

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THURSDAY, 30th AUGUST, 1934.

Vol. VIII—No. 6

OFFICIAL REPORT



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

Price Five Annas.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 30th August, 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.

RELIEVING OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

865. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the results of the last economic conference and the steps that have been taken to give effect to its recommendations ?

(b) Has the conference come to any conclusion and found out causes for agricultural depression ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in respect of relieving the agricultural distress due to the following activities of Government, which they stated in their reply to the debate on the resolution regarding the committee of enquiry on agricultural distress on the 6th April, 1934, that action is being taken by it :

- (i) as a result of action taken by it on the report of Royal Commission on agriculture ;
- (ii) as a result of the activities of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ;
- (iii) as a result of the trade agreement, under the Ottawa Pact and with other nations ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Resolution, dated the 5th of May, 1934, on the subject of the Provincial Economic Conference. Information regarding further action taken on the recommendations of the Conference will be found in the proceedings of the Crop Planning Conference which was held on the 8th and 9th of June, 1934, and in the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee held on the 25th instant. In addition to the proposals explained in these proceedings, it is proposed to establish an Indian Trade Commissioner for Italy within the next few months, and the officer selected for this appointment has already proceeded to London to complete his training.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the following reports, copies of which are available, or will shortly be available, in the Library of the House :

(1) Reports showing the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Three reports on this subject have already been published, and the fourth report which will cover the years 1932 and 1933, is now under preparation.

(2309)

(2) The annual reports of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

(3) The report of the Committee elected by this House to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement.

Apart from the Ottawa Agreement the only trade agreement which has so far been concluded is the Indo-Japanese Convention and Protocol signed on the 12th of July, 1934.

U. Ba. Maung : What steps are Government taking to secure the benefit which Indian agriculture was intended to get from the imposition of a duty on foreign rice imported into the United Kingdom, such benefit not having accrued to Indian agriculture, because Government's representatives at Ottawa omitted to ask for a duty to be put on foreign paddy which might be imported into the United Kingdom ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have a recollection, Sir, that the question of securing some preference for Indian paddy in the British market is under consideration.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I hope Indian paddy includes Sind paddy, also ?

DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURAL LAND IN NORTH BIHAR.

877. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Are Government aware that Sir George Schuster, as Finance Member, made the following statement, in the course of his Budget speech on the 27th February, 1934, in reference to the damage to agricultural land over wide areas in the North of Bihar due to the deposit of sand owing to the earthquake :

" We are undertaking the liability for the cost of any measures of assistance to agriculturists that may be decided upon to the extent that it cannot be met from the Provincial Government's Famine Relief Fund " ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons, Financial Secretary to the Government of India, made the following statement in the course of his Budget speech on the 27th February, 1934, in the Council of State, in the same connection :

" We are undertaking to bear the cost of such measures as may be found practicable and desirable to re-condition agricultural land, in so far as the Famine Relief Fund is insufficient " ?

(c) Will Government kindly state what is meant by their undertaking " to bear the cost " of measures for sand clearance ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa have advanced merely *Takavi* loans on joint security system, to the agriculturists who possess more than one acre of land which has suffered from a deposit of sand ?

(e) Will Government kindly state whether they meant merely the advance of *Takavi* loans, when they undertook " to bear the cost " of sand clearance ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Local Government have been advancing *Takavi* loans from their Famine Relief Fund ? If so, is that permissible ? Have any instructions been issued by the Government of India in this connection ? If so, what ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). Yes:

(a) The reference was to any expenditure that might be directly incurred by Government either on the re-conditioning of land by Government agency or by way of non-recoverable grants to individual cultivators.

(d) The Government of India are aware that in addition to free grants to cultivators the Government of Bihar and Orissa are making *taccavi* advances for the purpose of sand clearance. They have not been informed of the detailed conditions on which the *taccavi* advances are made, or of the criteria laid down by the Government of Bihar and Orissa for determining when resort should be had to *taccavi* advances, or when free grant should be given. These are matters which are entirely within the discretion of the Provincial Government, and in which the Government of India are not prepared to interfere.

(e) I am not sure that I fully understand the question. It was, of course, realised at a very early stage that *taccavi* advances would be one of the methods of dealing with the sand clearance problem, and the Government of India sanctioned special terms for the loan which the Provincial Government is taking through the Provincial Loans Fund for the purpose of making these advances. Another of the methods is the distribution of free grants to individual agriculturists whose resources are not such as to warrant their taking a *taccavi* advance; and possibly in some cases the two methods are being combined. When the Provincial Government's balance in the Famine Relief Fund is exhausted, the cost of these free grants will be borne by the Government of India, and it is to this that my predecessor and Sir Alan Parsons referred in the remarks which the Honourable Member has quoted.

(f) Initially some *taccavi* advances were made from the Local Government's balance in their Famine Relief Fund, but the sums involved have now been adjusted against the loan taken by the Provincial Government from the Provincial Loans Fund.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: With regard to the answer to part (e), will Government kindly state when they envisaged the possibility of advancing *taccavi* loans as a means for sand clearance?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am not prepared to give any specific date about that. My information is that it was realised at a very early stage that *taccavi* advances will be one of the methods of dealing with the sand clearance problem.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: What I want to know is this. Is there anything in the budget speeches of the Honourable Sir George Schuster or the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons or any communiqué of the Government of India which states that *taccavi* advances will be one of the forms by which the work of sand clearance can be undertaken?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not gather that either the statement of Sir George Schuster or that of Sir Alan Parsons was intended to cover all possible circumstances which could arise, and, therefore, if they do not state so specifically, I do not see that any conclusion can be drawn from that. The fact that they did not state that *taccavi* advances will be given does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that the whole of the question of sand clearance should be dealt

with by free grants rather than advances. As a matter of fact, I understand, and the House will be very glad to know, that the amount of damage done by sand has been very much over-estimated, and I believe that the problem has been reduced to very small dimensions, because a great deal of the sand has, in fact, been washed away by the rains.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Then do I understand the Government of India to resile from the position which they took up when Sir George Schuster made his speech, namely, that the Government of India would bear the cost of sand clearance ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, in view of recent events in this House, I have to be very careful before making any comments on promises or alleged promises made by my predecessor. I will, therefore, look into it and speak to the Honourable Member about it. I cannot give any further answer at the moment.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : With regard to part (f) of my question, is it in order under the rules to make advances out of the Famine Relief Fund ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member had better not ask me. The position is being rectified now.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do I take it that all moneys which have been spent for the clearance of sand are in the nature of free grants and not *taccavi* loans ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir. What I understand is that the giving of *taccavi* advances from the Famine Relief Fund has been discontinued, and the money taken from the Famine Relief Fund for *taccavi* advances has been replaced.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Then, does it mean that the money advanced out of the Famine Relief Fund has not been advanced as *taccavi* loans, but as free grants, now that the accounts have been adjusted according to the statement of the Honourable Member ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have said in the last part of paragraph (e) of my answer that when the Provincial Government's balance in the Famine Relief Fund is exhausted, the cost of these free grants will be borne by the Government of India. The presumption is that the Famine Relief Fund is being used predominantly, if not entirely, for free grants.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : In as much as there is great confusion in the minds of those who have been given grants for sand clearance, will Government take the trouble of elucidating this point very clearly in the light of the promise made by Sir George Schuster ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The question of grant or advance and the responsibility for clearing up any confusion which may exist in the minds of people is entirely one for the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa have been advancing *taccavi* loans to a person having one acre or more of land which has been damaged by sand, but they have been giving free grants to persons who own less than one acre of land which has been damaged by earthquake ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am quite prepared to take that information from the Honourable Member.

RELIEF TO PETTY SHOPKEEPERS IN THE EARTHQUAKE-STRIKEN AREA OF BIHAR.

878. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government kindly state what plan is being pursued to give relief to those petty shopkeepers in the earthquake-stricken area of Bihar, who may have lost their assets, but who do not hold any house property ?

(b) Are Government aware that in the course of his Budget speech, on the 27th February, 1934, Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member, referred to " the question of assisting private individuals to re-build their houses and shops " by means of " free grants ", and the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons also stated that assistance to those private individuals whose " small houses and shops " have been destroyed must " take the form of free grants " ? Is this policy being pursued ? If so, what amount of money has been given as " free grants " up to date to persons whose shops have been destroyed ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to sub-paragraph 1 of paragraph 41 (c) of my predecessor's speech introducing the Budget for 1934-35. As stated therein, the problem referred to by the Honourable Member has to be dealt with by means of free grants from the Viceroy's and other relief funds and it is for the committees administering the funds to decide in which cases grants should be made.

(b) Government are aware of the remarks made by my predecessor and Sir Alan Parsons. They referred, of course, to grants for re-building shops and not for replacing the stock, etc., held in the shops. The actual amount of grants given up-to-date is not known.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government say whether they are prepared to give relief themselves, or they have merely shoved the responsibility on to the Committee which administers the Viceroy's Fund ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think " shoved " is rather a prejudicial word, but not a very inaccurate one perhaps.

Mr. E. Studd : With reference to shops, are Government prepared to impress upon the Bihar and Orissa Government the necessity for an improved lay-out in these devastated towns so as to do away with the old slum areas ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I gather that has already been done.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government prepared to finance the Government of Bihar and Orissa for undertaking the improvements to which reference has been made by my Honourable friend who has just put this question ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That certainly is not a question I am prepared to answer on the spur of the moment.

Mr. F. E. James : The Honourable the Finance Member said in reply to the supplementary question of my Honourable colleague, Mr. Studd, that the policy of improving these slum areas in the devastated towns is being carried out.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I did not say : I said I imagined that the attention of the Government of Bihar and Orissa had already been drawn to the desirability of that.

Mr. F. E. James : I want to know whether the Honourable gentleman is prepared once more to call the attention of the Bihar and Orissa Government to the necessity of taking that action as there seems to be very considerable evidence that that action is not being fully carried out.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have no objection whatever to forwarding a copy of the two Honourable Member's questions to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa are a little bit stolid in these matters ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is not a question which it would be proper for me to answer.

REDUCTION OF THE PAY OF SUPERNUMERARY CLERKS AT THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

888. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the substantive pay of supernumerary clerks at the Army Headquarters has been limited to Rs. 170 per mensem and those originally getting more than this have been brought down to this pay ? If so, has this been done with the sanction of the Secretary of State or the Army Department, or have the Branches of the Army Headquarters done it of their own accord ? If the Branches have done it themselves, under what authority, rule or order has it been done ?

(b) Have the names of the clerks, whose pay has been reduced, been brought to the notice of the Public Service Commission with a view to these men being provided with appointments elsewhere in the Divisions for which they are qualified and where they can draw their original rates of pay ? If not, why not ?

(c) What are the chances of the supernumerary clerks at the Army Headquarters being restored to their original rates of pay and increments ? Have any orders been issued for not filling by outside recruitment the vacancies of these men so long as they are not absorbed ? If not, why not ?

(d) Is it a fact that no personal allowance has been given to the supernumerary men at Army Headquarters whose pay has been reduced ? If so, why ?

(e) Is it a fact that some supernumerary clerks of the Adjutant General's Branch were absorbed in the M. G. O. Branch ? If so, why have not similar efforts at absorption been made for clerks of other Branches ?

Lient.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The position is, that on the introduction of the Third (Routine) Division in Army Headquarters in 1929, those permanent clerks of the Second Division, who were in excess of the authorised strength of that Division, were held as supernumeraries in that Division. They were placed on a general Army Headquarters roll and the majority of them were absorbed in the vacancies occurring

in the several Branches of Army Headquarters during the period 1930 to 1933. In 1933, as a measure of retrenchment, the few who were still supernumerary were given the option of being relegated to the Third Division or of retiring under the special retrenchment terms. They accepted the first alternative, and their pay was fixed in the scale of pay laid down for the Third Division, viz., Rs. 90—4—170. The orders were issued by the Government of India ; the approval of the Secretary of State was not necessary.

(b) No, Sir, because the Public Service Commission are not concerned with inter-departmental transfers.

(c) Under the existing orders, a 'relegated' clerk is restored to his original grade on the occurrence of the first vacancy in that grade, subject, of course, to his fitness for such promotion. No separate orders on this point are necessary.

(d) No personal allowance is admissible in such circumstances.

(e) As stated in reply to part (a) a great majority of these supernumerary clerks were absorbed in vacancies which occurred in the Second Division prior to 1933.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether or not it is a fact that it is the intention of the Government of India to standardise the pay for the clerks in their offices, civil and military, British or Indian ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : No : there is no such intention.

PROMOTION OF CLERKS IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

889. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government be pleased to place on the table of this House a statement showing by Branches of the Army Headquarters the number of clerks who were qualified only for the Routine Division by the Public Service Commission but who were promoted, temporarily or permanently, to the Second Division, for which they were not qualified, by the Branches without previous consultation with the Public Service Commission during the last three years (1934 included) ? What is the rule, order or authority for such promotion ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : A statement is laid on the table which covers both the Honourable Member's questions.

Statement showing the number of clerks promoted permanently or temporarily to the Second Division in the Branches of Army Headquarters, who have not qualified for that division during the last three years.

Two third division clerks were promoted permanently to the second division in the Office of the Assistant Director, Ordnance Services (Provision) with the concurrence of the Public Service Commission. Nine third division clerks were promoted temporarily to the second division in the Office of the Master-General of Ordnance Branch under the orders regulating the recruitment to the ministerial establishment of the Government of India Secretariat and Attached Offices. No such promotion was made in any other Branch of Army Headquarters.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

890. *Mr. F. E. James (on behalf of Sir Darcy Lindsay) : Will Government please state whether they have given consideration to the

suggestion put forward during the consideration of the Finance Bill at the last Session that an Advisory Committee to the Posts and Telegraphs Department should be appointed by the Legislative Assembly, similar to the Advisory Committees that exist in other Departments, to whom questions regarding the increase or decrease of postal rates and kindred matters could be referred before definite action is taken to bring any such proposed changes into force ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government have considered the suggestion and are of opinion that a separate Advisory Committee should be appointed for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. Before taking further action, they decided to consult the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Industries and Labour. The matter was placed before that Committee at a meeting held this morning and the Committee concurred in the view that the constitution of a separate Committee was desirable.

Mr. F. E. James : May I ask whether any decision has been arrived at as to the composition of the Committee—whether the Committee should be elected by this House only or by both Chambers of the Central Legislature ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The Committee will be formed on the usual lines : as in the case of other advisory committees, it will include Members of both Houses.

REDUCTION OF POSTAL RATES ON CIRCULAR LETTERS AND OTHER PRINTED MATTER.

891. ***Mr. F. E. James** (on behalf of Sir Darcy Lindsay) : (a) Will Government please state whether they have given further consideration to the submission made in March last, that the increase of three pies in the postage on all circular letters and other printed matter, usually enclosed in open envelopes, imposes a serious hardship on the retail trade of the country and other interests who habitually use this form of postage for advertisement purposes ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the increase of three pies was not imposed for revenue purposes but to defeat certain alleged evasion of correct postage rates by post card users ?

(c) Will Government please state whether they propose to restore the former rate of six pies for this class of postage, and, if so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under examination in the light of information which is being collected in regard to the effect of the new rate.

RECRUITMENT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS TO THE ARMY IN INDIA RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

892. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) With reference to the reply to question No. 64 (a) of the 12th March, 1930, asked in the Council of State, will Government kindly state whether *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force, who have held both Honorary King's and Viceroy's

Commissions but did not fulfil their engagements with that Force and resigned before their term, are eligible to join the Army in India Reserve of Officers with seniority of previous service in Infantry, etc., category ? If so, do Government propose to amend the regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers accordingly ?

(b) With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 323 (d) of the 12th February, 1932, will Government kindly state whether *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force, who have held both Honorary King's and Viceroy's Commissions and at present holding a Government appointment of non-gazetted status, are eligible to join the Army in India Reserve of Officers with seniority of previous service in Infantry, etc., category ? If so, do Government propose to amend the Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers accordingly ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to give an early opportunity to the said *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force for recruitment in the Army in India Reserve of Officers ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) Such gentlemen are eligible for consideration for appointment to the Army in India Reserve of Officers, but, if as officers of the Indian Territorial Force they did not fulfil their engagements, they are unlikely to be accepted. In the event of their being accepted, they would already, under paragraph 7 (c) of the Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers, contained in Appendix XXX to Regulations for the Army in India, be entitled to count half their service as Viceroy's commissioned officers for the purpose of seniority in the Reserve.

(b) No. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 5 (i) of the Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers. Government do not propose to amend the Regulations in this respect.

(c) Recruitment to the Army in India Reserve of Officers is still suspended pending approval by the Secretary of State to new rules framed in connection with the re-organisation of the Reserve. When recruitment is re-opened *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force of the category mentioned in (a) above will, as previously, be eligible for consideration for appointment.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Have the Government of India any idea of establishing branches of the Indian Territorial Force in those Provinces where it does not exist ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I do not think that question really arises, but at the present time there is no intention of raising any further units of the Territorial Force for reasons of economy.

EFFECT OF THE EXTRA DUTY LEVIED ON LIGHT DIESEL OIL ON AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS.

893. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal** (on behalf of Mr. K. P. Thampan) : Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any report from the Provincial Governments regarding the effect of the extra duty levied (under Act XXVIII of 1933) on light diesel oil on agricultural and industrial interests ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Yes. The general consensus of opinion is that the effect has been negligible.

TESTS ON DIESEL OIL CARRIED OUT BY THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

894. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal** (on behalf of Mr. K. P. Thampan) :
(a) Have Government received through the Central Board of Revenue any representation from the National Petroleum Company, Bombay, protesting against the manner in which the tests under the provisions of Act XXVIII of 1933 are carried out by the Customs Department and the hardships they are put to thereby ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Department has violated the undertaking given by the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, to the effect that the difference "between the typical Burma red kerosene and anything which could be brought in under this provision should not be more than 15 per cent." ?

(c) Is it a fact that according to the certificate given by the Alipore Test House, the diesel oil imported by the National Petroleum Company, is very much below the prescribed difference of 15 per cent. both in flame and duration tests, and still the Customs Department treat that oil as ordinary kerosene ? If so, why ?

(d) Have Government carried out any test on "typical red kerosene", and if so, what were the results with regard to flame height and duration ? When were the tests carried out by the chemists ?

(e) In cases of honest difference of opinion between an Importer and the Customs Department in such matters, what is the remedy open to the former ? Is there any appeal ? If so, to whom ?

(f) Will Government please lay a copy of the Rules framed under the Act in regard to the tests and the manner in which they are to be carried out ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) No. In the course of the same debate Sir George Schuster subsequently indicated more precisely that the proposed criterion was a flame height of 10 mm. in the standard smoke-point lamp. This criterion has been applied.

(c) The samples submitted to the Alipore Test House were not drawn under customs supervision, and the results of the tests made on such samples were, therefore, entirely inadmissible as evidence for purposes of assessment.

(d) Yes. Tests were made at the end of December, 1933, which showed that B.O.C. Victoria brand gave a flame height of 11.0 mm. in the standard smoke-point lamp. Its luminosity, according to another test, dropped from 12.5 candle-power to 10.0 candle-power after four hours' burning.

(e) Under section 188 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, an appeal lies from the order of the Collector of Customs to the Chief Customs-Authority, i.e., the Central Board of Revenue ; and under section 191 of that Act application may be made to the Governor General in Council by

any aggrieved person to revise any decision or order of the Chief Customs Authority.

(f) A copy of the Rules is laid on the table.

CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

NOTIFICATION.

CUSTOMS.

New Delhi, the 23rd December, 1933.

No. 67.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 195A of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), the Central Board of Revenue is pleased to make the following rules :

1. In any case of dispute whether a mineral oil is or is not suitable for use as an illuminant in wick lamps a sample of the oil shall be tested with the aid of a Smoke Point lamp constructed in accordance with the specification contained in Annexure I, and the flame height of the sample shall be determined in accordance with the method set forth in Annexure II.

2. If the flame height determined in accordance with rule 1 is above 10 millimetres, but not otherwise, the mineral oil shall be deemed to be suitable for use as an illuminant in wick lamps.

RAM NATH,

Secretary, Central Board of Revenue.

ANNEXURE I.

The lamp shall be the I. P. T. Smoke Point Lamp* and shall conform with the dimensions given in the attached drawing and with the following requirements :

1. The top of the wick guide shall be exactly level with the zero mark on the scale.

2. The scale shall be marked in white lines on each side of a white strip, 2 mm. in width, on black glass. It shall have a range of 50 mm., graduated in 1 mm., figured at each 10 mm., with longer lines at each 5 mm.

