attention which his utterances always deserve. The main ground that he made out was, why should the power to send the detenues outside Bengal be given permanently and not for a term of years and why should not she be asked in the meantime to set her house in order.

I believe he could not have struck a safer ground, because I hardly think it was possible for him to attack any of the provisions of Act VI of 1930 which was but an offspring of the Act of 1925 in favour of which he had voted with a minority of 57 in the Bengal Legislative Council. I did not find in my Honourable friend's speech any reference to the reasons which the Honourable the Mover of the Bill had given for making this measure permanent. Temporary measures lead to a quiescence for a period and keep alive the expectation that it may be possible to revive the movement, and to strengthen it, should the measure be withdrawn from the administrative armoury. Again, the mere fact that the measure is being made permanent does not necessarily mean that it could never be repealed. Should the situation fortunately improve, there will be nothing to prevent the Legislature from asking for a repeal of the measure.

Another point on which my friend laid much stress was that proper and right steps have not been taken by Government in the past to meet the evil which has been in existence for the last 30 years. He does not even now prescribe any medicine which he thinks is likely to be effective. May I remind the House that he was himself for years an honoured Member of the Bengal Cabinet which he now accuses of inefficiency in grappling with the evil. If the remedy that he knew was so patent or potent, he would have saved a generation of blooming young men from trouble and misery if he had himself pressed for the application of the remedy in the comparatively initial stages of the disease.

Sir, my friend, Mr. Mitra, has given us a moving picture of the conditions in which the detenus live. We all know that, the more moving a picture, the greater perhaps is its indebtedness to imagination. Detenus are not, as they have been described to be, prisoners confined in solitary cells. The Honourable the Law Member has already touched on the point.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend when he is making a maiden speech. There are detenus, not only at Deoli, but also in Mianwali, in the C. P., Madras. They are put in jails, and in cells also.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig (Home Member) : I think the Honourable Member is under a misunderstanding in calling them detenus. I think I am right in saying that the detenus outside Bengal are all held at Deoli and those who are held in other Provinces are State Prisoners under Regulation III. It is a technical point, perhaps, but it is of some importance with regard to this Bill.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Only the other day I put a question about State Prisoners at Mianwali, and I was corrected by the Honourable the Home Member. The man has now been transferred to Bengal, though he was under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. He is Satyendra Nath Sen. He was not a State Prisoner.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The Honourable Member is right. There may be one or two cases like that.

Mr. J. M. Chatarji : I do not propose to deal with the conditions of detenus outside Bengal, because I have no experience of them ; but from what I gathered from the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, I thought his observations referred to the condition of detenus in general,

[Mr. J. M. Chatarji.]

and what I am speaking about is the condition of detenus in a camp of which I have myself some experience. There is a tendency to assume that these detenus are confined in cells. It is nothing of the kind. The camp is a big enough place with a large number of houses for living accommodation and with all the paraphernalia of a camp including hospitals, dispensaries, kitchens and other things. At night the detenus are locked in their own rooms, but during the day their freedom is not interfered with in any way except that they are not allowed to go outside the boundary wall. It cannot possibly be said that the sameness and monotony of a detenu's life affects his mental equilibrium. It will perhaps be truer to say that some of those who have to administer their camps run the danger of qualifying themselves for a short stay in a mental asylum. The detenus have their hands full of work, if they want to do it. They have got their own committees for looking after the supply of provisions, for cooking, and sanitation, and if he has any time to spare after finding fault with the servants and after carrying his complaints to the Commandant, he can devote it to books of which he has usually a plentiful supply, and he can take to sports, both indoor and outdoor, for which he is given sufficient facilities.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : May I know from the Honourable Member whether he has ever visited Deoli ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : He is speaking of his own experience in a Bengal camp.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadian) : As a detenu !