3. The screw of the device for raising or lowering the flame shall be threaded 6.2 mm. diam. by 0.5 mm. pitch, and the total distance of travel shall not be less than 10 mm. The movement shall be smooth and regular.

4. The glass window of the door shall be concave to prevent the formation of multiple images.

5. The wick holder shall be 4.7 mm. internal diameter.

6. The wick shall be of uniform quality, conforming to the following specifications :—

To be woven solid circular, the Cotton to be of American yarn, ordinary quality.

Casing—17 Ends, 3 Ply, Nines Count.

Filling—9 Ends, 4 Ply, Sixes Count.

Wick—2 Ply, Fifteens Count.

Ticks per inch—15.

ANNEXURE II.

Apparatus.—The test shall be carried out in the I. P. T. Smoke Point Lamp as defined in Annexure I and the wick used shall be the wick specified, in Annexure I. Only uniform pieces of wick free from all irregularities shall be used for tests.

The test shall be carried out in a room or enclosure kept within the temperature limits of 80 and 85° Fahrenheit.

*The diagram of the lamp not printed in these debates.

2. *Conditioning the Wick and Application of Standard Test.*—Before use in the standard test all new wicks shall be conditioned by means of two cleaning and burning cycles as specified below with a white kerosene, followed by further cleaning and drying. If used otherwise than immediately after conditioning they shall be re-dried at 100—105° Centigrade just before use in the standard test.

When used for a standard test they shall be cut to lengths of five and a half inches and no wick in this test shall be less than five inches in length.

Detail.—

(a) *Treatment of the New Wick.*—The new wick, carefully selected, to be free from all visible flaws, shall be cut to a length of six inches and then extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus, firstly with petroleum ether (Boiling range 60—80° C.) for at least three siphoning cycles, and then with sulphuric ether for two siphoning cycles.

The wick shall then be dried for thirty minutes at 100—105° Centigrade in an electric oven.

(b) *Preparation of the lamp assembly.*—(NOTE :—The following details, including those in the next sub-paragraph, regarding burning apply both to wick conditioning and to the standard burning test).

(i) Twenty millimetres of oil (white kerosene in the conditioning operation) previously filtered through filter paper shall be introduced by means of a small funnel (care being taken to avoid fouling the air-inlet tube) into the cleaned and dried oil holder which shall then be placed vertically in a drying oven maintained at 100—105° Fahrenheit, a cylinder containing the oil to a depth of six inches being also placed in the same oven.

(ii) The dried wick shall be immersed in this column of oil for 10 minutes after the oil has attained the oven temperature: it shall then be taken out and fitted into the wick holder.

(iii) This shall be done by inserting the non-burning end of the wick (which must be trimmed free from overlapping or frayed edges in order to prevent jamming caused by compression in the tube) carefully into the burning end of the wick holder, and then pushing with a screw motion until the wick protrudes about a quarter of an inch from the other end.

(iv) All twists arising from this operation shall be eased out by putting slight tension on the wick and pulling it gently to and fro along the tube until no further tendency to untwist is seen and the wick weave is straight.

(v) Both ends of the wick shall in turn be made to protrude as far as possible from the tube and soaked separately in the oil, but the short end of the wick shall not be allowed to enter the tube, while this is done.

Somewhat more than one-eighth of an inch of the soaked wick shall be allowed finally to protrude from the burning end of the tube, after which the wick shall be trimmed with a very sharp instrument in such a manner that it is flat and horizontal with a slightly bevelled rim with no frayed ends.

The wick shall then be drawn down until exactly one-eighth inch protrudes.

(vi) The wick holder shall then be screwed carefully into the wick holder in such a way that the wick is not caught by the air inlet tube and dragged inwards. If this occurs, the whole operation from insertion onwards shall be repeated.

The oil holder must be held vertically to prevent outflow of oil into the air inlet tube which must remain free from all obstruction.

(vii) The assembled oil holder (and wick holder) shall then be kept in the oven at 100—105° Fahrenheit for twenty minutes, and thereafter inserted into the lamp, which shall be at the room temperature of 80—85° Fahrenheit and not hot from a previous burning test. If any resistance occurs due to the wick catching and bounding back at the edges when it reaches the fixed guide of the lamp the wick shall be retrimmed and on no account used in a damaged condition for the standard burning test.

(viii) The lamp shall be placed in a vertical position and completely protected from draughts.

(c) *The Flame Test.*—

(i) The wick shall then be turned up by means of the adjusting screw until it can be lit.

(iv) The flame shall be adjusted every minute for the first five minutes at one to two millimetres below its smoke point so that it is kept free from smoking.

(v) The smoke point shall be obtained by raising the wick until a smoky flame is produced, and then lowering it until the smoky point disappears, just leaving a clear luminous flame.

(vi) At the end of five minutes, adjustment to the exact smoke point shall be made and a stop-watch shall be started at the moment of final adjustment.

(vii) The value shall be noted by reading the height of the point of the flame in millimetres, the eye of the observer being about nine inches from the front of the instrument and slightly to one side so that a reflected image of the flame is seen on the scale on one side of the vertical white line, the flame itself being projected against the other side of the scale.

The two readings must be the same to ensure avoidance of vertical parallax.

(viii) Without further adjustment of the flame in any way, its height shall then be read and recorded at intervals of two minutes. After the fifth such interval, that is precisely ten minutes after the moment of final adjustment, the flame height shall be read.

This final measurement in millimetres is the "flame height" which is referred to in the Interpretation of Results, Section 5.

(ix) When conditioning a wick with white kerosene, the lamp, shall be allowed each time to burn for twenty minutes, after the five minutes taken for adjustment of the flame as described above [vide paragraph (ii) of this section].

(d) *Cleaning of Lamp, etc.—*

At the end of the test, the oil holder (together with the wick holder) shall be removed from the lamp, drained, cleaned with petroleum ether, dried for 30 minutes at 100—105° Centigrade, and blown out with dry air.

The lamp must be replaced in the oven for not less than five minutes after air blowing to ensure absolute dryness ready for re-use.

3. *Further details regarding conditioning wick.*—The complete conditioning cycle for a new wick six inches in length shall be as follows:—

(a) Extraction with petroleum ether followed by extraction with sulphuric ether; then drying [Vide Section 3 (a)].

(b) Burning for twenty-five minutes using white kerosene.

(c) Re-extraction and drying.

(d) A second burning as before.

(e) Re-extraction and drying.

(f) If not used immediately, redrying for thirty minutes at 100—105° Centigrade immediately before the standard test is carried out.

(g) Cutting to five and a half inches by trimming both ends.

4. *Use of a wick for more than one test.*—A wick which has already been used for a standard test may be re-used subject to the following conditions:—

(a) When ready trimmed for re-use, the wick shall not be less than five inches in length.

(b) The wick shall have been re-cleaned and dried as follows:

After withdrawal from the wick holder the wick shall be re-extracted with petroleum ether in a Soxhlet apparatus until the extract is colourless, and then extracted with sulphuric ether until a similar result is obtained. It shall then be dried in an oven at 100—105° Centigrade for at least thirty minutes.

(c) On re-fitting for use, all charred wick from any previous burning test shall be trimmed off.

Note.—A wick shall be rejected after use with an oil which has given a value of less than 9 mm. flame height in ten minutes.

5. *Interpretation of Results*.—(i) At least three determinations shall be made by use of three different pieces of wick to obtain three consecutive readings the extremes of which shall differ from each other by not more than one millimetre.

(ii) The results reported shall be the mean of these three consecutive readings calculated to one-tenth millimetre reporting 0.05 to 0.09 as 0.10.

(iii) When the average value obtained by the prescribed method differs by ± 0.8 millimetre from this limit, a fresh series of determinations shall be made and, if the average of these is in agreement with the previous series to 0.5 mm., the average of the two series shall be taken and reported as the flame height of the oil.

No. 67—C. No. 628-Cus.-I.32.

Copy forwarded to—

All Collectors of Customs.

The Accountants General, Bengal, Bombay, Madras and Burma and the Audit Officer, Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction, Karachi and the Accountant General, Central Revenues.

The Commerce Department.

The Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for publication in the Indian Trade Journal.

The Secretary, Tariff Board.

The Indian Trade Commissioner, London.

The Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Neuer Jungfernstieg, No. 9, Hamburg, Germany.

The Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Calcutta.

The American Trade Commissioner, Calcutta.

The British Trade Commissioners in India, Calcutta and Bombay.

The Director, Federation of British Industries, London.

The Principal Collector of Customs, Colombo.

The Indian Stores Department.

The Special Chemical Adviser to the Central Board of Revenue.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will Government inform the House whether in any of these examinations of diesel oil the flame height has exceeded a difference of 15 per cent. as suggested by Sir George Schuster when the Bill was under consideration ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I cannot answer that without notice.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it a fact that the desire of the Committee was to have a standard lamp by which everybody, who imported kerosene oil, could test the oil and see if it comes to the right standard, and not leave it to the mere whims of any Department ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I strongly demur to that suggestion whether it may have been the desire of the Committee or not : the criterion must be under the control of the customs authority.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : I do not question about that, but was it the purpose of the Government also to have a standard lamp, so that everybody could, at his own discretion, test whether the oil came to a particular standard ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am not aware of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know where the test is to be made ? Is it in every customs house, and will the importers be allowed to be present on the occasion of the test ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Yes, in the appropriate customs houses.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Are the importers or their representatives allowed to be present at the time of the test ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I do not know, but I will make enquiries.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that the lamp was shown to the Select Committee, and it was said that the test was certain and no difference would happen ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am not aware of that. I am not very good at the history of what happened before I arrived here.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government be pleased to tell us from where they got this standard lamp ? If it is a standard lamp, it must be available in all scientific shops.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : It is described as a standard smoke-point lamp. I assume it is a lamp which is generally applicable and not adopted by the customs authorities at their own whim,—I think is the word used.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : It is Alladin's wonderful lamp !

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If it is a standard lamp, and it has not been tempered, then the result of the test would be the same whether it is applied by the Customs Collector or any other person.

(No answer.)

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : In view of the fact that there exists a difference of opinion, will Government be prepared to consider the question of taking a sample of this diesel oil and examine it along with red kerosene oil and prove that it is over 15 per cent. ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir.

SERVICE RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

895. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that under paragraph 403 of Open Line Code, Volume II, of State Railways, a record of service is maintained ?

(b) Is it a fact that under Supplementary Rule 197 to the Fundamental Rules a special form, in lieu of service book, is prescribed for permanent subordinates (non-pensionable) on State Railways ?

(c) Is it a fact that under Supplementary Rule 199, a Head of Office is responsible for recording every step in a Government servant's official life and for the upkeep of the service record ?

(d) Is it a fact that under Supplementary Rule 202, the head of an office should permit a Government servant to examine his service record, should he at any time desire to do so ?

(a) If the replies to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state :

- (i) whether these rules are applicable to Railway (State) Administrations ; if not, why not ;
- (ii) the circumstances under which the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway, has refused permission to the staff to peruse their service records under his No. ET|10|34 B. A. S. M., dated the 28th July, 1934 ;
- (iii) the action taken against the Divisional Superintendent against non-observance of the rules ; if none, why not ; and
- (iv) the safeguards provided for the rights and privileges of the subordinate staff on Moradabad Division against the Divisional staff ; if none, why not ?

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

(b), (c), (d) and (e) (i). Railway staff have been specially excepted from the general provisions regarding Service Books in Supplementary Rules 197 *et seq.*

(e) (ii) to (iv). Do not arise.

STATION MASTER'S EXAMINATION IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

896. *Sardar Sant Singh : Has the attention of Government been invited towards Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway's Memo. No. C.R., dated the 10th July 1934, reading : " The T. A. O. books are out of stock and the revised edition has not yet been received from Head Office. (Sd.) Mela Ram, for Divisional Superintendent " read with No. EXIII-P-4, dated the 12th July, 1934, reading : " Please note that the passing of Station Master's Examination does not exempt you from passing the Goods' Account Examination, Higher Standard. Please let me know when you are ready to come for above test by the Assistant Superintendent, Commercial " ? If so, will Government please state :

- (i) the course open to the staff to prepare themselves for the examination without books ;
- (ii) the reason for calling them for examination in the absence of the books ; and
- (iii) whether the Station Master's examination does not qualify a man for the post ; if not, how and why not ?

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

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, MORADABAD.

897. *Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendents on the East Indian Railway are not bound to obey the

orders of their superior officers ? If not, will Government please state :

- (i) the circumstances under which the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, disobeyed the direction contained in Chief Commercial Manager, Lucknow, No. C.G.45|10|24, dated the 29th April, 1925 ;
- (ii) the number and date of the order under which the said direction of the Chief Commercial Manager was acted upon ; and
- (iii) whether they are prepared to order the obedience of the said direction ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, Government have no information as regards clauses (i) and (ii). As regards (iii), Government see no reason to interfere. They leave it to the Local Administration to secure compliance with its orders by subordinate officers.

PROMOTION OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

898. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Has the attention of Government been invited to paragraph 4 of circular No. E.T.|10|33, A. S. ms. A., dated the 11th July, 1934, issued by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway, reading : " A common seniority list is being compiled on these lines and all Assistant Station Masters ' C ' Class and Station Masters A Class, who were promoted after the revised co-ordinated scales of pay were introduced on and after 1st November, 1928, will retain their promotions but Assistant Station Masters whom they may have superseded will take seniority over them when in their turn they are promoted to Station Masters or Assistant Station Masters C " ? If so, will Government please state whether it is a fact that the scale of pay of an Assistant Station Master " C " class is Rs. 70—5—95 and that of a Station Master " A " Class is Rs. 52—4—76 ? If so, how is seniority based on initial pay in the grade, and how are two designations combined in the spirit of rule 2 of the rules for recruitment and training of staff ?

(b) What are the reasons for and Fundamental Rule under which a man, who received his promotion earlier, can be made junior to a man whose date of promotion is later ?

(c) Has not the Divisional Superintendent introduced a new code of promotion by this circular ? If so, what action do Government propose to take against the promulgation of such new codes *every day* ? If none, why not ?

(d) Do Government propose to examine or test the ability of Divisional Superintendents and their efficiency in Rules and Regulations triennially ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) to (c). I am not sure I quite understand the question, but the circumstances stated do not furnish any reasons for Government to intervene in questions of relative seniority of staff of the classes indicated which are within the Agent's powers.

(d) No. Government consider it quite unnecessary.

CASE OF ONE MR. P. BHARTHI, *ex*-GUARD, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

899. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** : With reference to my starred question No. 795, dated the 12th September, 1933, regarding P. Bharthi, *ex*-guard, East Indian Railway, will Government please state if they have completed their enquiry into the case ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand that my Honourable friend has already been informed by the Chief Commissioner of Railways and by Mr. Colvin, Member of the Railway Board, that the Railway Board have enquired into this case and consider that the East Indian Railway administration were justified in regard to the action taken by them in this case.

AMALGAMATION OF THE POSTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX, UNITED PROVINCES AND CENTRAL PROVINCES.

900. ***Mr. S. G. Jog** : (a) Is it not a fact that the post of the Commissioner of Income-tax in the Central Provinces and Berar was "abolished" and was amalgamated with the post of the Commissioner of the United Provinces ?

(b) Will Government please state whether this arrangement was brought about as a temporary and experimental measure, or as a permanent one ?

(c) Will Government please state the headquarters of the commissioner for this combined post ?

(d) Will Government please state whether this arrangement has been found satisfactory in actual working ? If not, do Government propose to revert to the old system ?

(e) In view of the long extent of jurisdiction, are Government prepared to move the headquarters to a more central place like Jubbulpore ?

(f) Are Government aware that the present arrangement is extremely inconvenient to assesses of the Central Provinces and Berar ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) The arrangement is a permanent one.

(c) Lucknow.

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

(e) No.

(f) The Government of India have not received any complaint.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know what sort of enquiry the Department had before they satisfied themselves that the present arrangement was satisfactory ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : It is a little difficult to know how to investigate non-existing complaints. (Laughter.)

EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY OF LABORATORY INSTRUMENTS FOR USE IN THE BOMBAY UNIVERSITY.

901. **Mr. S. G. Jog** : (a) Are Government aware that the University of Bombay has decided to open a course of Chemical Technology ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Bombay University wants to place a very big order of laboratory instruments for that course ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Bombay University have requested the Government of India to exempt them from the customs duty ?

(d) Will Government please state whether they propose to grant the exemption from customs duty by way of help to a course of education ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d). The answer is in the negative. Where assistance is to be given to such educational institutions, it should be done by direct grants-in-aid from provincial revenues, and not indirectly from Central revenues by remission of customs duty.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know whether there is any technical or legal objection to exempting such instruments from customs duties ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I would ask the Honourable Member to cast his mind back to a debate which took place two days ago about the wickedness of Government assisting provincial subjects. (Laughter.)

ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE OF THE POLICE IN AJMER.

902. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that on the 26th July, 1934, a public meeting was held at Ajmer to protest against the action and negligence of the police ?

(b) What is the text of the Resolution passed by that meeting ?

(c) What action, if any, did Government take on such resolutions ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The information asked for has been called for and a reply will be given to the House in due course.

CONSTRUCTION BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR HOUSES IN NEW DELHI.

903. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 29th July, 1934 (page 12), under the caption "New Delhi Landlords Plight" ?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to encourage the private individuals to build their houses in New Delhi ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). Yes.

MUSLIM TEA STALLS ON CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

904. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that Muslim Tea Stalls at Dadar, Kurla and Igatpuri, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have been sold to non-Muslim Iranis ?

(b) Are there no Muslim Tea stalls at Murtazapur, Chanda and Balharshah ?

(c) Have the Muslim stall-holders on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway recently been forbidden to sell fruits on the platforms, while the non-Muslim stall-holders have no such restriction ?

(d) Are provision passes issued to contractors catering on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at more than one station ?

(e) Is it a fact that third class Hindu Tea stall-holder, Victoria Terminus, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, has been granted a first class free pass and two second class passes from station to station on the whole Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

(f) Is it a fact that third class Hindu Tea Stall Contractor has paid Rs. 15,025 ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, states that the licenses for the tea stalls are held by Iranis who are non-Muslims, but are required, under the conditions of their license, to employ Muslim servants.

(b) There are Muslim tea stalls at Murtazapur and Balharshah, but not at Chanda.

(c) No distinction is made between Muslims and other communities in this respect. The rule which applies to all communities alike is that when separate licences are given for the sale of fruit, which may be given either to a Hindu or a Muslim, other stall-holders are not allowed to sell fruit.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). Government are informed that two Hindu stalls have been let from the 1st October, 1933, for Rs. 15,025, but the passes have been given in connection with the buffet and restaurant cars contract.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Are Government aware if this is the rule that is followed by the railway authority in regard to all stations, and also on other lines ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : What rule ?

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : This rule of giving contract to non-Muslims for the purpose of catering to Muslims, and as the Honourable Member said, employment of Muslims by non-Muslims to serve Muslims. That is a great difficulty.

Mr. P. B. Rau : I have no information about other lines; the only information I have already given to the House.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : It was said that these contracts were not to be sold. Here we have got a definite illustration, which the Honourable Member himself admits, that the contract was sold for Rs. 15,025, which is contrary to the rule of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Mr. P. B. Rau : I have informed the House that a license fee of Rs. 15,025, which is contrary to the rule of the Great Indian Peninsula the stall-keepers in question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Rs. 15,025—is it a licensing fee or the sale price of the contract ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : It must be remembered that it is the Victoria Terminus Station.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Rs. 15,025 is a big licensing fee for a third class tea stall. Or is it the sale price of the contractors ? Will the fee be returned ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : It cannot be the sale price of the contractor. Nobody is going to sell or buy him. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. G. Jog : Is it a fact that these stall contractors have got to spend something extra for securing these contracts, and that it falls on the customers ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : I am not aware of any such thing.

Mr. S. G. Jog : The Honourable Member may take it from me that there is a complaint that they have to spend some extra money.

Mr. P. E. Rau : Can my Honourable friend give me specific instances ?

Mr. S. G. Jog : I will write to the Department, and it is not fair to give them out here on the floor of the House.

Mr. P. E. Rau : I think it is more unfair to make general allegations of this kind without being able to give any specific instances in support of them. (Cheers.)

Mr. S. G. Jog : I have got specific instances with me, but I am not prepared to disclose them here in the interests of the Department—not that I have not got them.

Mr. P. E. Rau : My Honourable friend is unable to give me any specific instance. It is obvious that I cannot enquire into it.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask whether the system of giving contract to one person for a large number of stations is justified or not ? I thought it was against the principle that a contract should be given, so far as possible, to local persons.

Mr. P. E. Rau : This particular instance is with reference to one or two stalls at the Victoria Terminus Station.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : No. It relates to Dadar, Kurla, and Igat-puri stations.

Mr. P. E. Rau : You are talking about (a). As regards (a), I think, so far as my information goes, the contracts are not all held by the same person.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : If the suggestion of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, is to be adopted, what is to become of the contract which is given to Messrs. Kellner and Co. ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : Which suggestion ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : The suggestion of my Honourable friend is that different contracts should be given to local persons at different stations.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : As far as possible.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : as far as possible. If this suggestion is given effect to, what is to become of the contract which is given to Messrs. Kellner and Co., which is for a large number of stations ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know if the Government of India are prepared to accept the suggestion which has been made by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad just now ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I must have time to consider it.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I said, as far as possible. In any case, local contractors to cater according to English style will not be available.

Mr. P. R. Rau : That was one of the suggestions made by my Honourable friend at the time of the debate on this question, and those suggestions have all been sent to the railway administrations for consulting the Local Advisory Committees.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is the general policy that, when there is a general grievance and there are complaints all round, the Honourable Member will not enquire into them ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The general grievance, if it is to find credence, must be supported by specific instances

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : The general grievance has been expressed, and it should be easy for the Honourable Member and the Railway Board to enquire into it and find out specific instances.

ABSENCE OF MUSLIM REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

905. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Are Government aware that there are no Muslim Refreshment Rooms at important junction stations, like Manmad, Bhusawal, Nagpur, Khandwa and Jabulpore on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities are contemplating selling the Tea Stalls to Contractors ?

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

(b) No.

SALE OF AERATED WATERS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

906. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Is it a fact that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has given the sole monopoly of selling aerated waters to Brandon and Company on trains and train timings and that the third class passengers have to pay 75 per cent. higher rate than the ordinary rate ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand, Messrs. Brandon and Company have the monopoly. The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, states that the charges for all classes of passengers are about 80 per cent. higher than the local rates.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : There is a definite complaint on this subject. When a train arrives at a station, the vendors at the station are not

permitted to sell to the passengers. They can only sell when the train is not at the station ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I cannot understand my Honourable friend's question. If the vendors are not permitted to sell to the passengers, then to whom are they to sell ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : This is just my point. They are not allowed to sell when the train is in the station. It is supposed to be the monopoly of this Company, and the passengers have to get it from the vendors travelling in the train at high prices. The poor men cannot afford to pay higher prices, and they go without ice. Will you look into this ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I shall inquire into that.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will you please send the other questions and the answers also to the Advisory Committee ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I shall send them to the Agent.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Together with the other supplementary questions which go counter to his suggestion.

PERCENTAGE LAID DOWN FOR PROMOTIONS FROM THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE POSTS.

907. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) What is the percentage laid down by the Lee Commission to Indianize the Indian Civil Service by way of promotions from the Provincial Civil Service ?

(b) What should be the number of posts according to the recommendation, now to be held by the members of the Provincial services, and what is the number of posts actually thrown open to the services in the various Provinces in the Judicial and Executive Branches ?

(c) Has the percentage recommended by the Commission been reached in all the Provinces and if not, do Government propose to instruct the Local Governments to submit proposals to expedite the process of Indianisation to the extent recommended by the Commission ? If not, why not ?

(d) What is the number of superior posts in each Province and what percentages of them have been thrown open as ' listed ' to the Provincial Services in each province ?

(e) Is the percentage equal in all Provinces, both as regards the Judicial and Executive Branch ? If there is a difference, why ? Are Government prepared to take steps to see that an equal percentage of posts is thrown open to the Provincial services both in the Judicial and Executive Branch and in all the Provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I lay a statement on the table, which, read with the reply given on the 3rd February, 1931, to Kumar Gupleshwar Prasad Singh's question No. 307 on the subject, will, I hope, serve the purpose of the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the progress made up to 31st December, 1933, in increasing the number of listed posts in the I. O. S.

Provinces.	No. of posts to be listed ultimately.			No. of posts so far listed.			No. of posts remaining to be listed.			Remarks.			
	Execu- tive.	Judicial.		Execu- tive.	Judicial.		Execu- tive.	Judicial.					
		E. C. S.	Bar.		P. C. S.	Bar.		P. C. S.	Bar.				
Madras ..	10	6	5	21	7	6	5	18	3	3	* In these cases the Secretary of State's sanction has been received for listing an additional post during 1934. This has not been included in the figures. † Owing to reduction in the cadre, these figures are to be reduced by one in each case.
Bombay ..	8	5	4	17	4	5	4	13	4	..	..	4
Bengal ..	9	9	4	22	9	9	4	22	..	..	..	..
United Pro- vinces	16	8	1	25†	9	8	3	18	17	..	..	17
Punjab ..	10	6	2	18	10	6	2	18	..	..	..	..
Burma ..	11	5	3	19	9	5	3	17	2	..	..	2
Rihar and Orissa	7	4	2	13	5	4	2	11	2	..	..	2
Central Pro- vinces	6	4	4	10	4	4	..	8	2	..	..	2
Assam ..	5	..	..	5	3	..	..	3	2	..	..	2

PROTEST BY MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE FOR HIS COMPLICITY IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

908. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Have Government received any communication from Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, a State prisoner, protesting emphatically against the charge made on the floor of this House, of his complicity in terrorist activities ?

(b) Can a copy of this communication be laid on the table ?

(c) Do Government propose to take up this challenge, and prove Mr. Bose's complicity in terrorist activities ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a), (b) and (c). Government received a communication of the nature suggested in the question from Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and another more detailed communication from him on the same lines on August 26th. These are under examination. A copy of them cannot be laid on the table.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is the Honourable gentleman aware that there was a public meeting in the Albert Hall at Calcutta presided over by Kumar Shib Sekhaheswar Ray, an *ex-President* of the Bengal Council and *ex-Minister* of the Bengal Government, demanding the release of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, or in the alternative, a proper trial by a competent Court of law, and a similar resolution was passed by the Calcutta Corporation ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Do Government propose to take any action on those resolutions passed in public meetings in Bengal ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Why do they not take any notice of these public meetings presided over by such responsible people who demand nothing more than a fair trial by a competent Court ? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give his reasons ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : There is no sanction behind such meetings.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : My Honourable friend is perfectly well aware that it is not the policy of Government to state openly the reasons leading to the detention of any person under Regulation III. Nor is it the policy of Government to bring up such persons for trial before a Court.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : In view of the fact that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has been released and he was detained under Regulation III and he was also considered to be connected with "internal commotion", like Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, do Government propose to consider the case of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Consider his release ?

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Yes. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was a State Prisoner under the Regulation, and he was confined for "internal commotion", like Mr. Bose. Do Government propose to consider his case also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The two cases are in no way connected, but Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose will be released when the Government are satisfied that his release can be effected without danger to the security of the country from internal commotion.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : What is the answer to part (c) of the question? I want to know whether the Government of India are prepared to give Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose an opportunity to clear his character *in camera*, if possible?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik. : No, Sir. The Government have no such intention.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Have the Government of India communicated to Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose the charges that are pending against him?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : They have not replied to the communication which they have received from Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : That communication is under examination. It has not been replied to.

Mr. S. O. Mitra : Is it not a fact that the two Judges, who went over the records of the case of Mr. Bose, asked for an explanation of the charges made against Mr. Bose. Was this procedure omitted, in case of Mr. Bose, of the records being placed before two Judges with the replies to the charges?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information which Government hold about this gentleman was placed before two Judges who held that his internment was justified in the interests of securing the country from internal commotion.

Mr. S. O. Mitra : Is it not the general practice, when these records are placed, that some charges are also communicated to the State Prisoner and he is asked to give his own explanations so far as he can. Has it been omitted in this case?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It is not the general practice. It is sometimes done.

RECRUITMENT OF ENGINEERS BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

909. ***Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney :** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board is recruiting three permanent officers for the Indian Service of Engineers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether or not it is a fact that there are, at present, a number of excess Engineer Officers on both State and Company controlled Railways?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state why they have neglected the claims of their former retrenched Engineer Officers instead of calling for new recruits?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) In 1934-35 the Railway Board are recruiting three permanent officers in India for the Indian Railway Service of Engineers through the Public Service Commission.

(b) On the State-managed Railways there are excess officers of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers. Government are not aware that there are any excess Engineer officers on Company-managed Railways.

(c) Government are of opinion that, owing to the fact that no recruitment has been made to the Indian Railway Service of Engineers since April, 1932, recruitment should be resumed in 1934-35 in order to avoid unduly long gaps in direct recruitment, which would prove undesirable from an administrative point of view. They consider, however, that, in view of the existing excess of Indian Railway Service of Engineers officers, recruitment for the next few years should be restricted to half the normal annual figure of recruitment.

Officers recruited in 1934-35 will be under training for two years and will not be available to fill working posts until the end of 1936-37 and, in the meantime, it is estimated that about 15 vacancies will occur in the Indian Railway Service of Engineers during the two years 1934-35 and 1935-36. It is proposed, in filling these vacancies, to consider the claims of selected *ex-temporary* engineers, but some of the vacancies will be provided for by reductions in the cadre of the superior service and by promotion of subordinates to the Lower Gazetted Service.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : A supplementary question, Sir. Is it not the policy of the Government of India in the Railway Department to re-employ their retrenched officers as vacancies arise rather than advertise for new entrants ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The policy of re-employing the retrenched staff applies fully only to the subordinate staff. As regards superior staff, Government will consider whether some of the vacancies can be filled by *ex-temporary* engineers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member if there are persons on the waiting list, and will they be given preference in the appointment or not ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : There are certain *ex-temporary* engineers whose names are borne in a list maintained by the Railway Board, and their claims will be considered when making selection.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether it is not a fact that Government will be better served by experienced retrenched officers than by raw inexperienced officers who have to be brought in for training ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : That is a matter of opinion. Government will take my Honourable friend's opinion into consideration at the time of considering this case.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : But what is your opinion ? You evidently have none.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT IN THE PUNJAB, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER AND DELHI PROVINCES.

910. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh, Fazal Haq Piracha :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, with figures, how far they have been able to remove the gross communal inequality of Muslims in the amalgamated cadre of the gazetted officers of the Income-tax Department, in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Provinces ?

(b) Is it a fact that out of the 38 gazetted posts of the Income-tax Officers and the Assistant Income-tax Officers in the above mentioned Provinces, 13 only are held by Muslims, and out of five superior administrative posts, *viz.*, Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax only one is held by a Muslim, who was appointed last year and is due to retire early next year ?

(c) Is it a fact that out of the four appointments made in the Income-tax Officer's grade in the said Provinces, only one had gone to a Muslim ?

(d) What measures have Government adopted or propose to adopt to remove the Muslim inequality in Services of the Income-tax Department in the Punjab, Delhi and North-West Frontier Provinces.

(e) Do Government propose to consider allotting at least two out of the five administrative Superior posts of the Income-tax Department for such Muslims who might have qualified themselves for the posts ?

(f) Do Government propose also to consider the fixation of the number of Income-tax Officers and Assistant Income-tax Officers' posts in the above three mentioned Provinces to be filled by Muslims according to the population basis ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 910, 911 and 913 together.

The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

PROMOTIONS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT OF THE PUNJAB, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER AND DELHI PROVINCES.

†911. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh Fasal Haq Piracha :** (a) Is it a fact that Government have ruled, in the case of promotion from subordinate to the gazetted ranks, in the case of Income-tax Department of the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Provinces, that persons above the age of 35 years will not be considered eligible for such appointments ?

(b) Are Government aware that some of the subordinate officials in the Department qualified themselves for promotion to the gazetted ranks, by the higher departmental standards, when they were below the age of even 30 years, on the eve of their service, and have since then no opportunity for promotion attained the age of over 35 years,—and that the above rule will now debar them from promotion ?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a great resentment and disappointment amongst such officials against this rule ?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider relaxing the said rule in the case of those Subordinate officers of the Income-tax Department who qualified themselves for higher promotion before the rule was passed ?

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT OF THE DELHI PROVINCE AND THE AMBALA DIVISION.

912. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh Fasal Haq Piracha :** (a) Is it a fact that in the year 1933, Rai Bahadur Mangat Rai, the late Commissioner of Income-tax, Punjab, made enquiries, under the orders of Government,

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 910.

into the administration of the Income-tax Department of the Delhi Province and the Ambala Division ?

(b) Is it also a fact that as a result of that inquiry serious charges were established against certain high officers of the Department ? If so, what were the charges and against whom ?

(c) Did Government take any action against the officers concerned and with what result ? If Government have taken no action still, do they now propose to take any ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) No. There was an enquiry by the Commissioner himself and that too as regards a particular case.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. I might add that as a result of the enquiry referred to in my reply to part (a), a subordinate officer was punished by the Commissioner. The appeal lodged by that officer against the punishment awarded is, however, under consideration.

LOCATION OF THE INCOME-TAX OFFICE AT SHOLAPUR.

†1913. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav :** (a) Is it a fact that the Income-tax Office at Sholapur is situated far away from the business centre of the city ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no conveyance stand in the vicinity of this office ?

(c) Is it a fact that the conveyances of the assesses have to wait outside the office for a long time ?

(d) Is it a fact that the present premises are leased for a period of three years ?

(e) What is the rent of the present premises ?

(f) Is it a fact that complaints have been made to the authorities of the department for having shifted the office to the new quarters ?

(g) Were the higher authorities consulted before the choice and agreement of the new premises were made ?

(h) How many other alternative premises were seen before deciding upon the present one ?

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE UPPER SUBORDINATE ENGINEERING SERVICE OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

914. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government please state whether they are aware that there is only one Sikh Engineering Supervisor in all the three branches (General, Telephone and Electrical) of the Upper Subordinate Engineering Service of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, out of the total of over 400 Engineering Supervisors, Deputy Assistant Engineers and Assistant Engineers ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take any steps to bring the number of Sikhs in the Telegraph Engineering to their legitimate due ? If so, what ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes ; but the total number of officers of the classes specified by the Honourable Member is 380 only.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 910.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Home Department Resolution, dated the 4th July, 1934, published in the Gazette of India on the subject of redress of communal inequalities in making direct appointments. Future direct recruitment to the upper subordinate service of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department will be made in accordance with the orders issued in that Resolution.

OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF SALES SECTIONS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

915. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that the Pope Committee in their second report (*vide* page 32) recommended that officers who are appointed in charge of Sales Sections should possess an intimate knowledge of the religious customs of the community served by the railway, and that, the railway travelling in India is largely guided by religious observations ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if the officer who is appointed on the North Western Railway possesses these qualifications ?

(c) Is it a fact that this post on the North Western Railway is on the senior scale ?

(d) Is it a fact that officers of the Lower Gazetted Service cannot be appointed to Senior Scale of the Superior Service when Junior Scale officers are available ?

(e) Is it a fact that several Indian Officers of the Superior Service with thorough knowledge of religious customs of the people served by that Railway, are available with sufficient seniority ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state what special qualifications Messrs. Jordon and Jacob, both officers of the Lower Gazetted Service, possessed which led to their appointment in charge of these Sales Sections ?

Mr. P. R. Rao : (a) The Committee have emphasised the importance of the Publicity Officer or his Assistant possessing intimate knowledge of the religious customs of the communities served by his railway.

(b) and (c). I am not clear to what officer my Honourable friend is referring. There is no separate Publicity Officer on the North Western Railway.

(d) No. The rule is that ordinarily officiating posts in the senior scale are filled by junior scale officers, but if a suitable junior scale officer is not available or cannot be made available without conflicting with the interests of administration, a Lower Gazetted Service Officer may be appointed to officiate in the senior scale.

(e) and (f). Government regret that they are unable to discuss the qualifications of individual officers on the floor of this House.

EARLY ARRIVAL OF THE HOWRAH-DELHI-KALKA MAIL AT KALKA.

916. ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** : (a) Is it not a fact that the East Indian Railway Up Train No. 1, known as the Howrah-Delhi-Kalka Mail, generally reaches Kalka at about 4-10 A.M. instead of 4-50 A.M., that is to say, about 40 minutes ahead of the scheduled time ?

(b) Are Government aware that this earlier and untimely arrival of the train at Kalka causes considerable inconvenience to the travelling public ?

(c) Will Government see their way to have this anomaly and inconvenience removed either by prolonging the haltage of the train at the Delhi station or by introducing some other suitable alterations in the time-table ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) In order to meet temporary engineering restrictions this train is allowed 20 minutes extra for the run from Chandigarh to Kalka. If no time is lost *en route* on engineering restrictions the train can arrive at Kalka 20 minutes before the booked time of arrival.

(b) No. The staff have instructions to allow the train to remain on the platform line until the normal time for its removal or till after all passengers have alighted.

(c) It is the normal practice to allow extra time on the last run or near a terminal station to cover detentions *en route* on account of engineering restrictions, so as to ensure that trains arrive in time at a junction station to maintain connection with other trains.

DETENTION OF THE KALKA-DELHI-HOWRAH MAIL AT SUBZIMANDI STATION.

917. **Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi :** (a) Is it not a fact that the East Indian Railway Down Train No. 2, known as the Kalka-Delhi-Howrah Mail, ordinarily arrives at Subzimandi station at 6-20 A.M., instead of 7 A.M., i.e., about 40 minutes before the scheduled time and halts there for about 40 minutes instead of one minute, as mentioned in the time-table ?

(b) Are Government aware that this long and unexpected detention at a small wayside station in the morning causes considerable inconvenience to the passengers ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the undesirability and inconvenience of this anomaly and to have it removed as early as possible either by an earlier arrival of the train at the Delhi station or by introducing some other suitable alterations in the time-table ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) In order to meet temporary engineering restrictions, this train is allowed 20 minutes extra for the run from Badli to Subzimandi, if no time is lost *en route* from Ambala on engineering restrictions, the train can arrive at Subzimandi 20 minutes before the booked time of arrival.

(b) No.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given him to part (c) of his question No. 916.

TRAIN CONDUCTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

918. **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many train conductors are there on the North Western Railway ?

(b) Are they all Eurasians or of any other nationality ? If the former why ?

(c) What were they before they were engaged as conductors and what are their duties and salaries ?

(d) Can their duties not be performed by the ticket collectors on the stations and Special Ticket Examiners on the line ? If not, why not ?

(e) Is it a fact that these conductors are old people kept on? If not, what are their respective ages and when are they due for retirement?

(f) Do Government propose to employ on this service, if it is continued, people of all nationalities?

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

ISSUE OF PASSES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

919. **Mr. S. G. Jog:** (a) Is it a fact that the old East Indian Railway employees and those appointed after the amalgamation of the East Indian Railway and the Oudh and Rohilkand Railway are entitled to second class passes on getting Rs. 116 pay, and the employees of the late Oudh and Rohilkand Railway are entitled to the second class passes on Rs. 126 pay?

(b) Is it a fact that the Agent is held competent to deal with all matters concerning his Railway?

(c) Has the Agent, East Indian Railway, delegated these powers of independence to the Chief Operating Superintendent in regard to the issue of passes and questions about seniority, etc.?

(d) Has the Chief Operating Superintendent got power to issue a lower class duty or privilege pass to an East Indian Railway employee getting Rs. 116 pay and an Oudh and Rohilkand Railway employee getting Rs. 126 pay?

(e) Are the duty passes issued on the consideration of pay of an employee or on the consideration of the post held by him?

(f) Is personal pay taken into consideration for the issue of a certain class of pass?

(g) Is it a fact that the old Oudh and Rohilkand Railway employees used to get a servant on inter class privilege pass, and why has this privilege been withdrawn now?

(h) Is it a fact that the old East Indian Railway employees get an attendant pass when they do not get leave?

(i) Has the Chief Operating Superintendent or the Divisional Superintendent got powers from the Agent to amend the pass rules whenever they desire to do so?

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

(b) Yes, to the extent to which powers have been delegated to him.

(c), (d) and (i). Government have no information as to what powers the Agent has delegated to the Chief Operating Superintendent, but I do not think that any such delegation would extend to the amending of the pass rules.

(e) and (f). The pay, including personal pay, generally determines the class of pass admissible.

(g) Government have no definite information, but it is, I believe, that servants are not ordinarily allowed in the case of intermediate class privilege passes.

(h) Yes.

THIRD CLASS TICKETS, FOUND MISSING AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

920. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Is it a fact that in 1927, 75 unused third class tickets were found missing from the tube at Delhi Junction Station ?

(b) Is it a fact that these were for Balotra Station ?

(c) Is it a fact that the cost of these tickets was recovered from the booking clerks ?