Mr. J. M. Chatarji : My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra has spoken of torture on the detenus, I was not quite sure whether he referred to torture inside or outside detention camps. If he referred to torture inside detention camps, I could unhesitatingly tell the House that such a thing is unthinkable. The Commandant of a camp has usually reason to congratulate himself if on any day he can persuade the inmates to partake of a kind of fish different from that which they indented. In such circumstances, to think that any person would think of putting any pressure upon a detenu in a camp would be thinking something which is impossible ; and it must be remembered that there are about four to five hundred of these detenus and their compatriots looking on all the time.

Another question that has been asked is, why send them out of Bengal, why not keep them within the jurisdiction of the Local Government ? Sir, the answer is perhaps simple. It would then be extremely difficult to prevent any communication between the detenus and the outside world. Again, to confine them perhaps in detention ships in the Bay of Bengal or to dump them into the Sundarbans will probably not give them better conditions than they can have outside Bengal. There is also, Sir, some misapprehension about the scope of the Bill. There is a tendency to assume that if the Bill is passed, all the detenus will be sent out of Bengal. No doubt the Local Government of Bengal will have the power to do so, but the whole purpose of the measure is not to extern detenus wholesale, but to assume powers to extern only those who are found to be too dangerous to be kept inside Bengal.

Now, Sir, about the reason for the measure, what are the facts today in Bengal ?

Mr. S. C. Mitra : On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member speaking on the third reading or on the amendment before the House ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair does not want to interrupt the Honourable Member, but the further remarks to be made by him must now be confined to the amendment before the House, namely, whether the Bill ought to be made a permanent measure or should remain only a temporary measure.

Mr. J. M. Chatarji : Sir, I stand corrected. As regards the question of the term of the measure, I have already said what I have to say. My main point is that even if the measure becomes permanent, there will be nothing to prevent the Legislature from repealing the measure at any time it is found possible to do so. Sir, I am afraid I should be digressing into other features of the Bill if I were to speak on all the matters on which we have already heard very useful speeches. I do not think I should now detain the House any longer on this point. Sir, I oppose the amendment. (Applause.)

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, the sum and substance of this amendment is to extend the power, which has been conferred by the measure already passed, for another three years from the time when it is going to expire next year. I venture to think that this is an amendment which my Honourable friend, the Home Member, should seriously consider before summarily rejecting it. I know he commands a majority in this House and it is very easy for him to reject this amendment. But in the very interest to which he referred yesterday, I would very seriously appeal to him to consider this amendment. Yesterday, Sir, my Honourable friend said, if I remember aright, that without the force of public opinion behind the back of the Government, it is not possible to stamp out terrorism from Bengal or from any other part of the country. Now, I would ask him to consider whether the proposal of the Government to make this Bill permanent on the Statute-book is likely to win over public opinion to his side. As is very well-known, public opinion, not only in Bengal, but in other parts of the country, is seriously opposed to this measure being permanently placed on the Statute-book, and if the Government ride roughshod over public opinion, they will have no reason to complain if public opinion is not arrayed on the side of Government measures designed to stamp out terrorism from Bengal or from any part of the country. Sir, when an outrage occurs, all and sundry, including the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the leaders of opinion, proceed to condemn unmistakably these outrages and rush to the rescue of Government to save the fair name of India, as it is said, but when disgraceful and obnoxious measures are sought to be rushed, should this House support Government when they spurn public opinion and endeavour to give effect to the prescription which comes uppermost in their mind ? I would, therefore, ask my Honourable friend, the Home Member, to consider whether it is not possible to limit this Bill to a stipulated period. Sir, had the so-called terrorists been convicted by a properly constituted tribunal, there would have been some justification for the proposal which is before this House, but these so-called terrorists have not been

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

put before any Court of law : they are at best kept in detention on mere suspicion.