(d) Is it a fact that subsequently these tickets were found and submitted to the Ticket Checking Section of the North-Western Railway Accounts Office ?

(e) Is it a fact that the amount recovered from the respective booking clerks was never refunded to them ? If so, why ?

(f) Is it a fact that on coming to know about the find of the lost tickets some booking clerks have applied for the refund of the amount deducted from their pay ? If so, why was it not refunded ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, under No. 9866-C., dated the 21st January, 1931, refused to grant the refund claimed ? If so, why ?

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

(d) Seventy tickets were found more than two years after they had been reported as missing.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part no information is available as the record in the office of the Divisional Superintendent at Delhi has since been destroyed under the rules for destroying time-expired records.

(f) and (g). The Agent, North Western Railway, states that applications for a refund were made by the booking clerks, but owing to the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi's records having been destroyed, it is not possible to say what action was taken. Endeavours are, however, now being made to obtain such further information as is necessary before a refund can be arranged.

INCREMENTS OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

921. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Is it a fact that under Fundamental Rule 24 an increment shall be drawn as a matter of course ? If so, will Government please state whether this Fundamental Rule is applicable to the staff serving under the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway ? If not, why not ?

(b) Are the Establishment Branch of the said Superintendent aware of the Fundamental Rules ? If not, why not ?

(c) Do Government propose to examine the staff of the said Superintendent in Fundamental Rules ? If not, why not ?

(d) Are Government aware and if not will they please institute enquiries and state :

(i) the number of men who have not received their increments as a matter of course :

(ii) the reasons under which an increment was not paid by the Divisional Accounts Officer, Moradabad, on the due date ;

- (47) the circumstances under which increments due and claimed on the 7th February, 1931, are not paid as yet, vide Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad's No. 1261-E.P., dated the 8th September, 1931, and No. 1261-E.P., dated the 14th February, 1934 ;
- (iv) who is responsible for the hardship caused on the poor subordinates ; if none, why ;
- (v) what action has been taken by them to see that increments are paid in due time as a matter of course ; if none, why not ;
- (vi) whether they propose to recover the interest of the amount due to the subordinates from the salary either of the Chief Operating Superintendent or of the Divisional Superintendent ; if not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Fundamental Rule 24 prescribes that an increment shall ordinarily be drawn as a matter of course unless it is withheld. The answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(b) I have no reason to think that this is not the case.

(c) No.

(d) I am obtaining certain information and shall lay a reply on the table in due course.

REINSTATEMENT OF THE DEMOTED DRIVERS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

922 ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact that Government informed this House on the 13th February, 1934, in reply to unstarred question No. 70 asked on the 13th September, 1932, that the demoted drivers of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have now been reinstated ? If so, will Government please state :

- (i) whether reinstatement means an employee's reversion to his former post and position ; if not, the reason therefor, and the meaning of the word "reinstatement" ;
- (ii) the difference between, reinstatement, re-appointment, re-employment, re-promoted and put back or recalled back to duty ;
- (iii) whether the demoted staff is entitled to count the duty performed in a demoted grade towards increments on reinstatement in their former grade ; if not, why not ;
- (iv) whether Fundamental Rule 26 is applicable to staff demoted ; if not, why not, and which Fundamental Rule governs these appointments ;
- (v) whether Government propose to grant the due increments to the demoted staff on their reinstatement ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to questions Nos. 922 to 925 together.

I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

INCREMENTS OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†923. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway, has called upon the staff to forego their arrears on account of increments ? If so, why ?

(b) How many men have given in writing that they forego their arrears of increments ? If none, how many men have been given their increments during the half year ending the 30th June, 1934, and what was the date when their last increment in pay was sanctioned ?

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†924. *Mr. S. G. Jog : With reference to their reply to starred question No. 693, dated 6th September, 1933, laid on the table of this House on the 27th March, 1934, will Government be pleased to state why the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors who drew mileage allowance and are working as Inspectors, Head Ticket Collectors, Assistant Head Ticket Collectors and Ticket Collectors, referred to in the question are still denied the *ex-gratia* consolidated allowance sanctioned to them by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, by way of compensation due to a heavy drop in their emoluments on account of the abolition of mileage allowance ?

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†925. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Chief Operating Superintendent of the East Indian Railway has issued instructions to the Divisional Superintendents to post the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors on stationary duties (when vacancies occur) of the Ticket Checking branch ? If so, why ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Divisional authorities have accordingly issued orders to the employees concerned that they should offer their choice for the post of Assistant Head Ticket Collectors when vacancies occur and further they have been told that they will cease to draw the *ex-gratia* consolidated allowance ?

(c) If answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the Agent, East Indian Railway, and the Railway Board, were consulted by the Chief Operating Superintendent before the issue of these orders and if the action of the Chief Operating Superintendent was approved of by them ?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANTS IN THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

926. *Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur : (a) Is it a fact that out of the five Superintendents in the Home Department, only one is a Muslim, who is temporary at present ?

(b) Is there any likelihood of his continuing to work as Superintendent ? If so, is it a fact that excluding the above Muslim Superintendent from the assistants' cadre, there are only three Muslim assistants in the Home Department out of a total strength of 23, i.e., only 13 per cent. ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 925.

(c) Are Government prepared to look into this matter and consider the appointment of Muslims as assistants, if and when vacancies arise in future, and bring the percentage of Muslims to at least 25 per cent. in that Department ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) There is no permanent Muslim Superintendent in the Home Department. One Muslim is now officiating in a leave vacancy.

(b) The Muslim officiating as Superintendent is the senior-most Assistant and will continue to work as Superintendent so long as a vacancy is available and his work remains satisfactory. There are, besides him, four Muslim Assistants out of a total strength of 23 and the percentage is thus about 17.4 and not 13.

(c) Government will strictly apply the Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, which requires that 25 per cent. of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment shall be reserved for Muslims.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : May I know if there are not four Assistants instead of three ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Five altogether.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : Including the acting Superintendent ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : Now there are four Assistants. Is it a fact that one Assistant is now working in the Reforms Office and that his lien on the Home Department has been suspended ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am afraid I do not know.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know how these confidential informations leak out to the public ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I wish I knew.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : In the same way as the information leaked out regarding His Highness the Aga Khan's so-called application for a certain thing.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : May I know whether it is not a fact that the services of one of these four Assistants have been transferred to the Reforms Office and that his lien on the Home Department has been suspended, and this man is included in the Reforms Office personnel also ? Is that a fact ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have said that I do not know. I want notice.

Bhai Parma Nand : May I know from the Honourable Member what is the meaning of this twenty-five per cent. reservation ? Does this mean that each of the posts should be divided into three or four parts, or that one Branch as a whole is to be taken ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The meaning of the Resolution is that twenty-five per cent. of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment shall go to Muslims.

Bhai Parma Nand : Vacancies in old posts also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : New vacancies.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that four persons, while dividing their share in a House, attempted to divide each brick into four parts, is it not desirable, according to my friend's assertion, that each individual should be divided into four parts? (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The answer is interrogative.

INDIANISATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

927. ***Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur :** (a) Is it the intention to Indianise one-quarter of the British Other Ranks strength of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps? If so, within what period do Government expect to effect it?

(b) Has every fourth vacancy in the cadre of the British Non-Commissioned Officers gone to an Indian since the formation of the Indian Civil Wing? If so, how many such vacancies occurred since 1923, and what is the present strength of the Civilian Assistant Storekeepers?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 961 asked by Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha on the 15th September, 1933.

(b) Yes. There have been 140 vacancies since the 1st April, 1923, and the present strength of Civilian Assistant Storekeepers is 35.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Is it a fact that these Assistant Storekeepers, when they were recruited or when they were confirmed in their appointments, were given a salary of Rs. 120 a month and not Rs. 150 as contracted with them when they were first engaged on probation?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am afraid I have no information on the point at the moment.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member please ascertain that fact?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Yes, Sir.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Thank you.

BRITISH OTHER RANKS OF THE INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS UNDER THE INDIAN UNATTACHED LIST.

928. ***Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur :** (a) What is the total fixed establishment of the British Other Ranks of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps under the Indian Unattached List?

(b) What is the proportion of Non-Commissioned Officers to Warrant Officers?

(c) Has any proportion of Assistant Storekeepers to Storekeepers been fixed so far? If not, why not?

(d) If the matter is under consideration, what percentage is under contemplation? In case it is not the same as for Non-Commissioned Officers to Warrant Officers, will Government please state the reasons for this disparity?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The present total is 553

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given on the 14th April, 1934, to part (b) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 349.

(c) and (d). The position is still as stated in the answer given on the 14th April, 1934, to parts (d) and (e) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 350.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM OF PROMOTION FOR CIVILIAN STOREKEEPERS.

929. *Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur : Do Government propose to introduce the same system of promotion for Civilian Storekeepers as for their British confreres, i.e., Assistant Storekeepers Lower Division to Assistant Storekeeper Upper Division after three years and thereafter promotion by vacancies within a fixed establishment ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. E. Lumby : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given on the 14th April, 1934, to part (c) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 351.

MISGIVINGS EXPRESSED ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN MILITARY ASSISTANT STOREKEEPERS SCHEME.

930. *Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur : Were any misgivings expressed by the Association of Storekeepers and Storemen of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps on the introduction of the Indian Military Assistant Storekeepers scheme ? If so, what reply was given to their representation ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. E. Lumby : The Association recently asked permission to send representatives to Simla to discuss the question. It was informed that, as the matter was already under consideration, there was no need for a deputation.

PROMOTION OF INDIAN MILITARY ASSISTANT STOREKEEPERS.

931. *Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur : (a) Do Government propose to stick to the original intention of giving every fourth vacancy in the cadre of British Other Ranks to a civilian ? If not, why not ?

(b) What percentage of vacancies in the British Other Ranks cadre will be thrown open to Indian Military Assistant Storekeepers ?

(c) Will Government please confirm that the promotion of certain Storemen, who have passed Trade Test has been held up ? If so, what is the cause of the suspension ? Has it got any relation to the Indian Military Assistant Storekeepers Scheme ?

(d) Are Government aware that the discontinuance of further direct recruitment to Assistant Storekeepers cadre and suspension of promotion from Storemen to Assistant Storekeepers will adversely effect the present Assistant Storekeepers in the matter of promotion and attaining the maximum pay of their grades ?

(e) How will seniority between the three wings be determined when working in the same group ?

(f) Was the hope of eventual promotion to Storekeeper's rank held out to all Storemen in the letters of appointment issued to them ? If so, how do Government reconcile the present suspension from Storeman to Storekeeper grade ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The matter is under consideration in connection with a militarization scheme, but whatever decision is arrived at will not affect the appointment of an Indian to every fourth vacancy until the authorised percentage is complete.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes. The suspension is due to the fact that the scheme to which I have just referred is under consideration.

(d) No. The prospects of the present Assistant Storekeepers will not be affected.

(e) It is not the intention that personnel of the three wings should work in the same groups when Indianization is completed.

(f) The men were informed that a certain number, if suitable and qualified, would have the eventual prospect of being selected for the appointments of Assistant Storekeeper and Storekeeper. In view of the militarization scheme mentioned above, the number of appointments open to civilians promoted from the grade of Storeman will be reduced to some extent. The promotion to the higher grades is temporarily suspended until the respective quotas of Civil and Military Assistant Storekeepers are fixed.

CONTRIBUTION BY THE INDIAN STATES TOWARDS THE EXPENDITURE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

932. ***Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla :** Do Government propose to consider the question of asking the Indian States to make a contribution towards the expenditure of the League of Nations in view of the fact that the expenditure incurred by India in respect of the League of Nations represents not only British India but also the Indian States ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The answer is in the negative. If association in India's membership of the League of Nations were an isolated incident of association between British India and the States, it would of course be reasonable that the States should contribute towards the expenditure incurred in connection with India's membership of the League. This, however, is not the position. British India and the States are associated in innumerable ways. In some cases the circumstances of their association are such as to create a claim by British India against the States ; in other cases, the circumstances are such as to create a claim by the States against British India. The Honourable Member will, therefore, realise that there could be no justification for taking the action suggested by him otherwise than as part of a general settlement, which may be expected to take place in the event of the States entering an Indian Federation.

PROHIBITION OF THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY MR. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE IN THE YUGO-SLAV PRESS.

933. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is there any truth in the statement in the Press that the British Ambassador in Belgrade requested the Foreign Office to see that articles and interviews given by Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose did not appear in the Yugo-Slav Press, as he was an 'undesirable' ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether it was at the instance of the Government of India.

or at the initiative of the British Government, that the Ambassador took this course ?

(c) Is it the policy of Government to suppress all criticism of the Government of India in other countries ? Do they adopt the same measures when the people of India are falsely depicted and criticised in Europe and America ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : (a) The Government of India have no information on the subject.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

TRUNK ROAD FROM MADRAS CITY TO DELHI.

934. ***Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian :** Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any trunk road from Madras City to Delhi, running by the side of the grand trunk express railway line ? If not, when will one be available for the motorists to go straight from Madras to Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : There is no such through trunk road in existence. The construction of 150 miles of road and a large bridge over the Godavari outside British Indian territory would enable through communication to be provided. As far as the Government of India are aware, no such scheme is at present contemplated.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF THE INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES.

935. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that the two British shipping companies on the Indian coast are carrying on a ruinous rate war at present when the British shipping is passing through an unprecedented depression and are clamouring for large subsidies from Government to tide over the present crisis ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that the severe rate war is hitting hard not only the small Indian steamship companies on the coast but is also seriously dislocating the interests of trade on the coast ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take to protect the interests of trade as well as the interests of shipping on the coast ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to somewhat similar questions asked by Messrs. S. G. Jog and Rahimtoola M. Chinoy bearing Nos. 739 and 743, respectively.

PRICES OF WOOL.

936. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Are Government aware that the export of wool in 1933-34 was 55,888,507 pounds valued at Rs. 1,98,48,211 ?

(b) Are Government in a position to state why the average price per lb. was lower in 1933-34 than in 1932-33 or 1931-32 ?

(a) Is it a fact that wool prices have advanced in other markets in 1933-34 ?

(d) Do Government propose to refer the question of assuring the best price to the wool grower for investigation to the marketing expert and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) Yes.

(b) From the information available, it appears that the average price of raw wool per pound was not lower in Bombay in 1933-34 than in 1932-33, except in the case of wool exported to Belgium and France.

(c) Yes, so far as the London market is concerned. Information regarding the other markets is not available.

(d) The Honourable Member's question will be brought to the notice of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it the intention of the Government to regulate the internal prices of this wool—either to lower them or to raise them ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I have certainly no (present) intention of doing anything on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

ASSISTANCE TO THE SUGAR FACTORIES IN BIHAR DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE.

937. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Is it a fact that the owners of nine factories in Bihar, damaged by the earthquake, submitted separate petitions to the Government of Bihar for assistance ?

(b) Is it a fact that these petitions were accompanied by statements of losses caused by the earthquake ?

(c) Is it a fact that these owners are still waiting to hear what measure of assistance the Government of India intend to afford ?

(d) What action do Government propose to take in respect of petitions made through the Bihar and Orissa Government by the proprietors and the agents of those Bihar sugar factories which were severely damaged by the earthquake, for assistance in meeting the cost of rebuilding the demolished factories and repairing and replacing machinery, by exempting them from payment of excise duty on sugar to be produced during the cane season 1934-35 ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). A reply has just issued refusing the request.

PETITIONS MADE THROUGH THE BIHAR AND ORISSA GOVERNMENT BY THE PROPRIETORS AND AGENTS OF SOME SUGAR FACTORIES IN BIHAR.

938. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Are Government aware that certain factories in Bihar, whose despatches were held up owing to Railway communications being interrupted, have put up their cases through the Collector of the District and the Commissioner of the Division to the Bihar Government and requested them to submit the case to the Government of India ?

(b) Have Government received these cases ?

(c) What action do Government propose to take in respect of petitions made through the Bihar and Orissa Government by the proprietors and the agents of those Bihar sugar factories which, by reason of Railway communications being cut off for a period over a month and shortage of rolling stock, were unable to make despatches of their sugar from 15th January onwards and therefore, under the Sugar Excise Act, had to pay duty on sugar in stock which would otherwise not have been liable to excise duty ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Government of India have agreed to grant exemption in respect of stocks of sugar held on the 1st April, 1934, by North Bihar sugar factories damaged by the earthquake in excess of the stock which would have been held but for the earthquake.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do Government propose to give compensation to those factories whose sugar has been destroyed by the falling down of the buildings in which the sugar was stored in the factories ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir. The pledge given by my predecessor was an extremely limited one. It was limited to the case of factories which could not get their sugar away owing to the earthquake, and, therefore, had to pay more excise duties than they would otherwise have done.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : So the Government do not want to compensate for the loss of sugar which has been destroyed in the factories by the earthquake ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That comes under the general category of the earthquake damage, and it is not a matter for the Government of India at all.

[Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) called upon Mr. S. G. Jog to put his question No. 939.]

Mr. S. G. Jog : Can I be compelled, Sir, to put that question ? I do not want to put questions from 939 to 946 as I am anxious to reach my question No. 947.

(Mr. S. G. Jog was allowed to do so.)

†939*.—946*.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIAN REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

947. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Is it not a fact that the Government of India has sanctioned the establishment of an Indian Regiment of Artillery ?

(b) Will Government please state when the formation of the first brigade will be made and at what place ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the personnel of this new arm will be drawn from Punjabi Mussalmans, Rajputs, Raighars and even Madrasis ?

(d) Is there any provision in this composition of the first brigade for the Mahrattas ? If not, will Government please state the reason for the exclusion of this class only ?

† These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

(e) Are Government prepared to reconsider the position and make provision for the inclusion of Mahrattas ?

(f) Are Government aware that the *Times of India* in an article, dated November 17, 1933, had commented severely on this attitude of Government towards the Mahrattas ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) Yes.

(b) In January, 1935, at Bangalore.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. The classes to be included in the first brigade were selected after careful consideration. The maximum number of classes which can be represented in a brigade is four. Mahrattas are by no means the only class excluded.

(e) I am afraid the composition cannot be altered.

(f) Government have seen the article.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know, Sir, why some classes have been included and others have been excluded ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : As I have said, only four classes out of the whole of India could be included.

Mr. S. G. Jog : What I want to know is why only four classes have been included and others have been excluded ? What is the special reason for the inclusion of these four classes ? When you open a new regiment, it should be open to all. Is there any particular reason against those classes which have been excluded ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : It is the practice throughout the Army to have units composed of particular classes. As I have said, some classes had to be excluded, and unfortunately the Mahrattas were one of those classes.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : May I know, Sir, what is the reason for their exclusion ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am afraid I cannot say off-hand what led to the selection of those four particular classes.

Bhai Parma Nand : Does that mean that there is no equality between different classes of Indians ? In other words, there is racial discrimination. Only the other day, there was so much talk about the equality of British and Indians in this House, and I want to know why there is so much inequality between different classes of Indians ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : This sort of organisation has been adopted, because it is most convenient for administrative purposes.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know, Sir, why Government have given preference to one caste over the other in the case of this particular regiment ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I do not think that there was any question of preference seeing that this is the first brigade of its kind that has been raised.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Will Government kindly reconsider the position when fresh recruitments are made ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Certainly, Sir.

Bhai Parma Nand : Looking to the status of the different classes of Indians, is it the duty of the Government to look to their own convenience and not to the status of the people living in this country ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : A very careful watch is kept on this question of recruiting from various classes. Government always take care that one class is not over-recruited and another class is not under-recruited.

Bhai Parma Nand : But you have excluded one community altogether. There is no question of over-recruiting or under-recruiting ; you have excluded all other classes except three or four. I want that the distinction of martial and non-martial classes should be abolished altogether and equal status should be given to all the people of the country ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I do not think, Sir, that that arises out of this particular question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask, Sir, if there is really a rule observed by the Military Department as regards the martial classes ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : No, Sir. We do not in the army recognise the expression " martial classes " at all. We always refer to the " enlisted classes ".

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil : Is there any such class as the " enlisted class " recognised by the Military authorities ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The enlisted classes are those classes which are at any given moment enlisted in the army.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Are the Mahrattas included in the " enlisted classes " or not ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The Honourable Member must be well aware that the Mahrattas are enlisted in the army today.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Then why have they been excluded from this new formation ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Some classes had to be excluded.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask, Sir, on what ground those classes are excluded ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : That question has been asked.

VACANCIES OF APPRAISERS, EXAMINERS AND CLERKS IN THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY.

948. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtusa Saheb Bahadur** : (a) Is it a fact that there were five vacancies of Appraisers, eight of Examiners and 20 of Clerks in the Customs Department, Bombay, in July and August, 1934 ?

(b) Is it a fact that applications were not invited for the said vacancies, but some candidates applied for the said posts and were interviewed by the Collector, Customs Department, on the 3rd August, 1934 ?

(c) Is it a fact that one Examiner was promoted to the Appraiser's post and two outsiders (one a Christian and the other a Parsi) were appointed as Appraisers ?

(d) Is it a fact that the remaining two vacancies are proposed to be filled in by promotion from among Examiners in the Department? If so, do Government propose to promote the two Muslim Examiners to the two vacant posts?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the claims of qualified Muslims for the ten vacancies of Examinership and 20 of Clerkship?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state why these vacancies were not advertised and appointments are being made secretly in spite of the announcement made by the Government of India on the 6th July 1934?

(g) Are Government prepared to see that such irregularities do not recur in any Department of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Three posts of Appraisers, six of Examining Officers and three of Lower Division clerks were sanctioned from the 1st August, 1934, and three vacancies of Lower Division clerks occurred during the period July-August, 1934. These were the only vacancies filled up during the above period.

(b) Yes, but a register of selected applicants is maintained at the Custom House and there were 114 names at the end of July on the Appraising Department register. In addition 300 applications were received from all parts of India. Out of these 30 were selected for an interview on the 3rd August, 1934.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). No vacancies remain to be filled.

(f) I would refer to my answer to part (b) above. A register of applicants is maintained for each category of the staff.

(g) Government are satisfied that there has been no irregularity and that effect has been given to their orders regarding communal representation.

CONFERENCES OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF MYSORE AND HYDERABAD STATES TO CONSIDER THE TUNGABHADRA PROJECT.

949. * **Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil :** (a) Are Government aware that a conference is being held at Hyderabad (Deccan) of the representatives of the Government of Madras and the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam to consider the Tungabhadra Project?

(b) If so, have Government of India sent their own representative?

(c) Have any of the Local Governments concerned approached the Government of India in this connection either for financial help or for any other reason?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyes : (a) Government have no information, other than reports which have appeared in the Press.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

ITALIAN EXPORTS TO, AND IMPORTS FROM, INDIA.

950. * **Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Will Government please give the figures of Italian exports to India (including Kathiawar Ports) for the years 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34?

(b) Will Government please give the figures of Italian imports from India (including Kathiawar Ports) for the same four years ?

(c) Will Government please give particulars of the more important Italian exports to India in quantities and values for the same four years ?

(d) Will Government please give particulars of the more important Italian imports from India for the same four years ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : All the information required by the Honourable Member, with the exception of the figures hereafter quoted, is available in Volume I of the Annual Statement of the Seaborne Trade of British India for the year ending 31st March, 1933, in the monthly Accounts for March, 1934, and in the Kathiawar Trade Statistics for the same month, copies of which are in Library of the House. The value of imports from, and exports to, Italy through the Kathiawar ports for the year 1930-31 is as follows :

	Rs.
Imports	.. 11,847
Exports	Nil.

Mr. H. P. Mody : Are there not later figures available for Kathiawar than 1930-31 ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I think those are the latest authoritative figures that we have. You must remember that those statistics are from an Indian State and they are not necessarily up-to-date.

Mr. H. P. Mody : My understanding was that they were only a few months old ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : Those are the latest figures that seem to be available in my office.

ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO ITS INDUSTRIES AND ITS SHIPPING LINES.

951. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Are Government aware whether the Government of Italy gives any subsidies or bounties to any of its industries in any shape or form ?

(b) Are Government aware in what form the Italian shipping lines to India are assisted by the Government of Italy ?

(c) Are Government aware that Italians travelling to India are compelled to travel by an Italian line ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) to (c). The Government of India have no official information on the subject.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : Are Government aware that on the 6th December last, my friend, the Honourable Mr. Alexander Shaw, stated :

“ Foreign subsidies in themselves are not negligible since they now total over 30 millions a year. Even if you leave out guarantees on buildings and purchase which are given by foreign Governments to help foreign lines, you find that in ordinary subsidies alone France paid in 1932 £4 millions and Italy wants £5 millions and the United States nearly £17 millions.”

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I do not dispute the correctness of Honourable friend's information.

Mr. H. P. Mody : May I suggest that in view of the impending negotiations with the representatives of the Italian Government, the information contained in part (a) of this question will be of great use in determining what arrangements can be made ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I have no doubt that all the information that is necessary to help the Government of India in their negotiations with the representatives of the Italian Government will be obtained.

Mr. W. J. C. Richards : Are Government aware that, with the assistance of subsidies, imports of Italian rice into Great Britain increased from an annual average of 2,000 tons for 1930, 1931 and 1932 to 8,000 tons in 1933, thus depriving Indian agriculture of much of the benefit it was intended to derive from the Ottawa Pact ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I am not aware of any subsidy given by the Italian Government to its rice producers or exporters.

Mr. W. J. C. Richards : In the forthcoming trade negotiations with Italy, will Government have regard to this aspect of the matter which is of particular importance to Indian agriculture ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : As I have already said, all relevant questions will be borne in mind by the Government of India at the time of the negotiations.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RUG AND BLANKET INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

952. **Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Will Government please give the figures of the total imports of rugs and blankets in pounds and values for the four years 1930-31 to 1933-34 ?

(b) Will Government please give the figures of the Italian imports of rugs and blankets with percentages for the same four years ?

(c) Are Government aware that India can produce all the rugs and blankets which India requires, and that at the present moment 75 per cent. of India's looms which can produce rugs and blankets are idle ?

(d) Are Government aware that the rug and blanket industry was of great use to India during the Great War ?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to help the rug and blanket industry to re-establish it in the Indian home market ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement containing the information asked for.

(c) Government have no definite information.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government propose to refer the whole question of protection of the woollen industry as a whole to the Tariff Board for enquiry.

Statement showing the imports of blankets and rugs (other than floor rugs) into India and Italy's share therein.

	Quantity.			Value.		
	Total Imports.	Imports from Italy.	Percentage share of Italy.	Total Imports.	Imports from Italy.	Percentage share of Italy.
	lbs.	lbs.		Rs.	Rs.	
1930-31	3,667,415	3,336,095	91	36,50,855	33,34,353	91
1931-32	2,411,373	1,990,024	82	18,74,846	15,92,451	85
1932-33	4,177,079	3,781,665	91	33,97,222	31,40,357	92
1933-34	5,119,678	4,893,483	96	40,02,294	37,95,883	95

SMALL PROPORTION OF THE INDIAN WOOL CROP TAKEN BY ITALY.

953. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : (a) Is it a fact that Italy takes a very small proportion of the Indian wool crop ? Will Government please give the figures and percentage ?

(b) Are Government prepared to suggest that the basis of Italian woollen goods imports should bear some relation to the amount of Indian wool which Italy takes ?

(c) Are Government aware that Italian Rugs and Blankets are composed mainly of shoddy or broken up rags which are collected all over the continent ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) Figures relating to the wool crop in India are not available but I lay on the table a statement showing the exports of raw wool by sea to Italy and the percentage share of that country in the total exports.

(b) Government are not prepared to commit themselves at this stage to any such suggestion.

(c) Government have no information.

Exports of Raw Wool by sea from British India.

Year.	Quantity in Lbs.		
	Total Exports.	Exports to Italy.	Percentage share of Italy.
1930-31	30,482,376	91,167	0.3
1931-32	41,265,187	14,896	0.04
1932-33	32,248,819	18,700	0.06
1933-34	55,888,507	135,873	0.2

IMPORTS OF ITALIAN WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS AND IMPOSITION OF A QUOTA ON WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS FROM JAPAN.

954. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : (a) Will Government please give the figures for the imports of Italian woollen piece goods for the last four years ?

(b) Is it a fact that the depreciation of the pound has accounted for the recent decrease ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Ottawa Preference of ten per cent. has helped Great Britain to increase her imports of woollen piece goods ?

(d) Is it a fact that Japan has increased her imports at the expense of those of Italy ?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the imposition of a quota on woollen piece-goods from Japan ?

(f) Have Government received the suggestion that this quota should be based on 50 per cent. of the imports of 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34 ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, Volume I, for the year ending the 31st March, 1933, and Monthly Accounts for March, 1934, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

(b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member must make his own deductions.

(e) No.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are Government aware that there is a very strong resentment in the country, in some quarters at least, about raising prices of manufactured articles by the Tariff Board inquiry, and, in view of this, will Government wait till the next Assembly has expressed its opinion ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I am not aware of any such resentment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If he is not aware, he may know it now.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I cannot take my Honourable friend's statement as proof of the fact.

EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON TO ITALY AND IMPORTS OF COTTON PIECE-GOODS AND YARNS FROM ITALY.

955. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : (a) Will Government please give the figures of imports of cotton piece goods and yarns from Italy during the last four years ?

(b) Will Government please give the figures of exports of raw cotton to Italy during the last four years ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 955 and 956 together.

The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Sea-borne Trade Accounts for the year 1932-33 and the Monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for March, 1934, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL SILK PIECE-GOODS AND YARNS FROM ITALY.

†1956. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : Will Government please give the figures of imports of artificial silk piece goods and yarns from Italy during the last four years ?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF ASPHALT INVITED BY THE QUETTA MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

108. Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Quetta military authorities invited tenders recently for a supply of asphalt ?

(b) Are Government aware that the authorities accepted the tender of Messrs. Bitumens, Limited, on the strength of the quality tendered ?

(c) Is it a fact that the authorities at the military headquarters were in favour of giving the contract to the Burmah-Shell, but the officer-in-charge, Brigadier Haswell, had already made his recommendation which the higher authorities found impossible to brush aside lightly ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Burmah-Shell are trying their best to have the officer removed from India and have reported him to the War Office ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) No.

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

CARRYING OF RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA.

109. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware of the impression that the Railway Administration in India is not carried on in accordance with the rules and regulations framed for observance, but is carried on in accordance with the pleasure of the individual officer in power ? If not, will Government state :

(a) the number of questions answered by them during the preceding five years ;

(b) the percentage of the questions answered during the preceding five years ;

(c) the subject matter of the questions along with the number of questions for each subject ; and

(d) the number of instances in which the individual officers' pleasure was overruled on a question ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative.

As regards the second part, Government are unable to collect the information required in parts (a), (b) and (c) ; it is available to the Honourable Member in the printed proceedings. I am unable to understand part (d).

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 955.

LICENCE FOR COUNTRY WINE RETAIL-SALE AND WHOLE-SALE BOTTLING IN
THE PUNJAB AND DELHI.

110. **Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : (a) Do the Punjab Government grant the country wine retail-sale and bottling whole-sale license to the same person ? If not, why not ?

(b) Did the Financial Commissioner, Panjab, ever submit this proposal to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, somewhere in 1930 or 1931 to follow the same practice in Delhi and not to grant the retail-sale vend to one holding a whole-sale and bottling license ?

(c) Did the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, forward that proposal to the Excise Department for taking necessary action in the matter ?

(d) Did the Excise Department, Delhi, take any action ? If not, why not ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Delhi Government still grant the retail-sale and whole-sale and bottling licenses to the same person ?

(f) Have Government considered whether this system in Delhi is detrimental to Government, as well as to the retail-sale contractor ?

(g) Are Government aware that the whole-sale bottler possesses the advantage of having the facility to resort to adulteration as he has the supply of corks, capsules, labels, colours, at his disposal, which can render the adulteration by his retail-vender in the daily sale quantity leaving the rest intact ?

(h) Are Government aware that adulteration is difficult of detection owing to the retail vend being in the hand of whole-sale bottler ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Enquiries are being made and the information asked for by the Honourable Member will be laid on the table in due course.

BIDDING BY NEW CONTRACTORS IN THE EXCISE AUCTION IN DELHI.

111. **Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : Are Government aware that new and outside contractors do not now dare to bid in the excise auction in Delhi against those who hold whole-sale licenses ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No. Several licenses are held by contractors from outside the Delhi Province.

WHOLE-SALE AND RETAIL-SALE LICENSES OF COUNTRY SPIRIT IN
DELHI.

112. **Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : (a) What are the names of those licensees who have got directly and indirectly in the names of their partners and agents both the whole-sale and retail-sale licenses of country spirit in Delhi ?

(b) Do Government propose to stop this system and follow the same, as in the Punjab, to avoid the chances of all sorts of corruptions ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) (i) Daulat Ram Narula has two retail country shops at Qarolbagh and Gol Market.

(ii) Sushil Kumar, a whole-sale merchant, has a brother named Triloki Nath who has got a country liquor shop at Shahdara.

(b) No. Local circumstances do not demand any change.

SECURING OF MORE THAN ONE RETAIL-SALE LICENSE OF COUNTRY LIQUOR IN AUCTION IN DELHI.

113. **Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : (a) Is it a fact that according to the Circular of the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, No. 5133-S.R., dated the 21st December, 1926, it is always announced in Delhi that no man, either directly or indirectly in the name of his partner or agent, shall secure more than one retail-sale license of country liquor in auction ?

(b) Is it a fact that it was strictly observed in Delhi during the past years ?

(c) Is it a fact that this rule is broken by the present Inspector of Excise this year in Delhi ?

(d) What are the names of those who have got directly and indirectly more than one retail-sale license of country spirit in Delhi ?

(e) What are the names of the licensees of Gol Market and Qarolbagh country wine shop in Delhi ?

(f) Are these two shops directly in the name of the same person. If so, why ?

(g) What are the names of the licensees of the Roshanpura country liquor shop in Delhi ?

(h) Is it a fact that one of these licensees is the agent of the owner of the shop of the Gol Market and Qarolbagh ?

(i) Are the persons mentioned in part (h) of the same caste and related to each other ?

(j) What relations have they got with each other ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) No such restriction is laid down in the Punjab Financial Commissioner's circular referred to nor is Delhi Province excise under his control. The only condition laid down and observed in Delhi is that shops in neighbouring localities should not be auctioned to the same person.

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

(d) Daulat Ram Narula is the only retail licensee who has two country liquor licenses, namely, Qarolbagh and Gol Market.

(e) Daulat Ram Narula.

(f) Yes, because it is not considered objectionable.

(g) Banwari Lal and Sohan Lal.

(h) No.

(i) No. Daulat Ram belongs to the Narula sub-caste of Arora, Banwari Lal is a Kallal and Sohan Lal belongs to the Vermani sub-caste of Arora. They are reported to be unrelated.

(j) They do not admit any relationship.

DEPOSIT OF FEES OF RETAIL-SALE SHOP OF COUNTRY LIQUOR AT ROSHANPURA, DELHI.

114. **Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** : (a) How are the fees of the shop of retail-sale of country liquor at Roshanpura, Delhi, deposited in the Government Treasury ? In cash, or by cheques ?

(b) Who issues the cheques and upon what banks ?

(c) Will Government please state the numbers of the cheques, along with the dates and the amounts, issued from the 1st of April, 1933 up to 31st July, 1934 ?

(d) Is the drawer of these cheques the same person who has got the whole-sale bottling license and also two retail-sale licenses of Gol Market and Qarolbagh in his own name ?

(e) Why are so many licenses granted to this man ?

(f) Is it not against the Excise and administrative policy ?

(g) Is it a fact that some of the Excise Sub-Inspectors pointed it out to the Excise Inspector of Delhi and he concealed the fact from the higher officials ?

(h) Is it a fact that the above mentioned whole-seller and the present Excise Inspector are residents of the same place ?

(i) Are Government aware that they are of the same caste, and that they are also related to each other and old intimate friends ?

(j) Is it a fact that the car of the above whole-seller is always found at the door of the Excise Inspector ? Why does the Excise Inspector use the car of the Excise contractor ?

(k) In what way does the Excise Inspector compensate the contractor ?

(l) Is the Excise Inspector in the practice of accepting some gifts from the above mentioned Excise contractor ?

(m) Have they got some money transactions with each other ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Fees are recovered both by cash and by cheque.

(b), (c) and (d). The information is not available from the excise registers which contain only the date on which the money is credited by the licensees. There is no record as to whether the money was paid in cash or by cheque.

(e) Daulat Ram, who also holds wholesale licenses for country liquor spirit, holds country liquor licenses for the Gol Market and Qarolbagh. These shops are comparatively small ones, the license fee being only Rs. 24,000. Last year this man had the Roshanpura country shop paying license fee of Rs. 47,000.

(f) No. The policy followed is that licenses for neighbouring shops are not granted to the same licensee.

(g), (h), (i) and (j). No.

(k) Does not arise.

(l) No. The Excise Inspector has a reputation for honesty.

(m) No.

CLERICAL GRADES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

115. **Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan :** (a) Is it a fact that there is only one clerical grade in the Government of India Presses at Calcutta and Simla ?

(b) Are Government aware that there were two clerical grades in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, prior to 1930 and the Government of India in consideration of the similarity of work and responsibilities of all clerks amalgamated the two grades and sanctioned one revised grade ranging from Rs. 45 to 140 in the year 1930 ?

(c) Is it a fact that there still exist two clerical grades in the Government of India Press, Delhi, ranging from Rs. 35 to 80 and Rs. 60 to 105 ?

(d) Is it a fact that in the revised scale, the two grades of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, have been amalgamated and one revised grade ranging from Rs. 40 to 95 has been sanctioned for the new entrants ?

(e) Are Government aware that since the introduction of the revised grade of clerks appointed on or after the 15th July, 1931, the creation of posts in the upper scale have ceased in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, and that this has caused much dissatisfaction among the lower grade clerks as their future prospects have been blocked ?

(f) Is it a fact that clerks, Government Press, New Delhi, submitted a memorial ventilating their grievances to the Secretary, Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, praying for the amalgamation of the upper and lower scales and sanctioning one revised scale, but Government turned down the memorialists' prayers ? If so, are Government prepared to reconsider their grievances and sanction one revised grade as was sanctioned for Calcutta and Simla Presses in the year 1930 ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) to (d). The facts are as stated by the Honourable Member except that there are in existence two scales of pay for the clerks at the Simla Press recruited before the 16th July, 1931. The dual scales of pay at the Delhi Press also apply only to clerks recruited before that date.

(e) Clerks at the Delhi Press recruited before the 16th July, 1931, will be eligible for the higher scale of pay at that Press.

(f) As regards the first part, the memorial was received and rejected after full consideration. The reply to the second part is in the negative.

CONTRIBUTORY PROVIDENT FUND FOR THE CLERKS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

116. **Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan :** (a) With reference to their reply to my unstarred question No. 344, dated the 14th April, 1934, will Government be pleased to state what administrative inconvenience would have been felt had the clerks of the Government of India Presses been exempted from the operation of Contributory Provident Fund Rules, which are mainly intended for certain technical specialists ?

(b) Are Government aware that the scales of pay of the clerks of the Government of India Presses in comparison with the technical specialists of the Presses for whom Government have intended the Contributory Provident Fund Rules, are low, that the clerks hardly manage to support their family, and another permanent cut in the shape of the

Contributory Provident Fund contribution has made their position from bad to worse? If so, are Government prepared to reconsider the cases of clerks and bring them to the pensionary basis, which the clerks originally held?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) There may have been no administrative convenience in admitting the clerical establishment of the Government of India Presses to the Provident Fund instead of giving them pensions. That, however, was not the point of my reply to the question to which the Honourable Member refers. It was decided in 1920 to give all employees of the Government of India Presses, except day-extra men, the benefits of a Provident Fund. This decision was implemented later on by admitting them to the Contributory Provident Fund (India). It was administratively convenient to do this rather than to create a separate Provident Fund for Press employees.

(b) The answer to both parts of this question is in the negative. The fact that contributions have to be made to the Provident Fund has been taken into account in fixing the pay of the clerks in the presses.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF LOWER DIVISION CLERKS FOR THE LAHORE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

117. **Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore :** (a) Is it a fact that an examination for recruitment of lower division clerks for the Lahore General Post Office was recently held in the Punjab Postal Circle Office, Lahore? If so, what classes of candidates were allowed to sit at that examination?

(b) Is it a fact that the brother-in-law of the Assistant Manager, Postal Stock Depot, Lahore, was permitted to sit at this examination in preference to sons of the deceased and living employees of the Department?

(c) If the candidate referred to in part (b) above does not come under any of the classes of candidates allowed to appear at that examination, will Government kindly state why special favour was shown to this candidate and the order of precedence laid down by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, was deviated from?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government have no information. The matter is one with which the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, to whom a copy of the question is being sent, is competent to deal.

CONVERSION OF THE POST OF THE POSTMASTER, SIMLA, INTO A SEASON APPOINTMENT.