Sir, is my Honourable friend, the Home Member, I ask, prepared to stand up and say that he is morally satisfied that all these detenus in Deoli or elsewhere are really guilty of the offences of which they are suspected ? It is just possible, is it not, that several of these prisoners may, after all, be innocent. I say, it is just possible, because their guilt has not been proved before any Court of law. We know how the guilt is usually established in the case of political prisoners. The police officer submits a report, a confidential report which forms the basis of further action by his superior officer, and thus we have seen how innocent persons are sometimes clapped in jail and kept in detention. I do not assert that none of the prisoners may be guilty, but I merely want to say that it is just possible that the guilt of at least some of the prisoners may be open to question. Now, if an innocent person is kept in detention, what will be the state of feelings of his relatives and friends ? One can understand this temporary inconvenience being undergone in the interest of law and order, but when this legislation is going to be made permanent, one should think over the consequences of such a measure. Thousands and thousands of young men, consisting of the friends and relations of these detenus, must be smarting under a sense of injustice and must be highly discontented, and I would ask my Honourable friend to consider whether that condition of things is conducive to the effect which we are anxious to secure in Bengal. Sir, we seem to be moving in a vicious circle. Outrages unfortunately sometimes occur which we all deplore, but the conditions under which such outrages occur must be thoroughly investigated before a proper remedy can be prescribed. The very fact of these detenus being imprisoned without trial for an indefinite period is hard enough, but to compel them to live for an indefinite period outside their own Province, and amid circumstances to which they are not accustomed, is harder lot still for them. Sir, I am opposed to the outbreak of violence. I am equally opposed to violence whether it proceeds from the side of the people or whether it proceeds from the side of the Government. I am equally prepared to condemn any murderous outrage in Bengal committed by a misguided youth as I am prepared to condemn the act of General Dyer when he massacred hundreds of our innocent men, women and children at the Jallianwala Bagh. But, are the Government on their side, prepared to condemn the outbreak of lawlessness on the part of the Government officials in an equal measure ? That is just the point on which Government and the Members of the Government are silent. That creates a state of feeling in the country which is very deplorable. Sir, this amendment is a limited one. We are not yet at the stage of the third reading. I would, therefore, finally appeal to the Government to consider what would be the consequence of making this feature permanent in the administration of the country. I know it is no use appealing to Government because in this Assembly, they command an absolute majority and they can carry everything before them. Is it going to soothe the feelings of the people or is it going to embitter the feelings which have already been roused over this Bill ? With these few words, I beg to support the amendment.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Sir, I rise to support the amendment. There have been a number of detenus in Bengal, and the Government of Bengal

saw that it was necessary to keep them outside that Province. The Bengal Legislative Council passed the Criminal Law Amendment Act three years ago, and this House was asked to sanction the same measure in order to empower the Government of Bengal to keep the detenus outside that Province. The then Home Member drafted the Bill for a limited period of three years. Now, the Bengal Legislative Council have passed the same measure on a permanent basis, and the Government of India here have come before this House to pass a similar legislation. This House need not follow implicitly the example set by the Bengal Legislative Council. This House has a will of its own and it ought to exercise it in the best interests of the country. The amendment of Rao Bahadur Patil is to limit it for a further period of three years. It has been said here that such a drastic legislation is a slur on the fair name of any country, and I perfectly agree with it. Therefore, such measures ought not to be made permanent but they ought to be passed for a certain stated period.

I am very much obliged to my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, for describing here the steps that are being taken in Calcutta and the whole of the Province of Bengal to co-operate with Government in putting down this outrageous movement. I am confident that with the active co-operation of the European members and the Indian members in Calcutta and outside, this pernicious movement will be put down during the period of the next three years. If it is not put down within the period of six years, then it shows that the repressive measures are not very effective. I think the repressive measures during the past three years have had a very considerable effect in curbing the movement, and I am quite confident that the active movement that has been started in Calcutta with its branches in every important city will surely succeed in putting down the pernicious movement within the period of next three years. Therefore, the period proposed in the amendment can be very safely accepted.