118. **Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore :** Is it a fact that on account of the move of the Government of India to Delhi for the winter season, the population of Simla is considerably reduced, and as a consequence the work in the Simla Post Office is greatly decreased, necessitating the move of a large number of postal clerks to Delhi? If so, will Government please state the reason for the retention of a gazetted Postmaster at Simla during the winter season, especially in these days of financial stringency?

If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of converting this appointment into a season appointment ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : As regards the first part of the question the facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct.

As regards the second part, Government are satisfied that after making full allowance for the decrease in postal work in Simla during the winter months which is met by a considerable reduction in the staff, the work and responsibilities of the Postmaster and the strength of the staff which remains under his control still amply justify the retention of a gazetted post. The last part of the question does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF BAUDOT SUPERVISORS.

119. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that under paragraph 323 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, the passing of the Baudot Supervisors' examination (paragraph 324 *ibid*), is an indispensable qualification for appointment as Baudot Supervisors ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the course of training known as the "Higher Baudot Technique", which was subsequently introduced, was solely intended for the passed Baudot Supervisors (paragraph 326 *ibid*) and it was only when such passed men were not available that ordinary Baudot operators had to be trained under paragraph 327 *ibid* ?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether under the rules men who have attained both the qualifications (paragraphs 324 and 326 *ibid*) commonly known as "A" class, should not be considered better posted, so far as Baudot Supervisors' appointments are concerned, than those who have attained only one qualification (under paragraph 327 *ibid*) and are known as "B" class ?

(d) Will Government please state how many "A" class men are available and how many men are required for the Higher Baudot Technique class ?

(e) Is it also a fact that both the Baudot Supervisors' examination and training in Higher Baudot Technique have been postponed for the last two or three years, that it is now proposed to reopen the Higher Baudot Technique class, and that the Baudot Supervisors' examination is still postponed indefinitely ?

(f) If the reply to part (e) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of postponing the Higher Baudot Technique class pending the re-opening of Baudot Supervisors' examination ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The fact is substantially as stated by the Honourable Member but under certain conditions Baudot operators who have not passed the Baudot Supervisors examination may be sent for training in Baudot technique and on successful completion of the course may be considered qualified to hold Baudot Supervisors appointments.

(b) The facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) According to existing orders men with the double qualifications are given preference in filling Baudot Supervisors posts.

(d) As regards the first part of the question the number is 129. The last part of the question is not clear. There is no permanent vacancy of Baudot Supervisor at present, but it is intended to continue the Higher Baudot technique training in small batches to provide for any future requirements pending such time as a decision is arrived at on the question of the future method of selection for supervisory posts in the signalling establishment, which is under consideration.

(e) As regards the first part, the Baudot Supervisors examination and the Higher Baudot technique training class were last held in June, 1931, and January, 1933, respectively. The reply to the remainder is in the affirmative.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the last part the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to the last part of part (d) of his question.

RETRENCHMENT OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

120. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued an order for retrenching the Telephone Operators in class I? If so, (i) why and (ii) in which Circles and (iii) what is their number in each Circle?

(b) Is it a fact that the said order was subsequently cancelled? If not, do Government propose to do so and defer its effect till vacancies occur by retirement or death, etc., as done in other Branches?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes. Orders were issued to the effect that the holders of surplus posts of Telephone Operators, Class I, may be retired with retrenchment concessions. The orders were issued as a retrenchment measure and applied to all circles. Government have no up-to-date information as to the number of officials retrenched in each circle.

(b) As regards the first part of the question, it is not a fact that the orders were cancelled, but, subsequently, supplementary orders were issued directing that the replacement of Class I posts by Class II posts should, in certain circumstances, be effected as vacancies occur. Government do not propose to cancel the orders or to defer their effect as suggested by the Honourable Member. It is not a fact that a different practice is followed in other branches of the Department.

LOSS IN RUNNING THE TELEPHONE BRANCH OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

121. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Telephone Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is running at a loss? If so, what was the amount of loss during 1931-32, 1932-33 and that expected during the current year?

(b) If it was not running at a loss, what was the amount of net profit during the periods mentioned in part (a)?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) The following statement gives the information required by the Honourable Member :

Rs. 1,17,916 during 1931-32.

Rs. 2,28,091 during 1932-33.

Rs. 16,22,000 estimated during 1934-35.

EXTENSION OF THE TRUNK TELEPHONE LINES.

122. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that telephone communication is growing popular gradually ?

(b) Is it a fact that telephone lines are extended every year ? If so, what was the extension in 1931-32, 1932-33, and 1933-34 ?

(c) Will Government please state if there was any extension of trunk telephone lines in 1933 and 1934 ? If so, where ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The number of connections to Government Telephone Exchanges in the years 1930-31 to 1933-34 were as follows :

1930-31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,900
1931-32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,300
1932-33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,000
1933-34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,000

(c) Yes. The trunk telephone system was extended as follows during 1933 and 1934 :

During 1933.

1. Delhi to Bombay (Carrier system)
2. Delhi to Calcutta (Carrier system)
3. Bombay to Poona and Dhond (Radio link).
4. Mhow to Bhusaval
5. Lucknow to Fyzabad
6. Delhi to Hapur
7. Simla to Chail
8. Lahore to Lyallpur
9. Asansol to Ranchi
10. Hazaribagh to Ranchi

During 1934.

1. Nagpur to Jubbulpore
2. Indore to Mhow
3. Madras to Trichinopoly.
4. Trichinopoly to Coimbatore and Ootacamund.
5. Trichinopoly to Madura
6. Agra to Aligarh.
7. Jhansi to Bhusaval
8. Trichinopoly to Cochin.
9. Bezwada to Coconada and Vizagapatam.

PAY AND CLASSES OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

123. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that there are two classes of Telephone Operators in the Posts and Telegraphs Department ? If so, what is the difference in their duties ?

(b) Will Government please state the scales of pay of each and the basis on which their number is regulated and rule under which this is done ?

(c) Will Government state the number of Telephone Operators in different classes employed in each Circle of the Department separately ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes. Telephone Operators, Class I, are ordinarily employed for the more important duties in connection with the operation of trunk exchanges and Class II operators on purely operative duties.

(b) The scales of pay vary according to locality. In the case of telephone operators, Class I, the scales vary from Rs. 35—135 to Rs. 70—170, while for telephone operators, Class II, the scales vary between Rs. 35—75 and Rs. 70—110. The number of the two classes of operators is regulated from time to time on the basis of requirements as stated in the reply to part (a). There is no definite rule regulating the numbers.

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

COMMITTEE TO RE-ORGANISE THE ENGINEERING BRANCH OF THE TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

124. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Will Government please state the number of Engineering Supervisors employed in the Telegraphs upto 31st July, 1934 ?

(b) Will Government please state the basis on which the number of employees in this service is regulated ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have appointed a Committee to re-organise the Engineering Branch (Superior and Subordinate) on an economic basis ? If not, do Government consider it advisable to appoint an expert Committee for the purpose ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to Engineering Supervisors, General, Telephones and Electrical. If so, the number employed on the 31st July, 1934, was 291.

(b) The number of Engineering Supervisors of different classes (General, Telephones and Electrical) is fixed according to divisional requirements.

(c) No. Government do not contemplate the appointment of an expert committee at present.

DEFICIT INCURRED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KAMARAN QUARANTINE STATION.

125. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin :** (a) Will Government please state whether British and Indian Governments have made any advances to meet deficits which were incurred in the administration of the Kamaran Quarantine Station upto 31st March, 1922 ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state (i) separately the amounts advanced by the British and Indian Governments, (ii) the date from which the deficits were incurred, and (iii) particulars thereof ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have created a Reserve Fund for repayment of the advances referred to in part (a), and to meet future contingencies and five per cent. of the amount collected annually from pilgrims for Kamaran ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state, separately for each year, the sums credited to this fund ?

(e) Will Government please state what improvements and alterations, involving Capital expenditure, have been carried out at the Kamaran Quarantine Station since they took charge of it, giving separate details of the improvements and alterations involving Capital expenditure and otherwise carried out in each year, with costs thereof ?

(f) Will Government please state at whose expense the civil administration of the Island of Kamaran is carried on and whether any sum is taken from the Kamaran dues paid by pilgrims ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). An advance of Rs. 5,95,600 was made to meet deficits incurred in the administration of the Kamaran Quarantine Station prior to the 31st March, 1922. One-half of this amount was advanced by the British Government and the other half by the Indian Government.

(c) and (d). The amounts paid into the Kamaran Quarantine Station Fund and the expenditure incurred from it annually, since its creation in 1927, are shown in the Balance Sheet of the Fund, as it stood on the 31st December, 1933. A copy of the Balance Sheet has been placed in the Library of the House. The whole of the advance made by the British and Indian Governments has already been repaid.

(e) The improvements carried out include the provision of *pucca* shelters in the pilgrim camps, additions and alterations to the General and Infectious Diseases Hospitals and Laboratory, provision of an electric installation, construction of a wireless station, provision of a post and telegraph office, improvement of sanitary arrangements, building of quarters for officers and staff. It is regretted that particulars of expenditure are not readily available.

(f) The cost of the civil administration of the Island of Kamaran is met partly from local receipts other than pilgrim fees and partly from an annual subsidy of Rs. 10,000 paid from the revenues of the Quarantine Station.

HIGH COURT JUDGES IN INDIA.

126. **Shaikh Sadiq Hasan :** Will Government please state the number of (a) permanent, (b) additional, and (c) temporary, Judges of High Courts in India ? How many of them are Muslims under each category ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : As regards the first part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table on the 19th July last in reply to starred question No. 107 by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad. As regards the second part, I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing the number of Muslim Judges in the various High Courts.

	Permanent.	Additional or Acting.
Madras .. .. .	..	..
Bombay .. .. .	..	1
Calcutta	1	2
Allahabad	3	..
Lahore	1	1
Patna	2	..
Rangoon .. .. .	..	..

CIRCULARS ISSUED BY THE MILITARY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL.

127. Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Will Government please lay on the table a copy of the circulars the present Military Accountant General has issued, warning officers and subordinates of disciplinary action of failure of audit, etc. ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The circulars in question are concerned with matters of purely departmental interest. One of them is marked confidential and the others are also of a confidential nature. In view of this, and as no public interest would be served by publishing them, Government regret they are not prepared to comply with this request.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 373 asked by Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore on the 6th March, 1934.

FIXATION OF THE PAY OF TELEGRAPHISTS.

(a) The fact is not as stated. The Fundamental Rules came into force with effect from the 1st January, 1932, but rule 22 of those rules relating to the fixation of pay of Government servants on transfer from one time-scale to another was made applicable in the case of non-gazetted officials of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department with effect from the 1st June, 1927, by specific orders of the Government of India. The pay of the Posts and Telegraphs non-gazetted officials transferred from one scale of pay to another between 1st January, 1922, and the 31st May, 1927, was regulated in accordance with the orders of the Government of India in force during that period.

(b) That fact is that in 1929 a representation was received by the Director-General from a Telegraph Service Union in connection with the fixation of the pay of postal signallers transferred as station service telegraphists and one individual case was cited. The officials concerned also submitted a petition to the Director-General in 1929 for a re-fixation of his pay from April, 1923, when he was transferred as station service telegraphist, but his prayer was rejected as being too belated for consideration. As a result of the representation of the Union already referred to special instructions were issued by the Director-General to Heads of Circles in November, 1929, to regulate the pay in such cases under Fundamental Rule 22. But as stated in the reply to part (a) above, Fundamental Rule 22 became operative from the 1st June, 1927, and not from the 1st January, 1922. The question of re-fixation of pay under Fundamental Rule 22 in the case of non-gazetted officials transferred from one scale to another between the 1st January, 1922, and the 31st May, 1927, did not therefore arise.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) above.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 599 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 3rd April, 1934.

AGREEMENT FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOVERNMENT AND RAILWAY MATERIALS BETWEEN DIFFERENT INDIAN PORTS.

(a) Since the year 1887, there have been various agreements with the British India Steam Navigation Company for the carriage of military and marine passengers, stores, etc.

(b) The agreement dated the 14th February, 1906, referred to by the Honourable Member, is still in force though some modifications have been made in it. Government regret that they are unable to disclose the terms of this agreement.

(c) A contract for the transport of coal for the Burma Railways from Calcutta to Rangoon during 1934-35 has also been entered into by the Railway Board with

this Company. No regular long term agreement has been executed, but copies of the relevant documents are placed on the table.

Conditions for Tenders for the transport of coal for State-managed Railways from Calcutta to Rangoon during 1934-35.

1. The quantity of cargo placed on board each steamer at Calcutta is to be decided by two Surveyors—one appointed by the Shippers and the other by the Shipping Company and should the Surveyors disagree the decision of an Umpire appointed by them to be considered final. The fee of the Umpire is to be paid by the party against whom his decision is given.

2. No range of loading dates will be accepted. The Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, will declare about the 15th of each month his programme for the following month stating the number of steamers required and the actual dates on which they are to be ready to commence loading.

Failure on the part of tenderers to supply steamers on the dates named will render them liable to a penalty of Rs. 1,000 per running day for every day late.

3. Lay days for steamer loading in Kidderpore Docks and discharging at Rangoon combined to be on the basis of 21 weather working days—Sundays and Holidays excepted—for a 7,500 tons steamer subject to proviso regarding discharge contained in Clause 7. Delivery to be commenced and taken at the Port of discharge after the steamer is ready in every respect to discharge and after the usual twentyfour hours' notice has been given.

Lay days to be counted from the day the steamer has been actually berthed and is ready for loading coal after the usual twentyfour hours' notice of readiness has been given.

4. Shipping Companies are expected to load steamers up to their full carrying capacity and will not be allowed to carry coal or other cargo for other consignees. Delivery to be given in Rangoon in shipments of not less than 7,000 tons.

5. The contract shall not be assigned or sub-let by the Contractor without the written permission of the Railway Board and in the event of the Contractor assigning or sub-letting the contract or any part thereof without such permission the Railway Board may by notice in writing to the Contractor terminate the contract.

6. The Shipping Company shall at their own cost provide all necessary baskets and shovels for the discharge of the said coal at Rangoon.

7. The Railway at the port of discharge shall supply trucks or wagons or lighters to receive the coal ex-ship, but shall not be bound to accept delivery at the rate of more than 1,000 tons per working day and from only one steamer at a time.

8. In order to provide a guarantee for the Government for the due fulfilment of the Contract the freight on one cargo shall be deducted and retained from the Contractors first bill. This amount will be refunded when the full quantity contracted for has been transported.

9. The quantity of coal to be transported shall be "more or less", i.e., the Railway Board shall have the option of requiring transportation 10 per cent. in excess of or 10 per cent. less than the contracted quantity within the period of the contract, such option to be declared before the expiration of the first seven months of the period of the contract.

10. The Shipping Company will be required to enter into an agreement for the transportation of this quantity.

COPY OF LETTER No. 4634, DATED THE 23RD FEBRUARY, 1934, FROM THE CHIEF MINING ENGINEER, RAILWAY BOARD, TO MESSRS. MACKINNON MACKENZIE AND COMPANY, CALCUTTA.

Tender for transport of coal for the State-managed Railways from Calcutta to Rangoon.

With reference to your tender No. Coal/12/262, dated the 19th December, 1933, I have to inform you that the Railway Board have accepted your tender for the transport of Burma Railway's coal approximately 130,000 tons in bulk from Calcutta to Rangoon during the period 1st April, 1934, to 31st March, 1935, at Rs. 3-14-0 per ton.

I shall be glad if you will please send me the usual Shipping Order in quadruplicate.

No. 19.

Calcutta, 26th February, 1934.

To

The Commanding Officer of a British India Steam Navigation Company's Steamer or other Steamer.

Received on Board from the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, Calcutta, A/c Burma Railways—Rangoon.

the undermentioned coal for.....

Full requirements of sea-borne coal in bulk, estimated at 180,000 tons 1st April 1934, to 31st March, 1935, Calcutta to Rangoon to be shipped as mutually arranged at Kidderpore Docks.

Full freight at the rate of Rs. 3-14-0 per ton to be paid in Calcutta after completion of loading. The quantity of cargo placed on board each steamer at Calcutta to be decided by two Surveyors one appointed by the Shippers and the other by Master or Agents of the steamer; and should the Surveyors disagree the decision of an Umpire appointed by them to be considered final. The fees for the Umpire to be paid by the party against whom his decision is given.

Conditions as per tender.

Steamer is not accountable for weight or condition.

To be shipped as above.....

Freight Rs. 3-14-0 per ton of 20 cwts..... payable here by shipper. Bills of Lading must state contents and must be presented at this office within four days of the Steamer's clearance failing which any penalty levied by Customs in consequence of the non-entry in Export Manifest of the Goods, will be levied from shipper before signing Bills of Lading as also penalty which may be incurred through erroneous description in Bill of Lading. No Bill of Lading signed for less than Rs. 5.

This Shipping Order is issued subject to the clauses appearing in British India Steam Navigation Company's Bill of Lading to be signed for coal.

(Sd.) Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co.,
Managing Agents.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 58 asked by Mr. Gayd Prasad Singh on the 17th July, 1934.

MURDER OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN AMERICA.

(a) and (b). It has been ascertained from His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington that official investigation subsequent to the jury's verdict, to which the Honourable Member refers, disclosed conclusively that on the 12th June, 1933, Sher Singh, after murdering his Mexican concubine shot and killed himself in Imperial County, California.

(c) and (d). Hira Singh and Amar Singh were murdered on the 27th September, 1933, also in Imperial County. No information is available regarding the total number of Indian nationals murdered in America.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 194 asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajshuddin on the 23rd July, 1934.

HILL ALLOWANCE TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS POSTED AT HARDWAR.

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) and (e). Some 50 travelling ticket examiners were utilised in connection with Adh Kumbh Mela at Hardwar and other stations. Those who were stationed at Hardwar were deputed to perform the following duties, except one who was utilised as Night-in-Charge ticket collector:

- (1) Canvassing passengers.
- (2) Checking of tickets.
- (3) Conducting of passengers.

Very few travelling ticket examiners were utilised to work as Ticket Collectors at stations other than Hardwar.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to questions No. 964 asked by Mr. B. N. Misra on the 28th March, 1933, and No. 135 (e) and (d) asked by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmed on the 16th February, 1934.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 348 asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 6th August, 1934.

TRANSFER OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SORTERS FROM ALLAHABAD TO JUBBULPORE AND GAYA.

(a) Yes.

(b) It is a fact that some of the employees made representations against the change.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, it is a fact that some of the employees referred to are residents of the United Provinces. As regards the second part, I would point out that liability to transfer is one of the conditions of service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the officials will get the allowances to which they are entitled on transfer under the rules. No other allowance is admissible.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise in view of the replies to parts (c) and (d) above.

(g) The transfers were made for administrative reasons and cannot be cancelled merely to suit the private convenience of some officials.

(h) No reduction has been made in the pay of the officials transferred, but it is a fact that the maximum of the time-scale for which they will be eligible at Gaya and Jubbulpore is less than the maximum of the time-scale at Allahabad. The officials will be brought on to the scales of pay sanctioned for Gaya and Jubbulpore strictly in accordance with the provisions of Fundamental Rule 22.

Information promised in reply to the unstarred question No. 40 asked by Mr. B. V. Jadhav on the 6th August, 1934.

INCREASE IN THE IMPORT DUTY ON PROJECTORS, AMPLIFIERS AND LOUD SPEAKERS, ETC.

Up till March, 1934, bioscope sound producing projectors were being assessed at all ports, except Bombay, under item 89|187 of the Indian Customs Tariff, the rates of duty applicable being the standard rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* and preferential rate of 20 per cent. At Bombay, they were being assessed at 10 per cent. under item 96|59A(2) of the Indian Customs Tariff. As the Collector of Customs, Bombay, heard that his basis of assessment differed from Calcutta, he consulted the Collectors of Customs at the other ports and as a result decided to change his practice in April. This change of practice at Bombay was reported to the Central Board of Revenue who approved the change.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 489 asked by Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra on the 7th August, 1934.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNQUALIFIED MEN IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.

Part (a).—Statement showing the number of permanent and quasi-permanent vacancies in the Government of India Secretariat and its Attached offices shown in the Audit Registers and the pay bills for the month of June, 1934.

Total number of vacancies in—

First Division.	Second Division.	Third Division.
11	6	24

Number of vacancies filled temporarily or in an officiating capacity in—

First Division.	Second Division.	Third Division.
10	6	24

Statement showing permanent deputation and temporary vacancies in the Railway Department, office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Home Department, Foreign and Political Department, Finance Department, Industries and Labour Department and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department, held by unqualified candidates.