Sir, this House by questions and Resolutions has brought to the notice of the public and the Government that the conditions at Deoli and other camps are not very desirable. The Honourable the Home Member has personally visited that place and he has assured this House that the treatment given to the detenus is according to law, and, I think, according to the circumstances of the place. I have full confidence in his statement, but what I urge is this, that this question of the treatment of the detenus ought to come for discussion on the floor of this House periodically, and this is one of the other reasons for our urging that the duration of this Bill should be limited to a further period of three years. The Government of India, if they unfortunately find that the period ought to be prolonged, will have to come before this House and place the facts before it, so that there will be a general discussion before any further extension of the period is granted. In the interests of the detenus as well as in the interests of the general administration, it is necessary that such a drastic measure ought to be discussed periodically in this House. I do not think that the acceptance of this amendment will embarrass either the Government of India, or the Government of Bengal in any way, as the Bengal legislation is for an unlimited period and the detenus or the would-be detenus will be governed by that legislation. Therefore, if the extension of this

[Mr. B. V. Jadhav.]

measure is made here only for three years, it need not have any deleterious effect upon the minds of the people there. On the other hand, it will show the desire of Government to do away with the legislation as early as possible.

The Honourable the Official Member from Bengal has given a very important piece of information to this House, namely, that even the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act can be repealed at any time. That is a fact known to everybody. But when an Act is passed for an unlimited period, it is not expected that a repealing Act will be introduced at any time. If there is no necessity for making use of that legislation, it will lie dormant, but then in that case nobody takes the trouble of getting it repealed. And, as it has been said, such a drastic measure is always a slur on the fair name of any country, such a measure ought not to be made permanent, so that it will lead to the lasting shame of that country. That is another reason why the period of the operation of the Bill should be limited to three years, and no more. If, unfortunately, there is any necessity for the measure again, then, the Government will be free to come to this House and ask for another extension. With these words, I support the amendment.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Sir, I quite appreciate the spirit in which my Honourable friend, Mr. Patil, has moved this amendment. He is prepared in the circumstances to give some assistance to the Government of Bengal in coping with their difficulties. But he proposes to limit that assistance to a period of three years. I gave at some length yesterday to the House my reasons against that principle. I tried to show the House that in the past this principle of temporary legislation to deal with terrorism had been tried a number of times, and it is my own conviction that it is because the legislation was not continuous and it has not been permanent that this movement has continued for such a long period. I think it might not have revived with such strength as it undoubtedly did revive in 1930—that is the root of our present troubles—had the legislation, for instance passed in 1925, been of a permanent character.

Now, Sir, I do not know that I need follow my Honourable friend, the Mover, in his reference to the Defence of India Act. It is perfectly true that the Defence of India Act was an Act passed for the general defence of India during the period of the Great War and that it was not passed specifically in order to deal with terrorism in Bengal. But the powers given by that Defence of India Act were used with very great effect in Bengal, and the lapsing of these powers, as my Honourable friend reminds me, in 1919, did give a great opportunity to that movement to start again. With regard to the other Provinces there seems to be some misunderstanding of the position. I can quite appreciate that Honourable Members from other Provinces are particularly anxious that these detenus should not be detained among them. They do not feel exactly the same confidence about their innocence as some other Honourable Members in this House. But, Sir, it is not our policy to distribute these men all over India. We have a limited number of what were originally considered the most dangerous men who were dealt with under Regulation III and who have been distributed in

small numbers in various Provinces. But that was not done under the provisions of our Act VIII of 1932. The action we took under Act VIII of 1932 was to constitute this big camp at Deoli which is under the charge of the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara, and that is our policy at present—to keep these detenus in Deoli where a very large expenditure has been incurred by the Government of Bengal on providing buildings and a suitable water supply amounting, in all, I think, to about four lakhs of rupees. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, said that by continuing these powers we were offending and affronting public opinion. I am not sure that I agree with my Honourable friend in his interpretation of public opinion. After all, should we not consider the public opinion of the Province of Bengal? They, after all, are the people most intimately concerned, and it is reasonable to look to that public opinion being reflected in the Bengal Legislative Council where, as we have heard so many times, these provisions in regard to terrorism have just been passed by an overwhelming majority and made permanent.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : But the Honourable Member assumes that the Bengal Legislative Council today represents public opinion!