Name of Deptt. or office.	Nature of vacancy.	Number of vacancies held by unqualified candidates.	Date from which existing.	Date from which held by unqualified candidates.			
				Retrenched staff of the Railway Board.	Other temporary staff.		
Railways ..	Permanent	2	(1) 5-6-34 (2) 21-7-34	(1) 5-7-34 (2) 21-7-34	..		
	Deputation	5	(1) 16-1-34 (2) 9-11-29 (3) 8-5-33 (4) 20-7-34 (5) 4-7-34	(1) 16-1-34 (2) 9-11-29 (3) 8-5-33 to 7-8-33 (4) 20-7-34 (5) 4-7-34	(2) November 1929 to January 1930. ..		
Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.	Temporary	4	(1) 21-6-34 (2) 3-7-34 (3) 3-7-34 (4) 6-7-34	(1) 21-6-34	(1) .. (2) 5-7-34 (3) 3-7-34 (4) 6-7-34		
	Permanent	1	11-6-34	..	9-7-34* to date.		
	Deputation	9	(1) 26-3-30 (2) 9-6-32 (3) 22-8-32 (4) 23-11-33 (5) 7-3-34 (6) 31-5-34 (7) 3-4-34 (8) 1-9-31 (9) 1-6-34	.. .. .. .. .. .. ..	(1) 1-10-32 to date. (2) 25-10-32 to date. (3) 22-4-33 to date. (4) 1-12-33 to date. (5) 4-5-34 to date. (6) 28-6-34 to date. (7) 4-4-34 to date. (8) 9-12-32 to date. (9) 17-7-34 to date.	
		Temporary	4	(1) 1-7-34 (2) 1-7-34 (3) 1-7-34 (4) 11-8-34	(1) 1-7-34 (2) 1-7-34 (3) 1-7-34 (4) 11-8-34	
			Deputation	7	(1) 1-3-33 (2) 1-5-33 (3) 1-5-33 (4) 27-5-33 (5) 1-6-34 (6) 30-7-34 (7) 7-8-34	(1) 1-3-33 (2) 1-5-33 (3) 1-5-33 (4) 27-5-33 (5) 1-6-34 (6) 30-7-34 (7) 7-8-34

*A qualified candidate has been nominated by the P. S. C. and is expected to join shortly.

Name of Deptt. or office.	Nature of vacancy.	Number of vacancies held by unqualified candidates.	Date from which existing.	Date from which held by unqualified candidates.	
				Retrenched staff of the Railway Board.	Other temporary staff.
Foreign and Political.	Permanent	5	(1) 18-4-34		(1) 18-4-31
			(2) 1-3-32		(2) 1-3-32
			(3) 8-3-32		(3) 8-3-32
			(4) 8-3-32		(4) 8-3-32
			(5) 5-4-32		(5) 5-4-32
	Deputation	6	(1) 4-1-32		(1) 4-1-32
			(2) 9-4-33		(2) 9-4-33
			(3) 15-11-30		(3) 15-11-30
			(4) 25-4-34		(4) 26-4-34
			(5) 13-6-34		(5) 13-6-34
			(6) 16-11-33		(6) 16-11-33
	Temporary	7	(1) 13-6-33		(1) 13-6-33
			(2) 21-5-34		(2) 21-5-34
			(3) 21-9-33		(3) 21-9-33
			(4) 1-4-33		(4) 1-4-33
(5) 1-4-33			(5) 1-4-33		
(6) 13-6-33			(6) 13-6-33		
(7) 13-6-33			(7) 13-6-33		
Finance ..	Temporary	3	(1) 1-4-34	..	(1) 1-4-34
			(2) 8-6-34		(2) 8-6-34
			(3) 8-6-34		(3) 8-6-34
Industries and Labour.	Temporary	3	(1) 25-11-32		(1) 1-7-33
			(2) 9-1-33		(2) 3-6-33
			(3) 1-8-34		(3) 1-8-34
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.	Temporary	1	7-11-33		7-11-33

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 497 asked by Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar on the 9th August, 1934.

EUROPEANS AND INDIANS SERVING IN THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

As regards the office of the High Commissioner for India, the number of officers serving in that office who are in receipt of over Rs. 300 per mensem is Europeans 250 and Indians 41.

Information promised in reply to the starred question No. 531 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 13th August, 1934.

MAIL BAG DESTINED FOR CALCUTTA MISSED BETWEEN SIMLA AND KALKA.

(a) A parcel bag for Calcutta was lost between Simla and Kalka on 7th June, 1934. The mail contractor's agent was in charge of the mails and he admits that the parcel bag in question, which was tied on the luggage carrier of the mail car, dropped accidentally somewhere between Simla and Kalka.

(b) The Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, 'D' Division, travelled in the same car from Simla to Kalka, but he was not in charge of the mails, and as such he was not called upon to give any explanation for the loss.

(c) The loss was first noticed at Kalka when the mails were being delivered by the contractor's agent to the Mail Agent, Kalka.

(d) Yes, with the Kalka Railway Police.

(e) Both Departmental and Police enquiries were set on foot at once. The Government Railway Police have failed to trace the missing bag or the culprit; but the Patiala and Bhagat States' Police are still making enquiries.

(f) The Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab, was asked to investigate the case, but they could not take up the inquiry as the loss apparently did not occur in British Territory.

(g) Everything possible is being done.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 678 asked by Mr. S. G. Jog on the 20th August, 1934.

REGULATION RELATING TO THE TRAINING RESERVE OF THE INDIAN WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

(a) No.

(b) There are no members of the Training Reserve of non-Asiatic domicile.

(c) Since the formation of the Training Reserve in 1924, 32 members have been admitted to it, eleven of whom were deputed for post-graduate study abroad.

Information promised in reply to part (d) of starred question No. 817 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 22nd August, 1934.

TRANSFER OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FROM PUSA TO DELHI.

(d) The remissions were granted owing to the exceptional damage caused to the crops by an almost unprecedented monsoon. An aeroplane reconnaissance over the whole flooded area and not particularly over this locality was carried out by the Assistant Superintendent of Police.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume consideration of the following motion :

" That the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1931-32 and 1932-33, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration, and that the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the Locomotive Running Shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway."

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has moved for consideration of the report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1931-32 and 1932-33 and with it, he has further added that an expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32, for additions and alterations to the Locomotive Running Shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on the installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway, be approved. The latter portion is merely, more or less, a formal motion for granting surplus grants for what the Public Accounts Committee styled as " new services " and for which a formal vote of the House is required. So, I

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need not say anything about the latter portion, because I know the House should accept that part of the motion without any discussion.

As regards the first portion of the report, it will be evident to Honourable Members that the Public Accounts Committee dealt with the reports of accounts that were closed 18 months before. So generally the work of the Public Accounts Committee is considered as a *post mortem* examination. But, unfortunately, for the last two years, we find that even in this *post mortem* examination we have had to deal with the accounts of a year still older. For example, this year we are dealing with the accounts also of 1931-32, and, last year, we similarly dealt with the accounts even a year older than the usual 18 months. I hope the new Finance Member will see to an improvement of the position as regards discussion in this House, and, in future, there will be no necessity of dealing with the discussion of the Public Accounts Committee report for a period earlier than is absolutely necessary, that is, I mean the accounts that were closed 18 months before and not still earlier. I shall now first deal with the second part of the accounts that deal with railways, because though I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee I had no opportunity to go through the railway appropriation accounts this year. I should like to draw the attention of the Financial Commissioner to the remarks that we passed on page 5 of the report for 1931-32 and I shall be glad to hear how far these matters have advanced. The Financial Commissioner explained that the Railway Department were endeavouring to come to some agreement with the Army Department and to get a memorandum circulated to the members of the committee as soon as possible. I am afraid, these accounts are lying for settlement for a number of years; and, year after year, the Public Accounts Committee was drawing the attention of the Railway Authorities to come to some settlement with the Army Department. I hope that the Financial Commissioner will be in a position to tell us how far this had advanced by this time. I shall also be glad to hear about the settlement that they have come to, as regards the apportionment of joint station expenses. That was also a matter pending for a long time. Another item is about the allocation of expenditure to capital, depreciation fund and revenue. I find that the matter is still under discussion because it is also reported in the next year's Public Accounts Committee report. I should like to hear from the Railway Authority what decisions they have come to, as regards this allocation to depreciation fund and to capital. As regards this allocation, I find, that even in the earlier report that the Auditor General explained that the problems involved were exceedingly difficult, and what Sir Ernest Burdon feared was that if they were postponed further, the decision might have to be taken hurriedly in connection with the drafting of the Bill relating to the Statutory Railway Board. He, therefore, suggested that the matter should be expedited. So the importance of expediting the matter in 1931-32 was very keenly felt and I shall be glad to hear from the Financial Commissioner the results they have arrived at. Before dealing with the report for the current year on Railways I should like to understand one position. It seems to me very anomalous that the Controller of Railway Accounts is usually promoted to the position of the Director of Railway Audit and when the officiating period is over he reverts to his former position. What happens, as it perhaps happened this year, is, the same gentleman who is passing the accounts as Controller

of Railway Accounts had to report on his own work as the Director of Railway Audit. I shall be obliged to the Financial Commissioner if he could give us any statistics for the last three or four years as to on how many occasions the Controller of Railway Accounts was promoted temporarily as Director of Railway Audit and then he had to come back and on how many occasions the Director of Railway Audit had to criticise his own action. I find this year the Public Accounts Committee have come to a decision and they have recommended that in future the practice of placing the summary of the financial results of the current year, that we in former years wanted the Financial Commissioner of Railways to place before the Committee, should be discontinued. This is what they say :

“ In this connection the Auditor General raised the question whether the summary of the financial results and the provisional balance-sheets of collectives of the succeeding year, prepared by the Financial Commissioner for presentation to the Committee, might not be discontinued as they had fulfilled the purpose for which they were originally demanded.”

Sir, it was after much discussion that the previous Public Accounts Committee came to the conclusion that as the accounts that the Public Accounts Committee were dealing were 18 months old, it was desirable that the Financial Commissioner of Railways should be asked to give us a summary of the financial results of the current year of the Railways, and the Railway Authorities were pleased to accept that suggestion. I do not see any reason why the Public Accounts Committee this year has gone back on their former recommendation and think that the purpose has been fulfilled. A very useful purpose is really served if we can get a general impression of the current financial condition of the Railways, and, I think, the House will agree with me that it is desirable that the Public Accounts Committee as well as this House should get a general conception of the financial position of the Indian Railways of the current year from the Financial Commissioner. If there is no difficulty,—and, I think there is none, because it was supplied the year before,—I think the Railway Authorities should continue to supply this information for the benefit of the Public Accounts Committee as well as of the Members of this House.

Now, Sir, I should like to deal with the general accounts of the Civil, Military and the Posts and Telegraphs Departments. As regards the Military Accounts Committee, I should like once again to draw the attention of this House to the manner in which the military authorities are very tardy in spending the amount that is allotted to them for expenditure for the Territorial Forces. It is not even a military grant. These ten lakhs were set apart every year from the Civil grant. Though the military authorities can spend 47 and odd crores each year in the visible way, and also incur invisible expenditure, to use the language of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, yet, not only for this year under comment, but for the few years preceding it, they were always spending only two or three lakhs out of these ten lakhs that were allotted for expenditure for the Territorial Forces in India. Sir, it is no argument to say that they cannot get sufficient recruits in the University Corps or other urban units. If they cannot get sufficient men they should realise that there is something wrong in the very procedure of recruitment. They cannot spend for the whole of British India, in the University forces and urban units, a small amount of ten lakhs annually, for all these years. Their attention has been drawn for the last two years, at least, in the Military Accounts Committee, and, I think, the

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Army Secretary owes it to this House to explain why this small amount of ten lakhs cannot be spent for the military training of the educated classes in India.

Sir, last year I criticised the budgeting of the Postal Department. I am very glad to notice that the Public Accounts Committee, as well as the Auditor General, appreciate the great improvement that has been effected in the budgeting of the Postal Department and we expect that in the near future we will have a balanced budget.

One other matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is about the large surplus stock of quinine. For the last five years at least, we, in the Public Accounts Committee, have drawn the attention of the Department of Education, Health and Lands to the large stock which is valued at about Rs. 52,22,681 as appears from the appropriation accounts of the year 1932-33. We stressed the point that health is a transferred provincial subject and the Government of India is not called upon to keep in its stores such a huge stock for all these years. Our expert in the Public Accounts Committee, Lieut.-Colonel Gidney, was of the opinion that this quinine will be of no use after a few years, though I know the Government expert differed from him in this view. But, in any case, this large stock which was valued at 52 lakhs would have brought an interest of about eight or nine lakhs to the Central treasury during these six or seven years. I find in this year's report the following :

"The Public Accounts Committee was informed that out of the surplus of 130,000 lbs., lbs. 20,000 have been manufactured into the form of trade quinine, and of the latter, lbs. 4,000 have actually been sold. The department was also at present conducting certain negotiations with the representative of the Kina Bureau for the sale of the surplus. The Committee hoped that the department would be able to report considerable reduction in the surplus stock next year."

I shall be very glad if the Secretary to the Department of Education, Health and Lands can give us some information as to what has come out of these negotiations with the Kina Bureau ; and if these have failed, there is no reason why this large stock should not be disposed of in the open market, because quinine being an article which has an international market, we may lose a few rupees but there is no necessity for stocking this huge amount now for the last eight or ten years.

Lastly, I would like to make a few remarks about a statement that has now been circulated. It was not distributed to the Public Accounts Committee ; but, in that Committee, for the last few years, we were deferring the consideration of some very important points to be referred to the Joint Select Committee that is sitting in England : we merely prepared an appendix and settled that as it was the decision of the Public Accounts Committee to place all the items of the said appendix before the committee in England, who are framing the Constitution ; but I find that, all of a sudden, we have been supplied with the appendix and some decisions of the Government of India thereon, which, as we understood, were going to be placed before the constitution-making committee. I would now like to discuss some of the points raised there as I find that the Government has come to a decision.

Item 3 of the new statement, the question of allowing the Auditor General to have direct access to the Secretary of State, should be considered. This is a very old question pending before the Public Accounts Committee—

I think from its very inception—as to what should be the position of the Auditor General *vis-a-vis* the Government of India. The Public Accounts Committee held, as it is the practice in England, that the position of the Auditor General should be completely independent of the Government of India, and, where there is a strong difference of opinion between the Government of India and the Auditor General he should be given plenary powers to communicate direct with the Secretary of State. As we conceive the constitutional position, and as we find it provided in the Government of India Act itself, the holder of the position of Auditor General should not occupy any Government post after his retirement : we thought that it was absolutely necessary for the purity and independence of audit that this position should be completely unassailable. Not speaking of individuals—I think even the occupation by the Auditor General, after his retirement of a position in the Indian States that are under the direct control of the Political Department of the Government of India, is a infringement of that rule. I do not like to discuss in any way personal matters, and as a matter of fact I have got a high regard for the gentlemen who have occupied that high position. But I still urge and appeal to Government also to see that the occupant of that great position should not even indirectly be holding any office which is even indirectly under the control of the Government of India. That is a question by the way. But the main point that we wanted to raise was that there should be a decision by the committee now framing the constitution in England as to what should be the position of the Auditor General. I find in the reply it is said here :

“The question has been considered. The Auditor General is fully satisfied with the present position under which his comments on the accounts of the year are forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Government of India in the Finance Department. This question, which is of insignificant importance even now, will be of still importance under the new constitution.”

I am afraid that there has been a complete misconception of the attitude of the Public Accounts Committee on this question. What the Public Accounts Committee wanted, was to make the Auditor General completely independent of any control of the Government of India. It is not the question whether a particular Auditor General, who is occupying this position, may be very happy in agreeing that he is satisfied with his position. It is a constitutional matter that we wanted the Joint Parliamentary Committee should seriously consider, whether they should not safeguard the position of the Auditor General in India, making him completely independent of all influence. So, I appeal to the House seriously to consider this constitutional position of the Auditor General and whether it should not be referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee or others who are making the Constitution for India, and not allow it to be decided here by the Government of India who are certainly interested in this affair, and thinks that this is an “insignificant matter and will be of still less significance in future”.

Then there is Item No. 7 which we wanted to be similarly considered—that it should be a convention that an opportunity should be given to the Public Accounts Committee or the Legislative Assembly to express their views before the Governor General declares as non-votable an item of expenditure which has been votable. It was our experience in the Public Accounts Committee to find that a particular item, that we had always considered as votable, was all of a sudden styled as non-votable ; and, when questioned we were told that the Governor General by his powers had declared it as a non-votable item. As that is the constitutional position we

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did not quarrel with it ; but what the Committee suggested was that before the Governor General, on the advice of the Finance Department, declared a votable item as non-votable, the Committee should be offered a chance to have their say on it. The reply given is :

“ This is a matter to be settled by the Governor General in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act, and not one in which advice can be given. The Auditor General now brings to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee any case in which the classification is changed from voted to non-voted.”

Here also I urge that the purpose of the Committee was to put these matters before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in England and that is why it was put in this appendix : we know the legal position that the Auditor General in his comments will tell us that this has been changed from voted to non-voted : we know that : and, further, we did not want to encroach upon the rights of the Government of India, but to get a chance to place our views, before a votable item is declared as non-votable. Here also, I think, there has been misconception and here was no necessity for the Government to decide this matter themselves. What we wanted was that this should be placed before the committee in England.

Then, there is item No. 10—that the Government of India should consider the question of charging to the Army estimates the expenditure on account of the free supply of residences and furniture to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The reply is :

“ The question has been considered, but the Government of India see no reason for establishing a different position for the residences, *etc.*, of the Army Member from that in vogue for the residences, *etc.*, of other Members of Council.”

No one disputed that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is a Member of the Executive Council of the Government of India. Because, for the army, we have a fixed grant, so we wanted that every expenditure that really pertains to the military side should be put under that heading, so that every man can realise what are the actual military expenses of the Government of India. We do not question whether this furniture should be supplied gratis or for consideration. Those are not the issues that were raised by the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee wanted to have a pure military budget which is for the last few years a contract budget, and they wanted to debit all the items which were really expenditure on the army side to the military budget, and I do not see any reason why the Government should say that because the Commander-in-Chief happens to be a Member of the Council of State or an Ordinary or Extraordinary Member of the Government of India, the expenditure incurred on furniture and other things for him should be debited to the civil grant. Item No. 14 is :

“ That cases like the one in which His Majesty's Government refused to pay a moiety of the cost of certain Diplomatic and Consular establishments in Persia, the Government of India should press for a reference to an independent tribunal.”

Action taken or proposed to be taken is, “ This will be done, when, as in the Capitation case, circumstances render it desirable ”. We shall be glad to hear what are the circumstances which will be considered as desirable when an attempt should be made to relieve the Indian Exchequer to the extent of half of the expenses on the Persian Consular Service. There are some other matters also, but we have very little time today, because we

have given our word to finish these two items, this and Pusa supplementary grant today. I hope that Government will give some explanation of the questions that I have raised on this occasion.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, it has often been observed that the Public Accounts Committee performs a *post-mortem* examination, but, in spite of that joke against the Public Accounts Committee, I have found that if anywhere a Committee of this Legislature or this House through a Committee exercises any control over the public finances in India it is the Public Accounts Committee. I am glad to note that the Auditor General in his letter to the Finance Secretary has summarised thus :

“ On the experience which I now possess I feel justified in expressing the opinion that the Public Accounts Committee in general exercises an increasingly effective and salutary influence on the administration of public finance.”

He then refers to some other point on which I hope the Finance Department will take action :

“ I feel, however, that it is unfortunate that the appropriation accounts and the Auditors' reports on the accounts cannot be published earlier than the present state of the law allows. It has been held that those documents are not privileged parliamentary papers until they have been incorporated in the Proceedings of the respective Legislatures, and this requirement necessarily involves delay which in its turn tends to weaken public interest in the documents when finally released. It will be generally agreed, I think, that it is a desirable aim to encourage the study of Government accounts and finance by public opinion outside as well as within the Legislatures ; and I trust that it may be found possible at some future time to improve the present facilities for such study in the practical direction which I have ventured to suggest.”