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : It is as representative of public opinion as this House.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Do not say then that it is the public opinion in Bengal which supports such measures.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : At any rate that is the constitutional means of expressing public opinion. I really think that my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, does a certain injustice to public opinion by identifying it with his own.

We have heard an interesting speech from my Honourable friend, Mr. Chatarji, who gives from his own personal experience some idea of the conditions in a detenu camp. I do not want to go over that point again, because, as I said yesterday, I have endeavoured, since I have had on myself the responsibility for this Deoli Camp, to keep in touch as closely as I could with the officers who are actually administering the Camp, and I am convinced that they are doing their best to look after these detenus in a reasonable way.

In conclusion, I would merely say that the Bengal Legislative Council have decided that it should be made clear that their policy is to last so long as the menace continues, and I submit that we should also make it clear that our help continues for the same period. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

‘ 2. In part 2 of section 1 of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment (Supplementary) Act, 1932, for the words ‘ three years ’ the words ‘ six years ’ shall be substituted ’ ”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—23.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
 Abdur Rahim, Sir.
 Ashar Aji, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bhuput Sing, Mr.
 Chandi Mal Gola, Bhagat.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
 Hoon, Mr. A.
 Isra, Chaudhri.
 Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.

Mitra, Mr. S. C.
 Mody, Mr. H. P.
 Murtuza Saheb Bahadur, Maulvi
 Sayyid.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Pandya, Mr. Vidya Sagar.
 Parma Nand, Bhai.
 Patil, Rao Bahadur B. L.
 Sadiq Hasan, Shaikh.
 Sen, Mr. S. C.
 Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—57.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Ali, Mr. Hamid A.
 Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Baha-
 dur Malik.
 Anklesaria, Mr. N. N.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bhadrapur, Rao Bahadur Krishna
 Raddi B.
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Brij Kishore, Rai Bahadur Lal.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Dalal, Dr. B. D.
 Fazal Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Ghuznavi, Mr. A. H.
 Gidney, Lieut. Colonel Sir Henry.
 Grantham, Mr. S. G.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Haig, The Honourable Sir Harry.
 Hockenhtill, Mr. F. W.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.
 Ibrahim Ali Khan, Lieut. Nawab Muham-
 mad.
 Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwar Hajee.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar
 Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema
 Mr.
 Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur
 Chaudhri.
 Lee, Mr. D. J. N.
 Liladhar Chaudhury, Seth.

Lumby, Lieut. Colonel A. F. R.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muham-
 mad.
 Mujumdar, Sardar G. N.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya
 Charan.
 Nihal Singh, Sardar.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Pandit, Rao Bahadur S. B.
 Perry, Mr. E. W.
 Rafiuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur
 Maulvi.
 Raghbir Singh, Rai Bahadur Kunwar.
 Raisman, Mr. A. J.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.
 Singh, Kumar Gupteshwar Prasad.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Studd, Mr. E.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Wajihuddin, Khan Bahadur Haji.
 Willayatullah, Khan Bahadur H. M.
 Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
 Zakaullah Khan, Khan Bahadur Abu
 Abdullah Muhammad.
 Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Sir, I rise on a point of order. It appears that some gentleman cast his vote on one side and the paper was torn up and another paper substituted and the count was taken afterwards. Is that in order ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : If any Honourable Member voted wrongly and immediately corrected the mistake, it is perfectly in order, and there is no objection.

The question is :

“ That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

THE INDIAN IRON AND STEEL DUTIES BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the modification and continuance of the protection afforded to the iron and steel industry in British India, and to impose an excise duty for revenue purposes upon certain steel.

I ought to explain, Sir, and apologise for, an omission which has occurred in the course of printing in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I understand that in certain copies of the Bill the word “ proposed ” has been omitted at the end of the Statement of Objects and Reasons and I would ask Honourable Members who have copies in which that word has been omitted to be so good as to insert the word “ proposed ” after the words “ has not been ”.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the modification and continuance of the protection afforded to the iron and steel industry in British India, and to impose an excise duty for revenue purposes upon certain steel.”

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 26th July, 1934.