I suggest that the Government should release to the public the reports of the Directors of Audits of the different departments and also of the Chief Accounts Offices so that a certain amount of public criticism and public education may be carried on in regard to these reports. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, has already alluded to the Special Appendix of 20 points which have been left over till the new Constitution materialises. He has referred to a few of them, and I will refer to one or two other salient points which require the attention of the country, and which, I hope, the Government of India will settle before the new Constitution comes into operation. At the present time, the Home Auditor is not under the Auditor General of India, and we should very much like that he should work under the Auditor General of India. As regards this item No. 4, the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted and the views of the Government of India have been placed before the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State and the High Commissioner in London manage the finances of India and the Secretary of State's own salary comes from the British Treasury. So, the money that is provided by India should be audited by an auditor who must be controlled by the Auditor General of India. Again, we are very anxious that the Government of India should consider the question of the allocation of ecclesiastical expenditure between the Civil and the Army departments. The remark is that the matter is still under consideration. We understand from the White Paper that there will be a Counsellor to look after the Ecclesiastical department, but whatever that may be, the Government of India should distribute the expenditure so that one may know what is the proper army expenditure on that account.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Most of the Rs. 31 lakhs should be in the Army Budget.

Mr. B. Das : My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, reminds me that most of it goes to the Army, because the Civil Servants of the Government of India have very little time to attend to the religious nursing of the missionaries. Another point is, we pay Rs. 25 lakhs as a gift to the Nizam's State because Berar is part of British India, and the remark is, "No such action is possible". What the Public Accounts Committee suggested was,—not that this Rs. 25 lakhs should not be paid to the Nizam's State, but that it should come from the revenues of the Berar Government and not from the revenues of the Central Government. I still urge on the Finance Member to consider why there should be a subvention of Rs. 25 lakhs to the Province of Central Provinces and Berar, and why the general taxpayer should bear this burden and not Berar which is in affluent circumstances ?

I will now discuss certain questions affecting the Finance Department because it is the Finance Department that controls the public finance of India. With due respect, I would first comment on certain actions of the Finance Department. I wanted again to bring to the notice of the House the question of the debt position which we have often raised on the floor of this House and also before the Public Accounts Committee. But, I found that a good debate took place in the other House the other day and I had an opportunity to read the speech of the Finance Member in the Press reports. So, I leave it at that till the next Budget Session comes, when I will raise it again, if I come back. I am not satisfied with all the white washing that my Honourable friend has given that the state of the public finances of India is glorious and that the loan position is very satisfactory. I will only refer to the unsatisfactory result on the financial position of the Government of India of the way in which Provincial Governments mismanage their loans. It seems that the Government of Bombay and the Government of the Punjab are the greatest defaulters. They have taken heavy loans in the past, and, in the past, the Government of India had no machinery to control these capital projects before they sanctioned or incurred such loans. We know those white elephants in the Bombay Presidency—the Bombay Development Scheme is one and the Sukkur Barrage Scheme is another, the heirloom which India has got, rather as a legacy, from Lord Lloyd whose name is perpetuated in that scheme, Lloyd Barrage Scheme. We had a discussion, and the House agreed, though I opposed it, to a free gift of Rs. 1,57,000. I do not mind giving any gifts to the Provinces. We are giving to earthquake-stricken Bihar a gift of 1½ crores and we are making a present of a similar sum in half the jute tax to Bengal. I do not mind giving a present of ten lakhs to the Bombay Government but I do not like to take the moral responsibility of managing a project, which many of us publicly believe, will never be a successful project. The time will come when irresponsible Provincial Governments will try to repudiate their loans and in fact the Government of Bombay have gone to the length of saying : "We want to repudiate the Sukkur Barrage Scheme". My friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, was then the Revenue Member and Mr. Jadhav, a Minister, and the scheme which was expected to cost four crores has mounted up to 25 crores and the interest is piling up and nobody knows where the

interest will come from. I do not like the Provincial Governments to try to repudiate their loan, because, I think, the Bombay Development Scheme will never succeed. The Dredgers, called after Lord Lloyd and Sir Lawless Hepper, have been sold for a song. Then we know the difficulties of the Punjab Government. The Punjab Government in their post-war madness launched into similar schemes such as the Sutlej Valley Scheme. Take the State of Bahawalpur. It has an income of 60 to 80 lakhs. It was at first committed to an expenditure of two crores and we know that the State today has now incurred a debt of 12½ crores. We do not know how the Government of India will get interest from this particular State. The Government of India recently appointed a committee and the report of that committee has not been placed before this House or before the Public Accounts Committee, I am referring to the inquiry over the debt position of the Bahawalpur State. If the Government of India decide to give any relief in interest or capital advanced to the Bahawalpur State, then the irresponsible Government of the Punjab will come forward and say "we cannot pay" our portion of the debt on the Sutlej Valley Scheme and the Government of India should give us relief. So I warn the Government. This is a thing which we have discussed for the last five or six years. We have discussed it every year in the Public Accounts Committee and we have warned them that in future they should not give any loan to the Provincial Governments without examining whether the projects will pay. It should be made clear that whenever Provincial Governments take a loan, it should be a first charge on their revenues. The Bombay Government has indirectly repudiated their obligation. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, may object to the word "repudiation", but when one reads their statement, it boils down to that and I warn the Government that they are heading towards a precipice. The Provincial Governments will revolt against them and in the new Constitution they must tie down the Provincial Governments that whatever loans they incur, they will be a first charge on their revenue. Otherwise, Provincial Governments like Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, which have been very economical and never borrowed money from the Government of India, will have to go by default and the Central revenues will pay the subventions for the extravagance of extravagant Provinces like the Punjab and Bombay.

The next question I wish to refer to is the question of the Provincial balances. The Auditor General for the last five or six years has been bringing this point before the Public Accounts Committee and there are certain Provinces, such as Burma, which draws permanently to the extent of two crores of rupees. In the year under review, the Bengal Government came up next. They borrowed something in the neighbourhood of a crore for so many months, and, in fact, some of the other Provincial Governments have also drawn on the Provincial balances, but, unfortunately, as the Constitution stands today, these Provincial Governments do not pay any interest to the Central Government, and yet the Central Government have been borrowing money to allow these overdrafts to the Provincial Governments, and, therefore, I was glad to find in item 30 of the special memorandum that it is proposed under the new Constitution that Provinces should be required to pay interest on overdrafts. This is a very welcome attitude on the part of the Government, but still, I always view with alarm the way

[Mr. B. Das.]

in which the Provinces spend money derived from Central Government monies without taking steps to realise their money and this applies particularly to Burma.

I will leave the Finance Department there and I will now come to the thorny question regarding the retrenchment of staff in the London Stores Department which works under the High Commissioner and which is a part of the Indian Stores Department in India. Sir, I do not like to remind the House that the Lalji Narainji Stores Purchase Committee is the foundation of this Indian Stores Department which is at present working so successfully and so well under the administrative head of Sir James Pitkeathly and under the direct guidance of my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce. I had the honour and the privilege of being a member of that Stores Retrenchment Committee and I had the privilege to go into its administrative details and although I was opposed to the Indian Stores Department till two years ago and wanted the Department to be abolished, because it was not completely Indianised, or it cannot purchase completely the stores for the Railways and the Army, I came to the conclusion that the department should be continued, but the fly in the ointment is the London Stores Department which still continues in its hectic career. When the Public Accounts Committee insisted on the Government of India to write to the High Commissioner to retrench their staff, we were told that only six lakhs of rupees were reduced by the High Commissioner and the High Commissioner was very apologetic over that and I was surprised to see that he was so very apologetic. Here is the report of the London Stores Department. Today, the total value of the stores purchase was £955,684 which is £773,031 less than the figure of the preceding years. That means that it does not purchase more than a million pounds or 140 lakhs of rupees at present and it has gone down by almost another million pounds. Then it says :

“The actual expenditure on stores and freight amounted to £1,347,391—a decrease of £1,668,979 from the last year's figures.”

That means that the Department is almost reduced to half its work, and rightly so, because the Government of India have at last conceded and have introduced the principle of calling for rupee tenders ; so, the venue of purchases has been transferred today from London to India. I shall refer first to Appendix B, page 13, which is very interesting. There the Controller of Stores, London, has analysed the position and from the year 1932-33, of this £900,000 worth of orders, purchased through the High Commissioner, the value of stores purchases, which is divided according to the countries of origin, is £497,575 worth. Then there is a foot-note :

“These figures do not include stores obtained through Departments of His Majesty's Government.”

That means that the balance of £400,000 worth of articles has been purchased through His Majesty's Government. Probably those were orders of the Army Department and they had to be purchased through the Admiralty and the War Office. That means, the Department is only buying half a million worth of things, whereas it used to buy in 1929-30— I am not including the orders purchased through the War Office and

Admiralty—£5 million, in 1930-31, £2.7 million and in 1931-32, £1.32. Then I was surprised to find there is a comment here in paragraph 15 :

“ The gross total cost for 1932-33 is £169,973. This is £32,826 less than the previous year.”

But this £170,000 nearly comes to about 24 lakhs of rupees, while our Indian Stores Department handles business of Rs. 3½ crores per annum. Unfortunately the economic depression has reduced this expenditure. If you exclude the Alipore Test House, which is today a non-commercial organization doing test work for the Government and the public and where the expenditure is Rs. 4,65,000, the commercial account costs Rs. 17,79,765, that is, about Rs. 18 lakhs, whereas in India—and I congratulate the Honourable Member's Department for doing so much business so economically—are spending Rs. 18 lakhs to handle a business of Rs. 3½ crores, both inspection and purchase. In London, the London Stores Department is pursuing a hectic career and spending nearly Rs. 24 lakhs, and the High Commissioner, who was a former Member for Industries and Labour in this House and who knew the wish of the people and of the Government of India that the stores purchase of the Government of India should be centralized through Sir James Pitkeathly's Department, has taken no steps in that direction. Sir, my concrete suggestion is—reduce the staff according to the quantity purchased, and if the latter is only half a million sterling, the total expenditure should not be more than Rs. ten lakhs, and then bring the Department of the Controller of Stores in London under the Control of the Chief Controller of Stores in India.

Sir, I wish just to touch one more point which has been referred to—it is the large consulting fee we pay to the British engineers. Of course, I recognize that this has been reduced, but, knowing that there is the Chief Controller of Stores and his Department, and that the Railways are manufacturing locomotives, designing locomotives and that they have taken over much of the work, I say there is no necessity of paying such heavy sums amounting to £23,000 to the Consulting engineers ; and I want that the Indian Consulting Engineers should be encouraged. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, I come to the next question which concerns the Army Secretary. Now we cannot touch the Army Secretary, and the Army has been on our heads for the last five days (Laughter) but, one thing I will say that in the Military Accounts Committee we found there was an honest and genuine desire on the part of the Quartermaster General, the Engineer-in-Chief, and the Financial Adviser, to reduce the expenditure as far as they could, but unfortunately His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief decided upon a stabilised Budget and demanded Rs. ten crores from the Finance Member, and a note has been produced before the Public Accounts Committee saying that although prices have gone down, the cost of the total mechanization will be Rs. 9.75 crores, and the only reduction that the Army Department has made is one of Rs. 25 lakhs ; and of course they have pointed out in one place that they have already spent Rs. 7½ crores of that sum. But the point that arises to my mind is whether the mechanization is not yet completed and whether they cannot further reduce the army expenditure in India.

[Mr. B. Das.]

Sir, when we were discussing the Capitation Tribunal Report on the floor of the House, the former Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, in his happy and concealed phrases, gave us to understand that India had gained a great advantage, that there was a windfall in the Budget of Rs. two crores which India has profited by. Sir, the Home Auditor, to whom I referred a few minutes ago, and who is not a servant of the Government of India though he draws his salary from us, has commented on this and reported on it to the Public Accounts Committee in a way which rather alarmed me very much. It seems the net result is that whatever Britain demands in the matter of the capitation charges, that is counterbalanced by this so-called Imperial contribution to India. As this document is not a published document and it will not find publication, I may read out a few particular sentences. Sir, the Home Auditor says this :

“ On the basis of the Tribunal's Report the following comprehensive settlement between the Imperial and Indian Governments has been negotiated and duly approved :

(1) The majority recommendations of the Tribunal to be accepted.

(2) With effect from 1st April, 1933, an annual contribution of £1,500,000 to be made from Imperial revenues towards the cost of India's defence expenditure ; this contribution to include the Sea Transport Subsidy of £130,000 a year, previously payable by the War Office, and to be shown as a Grant-in-Aid in the India Office vote.”

Sir, these are very high-sounding words, but when we heard Sir George Schuster, his were much more high-sounding words :

“ (3) With effect from the same date India's payments to the War Office and Air Ministry on account of the respective effective capitation rates to be calculated in accordance with the recommendations of the Tribunal.”

And we know for nine months—not for six months as the representatives of the Government of India demanded :

“ (4) All arrears, as between the India Office and the respective Imperial Departments, connected with these matters up to 1st April, 1933, to be cancelled.”

Sir, I may remind the House that there was some demand of the Government of India left over for expenses carried on during the war and post-war period for the British Government, and everything had been wiped out now by this :

“ The India Office and War Office to co-operate in submitting for consideration by the Committee of Imperial Defence the military question whether a reserve should be specifically maintained in England for India.”

Sir, I am alarmed at this. If they maintain a reserve, they will
1 P.M. again ask the Honourable the Finance Member to budget for it. Now, the next paragraph is very interesting. It says :

“ The net result of the settlement is highly beneficial to Indian revenues in that the contribution from the Imperial Government will approximately balance the estimated annual cost of the Effective Capitation Charges payable to the War Office and the Air Ministry after these charges have been recalculated on the basis recommended by the Tribunal.”

Sir, the net result is zero. I had a philosopher friend of mine in the Bombay Presidency and when I used to talk to him he used to say : “ Everything results in zero ”. So all the expenditure that we have incurred in sending people like Sir Shadi Lal, Sir Muhammad Sulaiman, Mr. Macleod and others, has resulted in zero and the Army Council and the British War Office still want their pound of flesh. They still demand

the capitation charge and why should India pay this charge? Morally, I do not think we are justified in paying the capitation charge as the British army is the army of occupation in India. Sir, the demand that we should get relief from the British Government for the huge army that we maintain in India to help the British Empire in their policy of conquest in the Eastern World has not received any satisfaction and the Imperial Government is not going to pay us a pie. The Finance Member will have to carry on his chequered career without balancing his Budget, because this load of Rs. 44 crores as cost of defence will never allow him to give relief to the Provinces when they get autonomous form of Government or even when the Federal Government comes, if it comes at all.

The next point that I would like to touch is the highest spending department, namely, the Railways.

Mr. P. R. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways) : And earning—I would ask my Honourable friend not to forget that.

Mr. B. Das : My Honourable friend, Mr. Rau, is earning, and I was glad to notice his excellent review of the appropriation accounts of the railways in India. He says :

“ We are fortunately in a position to characterise the year 1930-31 as the year which saw the *nadir* of the fortunes of the Indian Railways.”

I congratulate him that he has at least issued a report with high hopes. I only wish that the Honourable the Finance Member, when he brings out his Budget, also makes a similar forecast as the Honourable the Financial Commissioner for Railways did.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : My predecessor did that.

Mr. B. Das : Yes, that was in my mind when I was referring to it. Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, has already pointed out, and I, being an old stager in public accounts and being for nine years on the Public Accounts Committee, must point out that it took us six years to impress upon the Railway Management that there should be some report by the Financial Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner for Railways reviewing the financial results of the Indian Railways. Sir, unfortunately I was over-ruled in the Committee which was referred to just now, and there will be no such reports from the Agents of Railways or even from the Chief Commissioner for Railways. Sir, the very fact that the Public Accounts Committee compelled the Agents of Railways to put their signatures has aroused resentment, but the Public Accounts Committee held them responsible for the administration of the Railways and the financial results have been made broadcast. That is a public gain. I do not know whether we will be able to get these results of Indian railways next year because we find the signatures only of the Chief Commissioner for Railways. Of course, I know that he has assured the Public Accounts Committee that these figures will be always made available to them and also to the House. I know the Financial Commissioner is a big financier and he can carry any figures in his head, but these documents will not be available to us and he will give us only a portion of it from which we will be able to know the result of the succeeding year. Sir, there was a time when the heads of the departments never used to appear before the Public Accounts Committee, but for the last three or four years they do come before the Committee and also the Chief Commissioner for

[Mr. B. Das.]

Railways has honoured us by his presence. They have all replied to our questions in a friendly spirit. Sir Guthrie Russell was examined in detail regarding the financial results of the Railways, and at least I submitted him to a series of questions about this Pope Committee's report on Railways. Sir, you yourself were a Member of the Railway Retrenchment Committee and you recommended that there should be an expert Committee. But Government wanted a Pope to give his pontifical ruling and that Pope's report is here, but unfortunately this Mr. Pope is very touchy. He comes to India and finds that papers are discussing that a Railway Expert Committee be appointed. So, he loses his temper and writes to the Chief Commissioner :

" I see reference is still being made in the Press to the question of the appointment of an Expert Committee to examine methods of Indian Railways. I am still of the opinion that was expressed in my covering letter to the first report of the Committee under my chairmanship, that the Deputy Agents Organisations themselves are qualified to form an Expert Committee but I wish to add two provisos."

The covering letter of his first report unfortunately is not published. However, if Mr. Pope had any grouse he ought to have it either with the Chief Commissioner or with the Honourable the Railway Member. We, the representatives of the public, still believe in the recommendations of a report of a Committee of this House and now we know that Expert Committee is not going to be appointed and Mr. Pope's word is the last word in this matter. Naturally, it is the Papal ukase of Mr. Pope. So he should not have written this in a public document and I condemn this sort of attitude of the members of any committee of the Government of India. He has found fault with the recommendations of the Railway Retrenchment Committee that an Expert Committee should be appointed and says that the Press has no business to ask for it. Sir, the Press of this country voices the opinion of the public and until I read this document I was under the impression that there was going to be an Expert Committee. Anyway, Mr. Pope is of the opinion that the Department, through their Deputy Agents of Organisation, can reduce the expenditure and he has said that they can reduce the expenditure by job analysis, by intensive use of locomotives, by intensive use of workshop plants, by combining all the resources of Railways and also by amalgamating the Railways and also by limiting the stores and by reducing the rates and fares. During the little time that was available to me, I tried to seek information from the Chief Commissioner for Railways. It was pointed out that steps are being taken and some reduction will result. I was one of those few who, in 1925, after the separation of railway finance from general finance, advocated that, wherever possible, the staff of the State Railways should be amalgamated. For instance, in Calcutta, why should there be two head offices for the East Indian Railway and for the Eastern Bengal Railway ? Why should not both the offices be combined, so that all the extra expenditure, in having two audit officers and two Chief Accounts Officers and everything in double or treble, may be done away with. The other day, my Honourable friend, the Financial Commissioner, in reply to a question by Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore said, there were difficulties in the way of the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India being amalgamated. I still think they could be amalgamated. Wherever any Company-managed Railways have got an extension of their agreement with the Government of India, then they are nothing but managing agents, managing the Railway on behalf of the Government and

the capital, almost completely, belongs to the Government of India and for the people of India. So anything that will economise and reduce the expenditure should be done and the Government of India ought to address the Home Board of Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. The same remarks apply to the South Indian Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member should conclude now.

Mr. B. Das : I am sorry that I have taken a little longer time of the House than I intended, but this is one of the opportunities of acquainting the House with what knowledge is imparted to us by the various departments in the Public Accounts Committee and it is better they are kept on record on the floor of the House so that others, who come after us, may take cognizance of the same. I may not be again on the Public Accounts Committee, but I wish to assure the House that although the Public Accounts Committee does not contain those elements that used to be on it in 1926-27—in those days there was Mr. K. C. Roy, who is no more and there was Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar, and these two have been translated to the other world, there was Mr. Neogy and Mr. Joshi on the Committee and these gentlemen have contributed and established a convention by which we that succeeded them have established a stricter financial control and although we have been derided that we are doing a *post mortem* examination in the committee, yet the very fact that the Government being faced with financial depression and economic depression had to listen to our criticism and it shows the hold that the Public Accounts Committee had on the Government with the result that they exercised better financial control over their public finances. (Applause.)

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the Financial Commissioner of Railways reminded this House that the Railway Department is an earning department. It reminded me of the story of the boy who was deputed by his mother every day to earn money by begging. So he collected Rs. 2 every day, but, before he came home, he spent Rs. 2-4-0, and when his mother rebuked him, he said, "But you must remember that I am the earning member of the family. I earn Rs. 2 a day". The same is the case with my Honourable friend, Mr. P. R. Rau. Though he no doubt earns, but he forgets that he spends much more than he earns, and it is a source of great annoyance to the tax-payers of India when we find that he spends much more than he earns. I notice from the report supplied by him that last year he over-spent by about ten crores and he did not pay the dues, which he had to pay, to the general revenues, that is, one per cent. of the capital at charge. So he cannot say, until he makes two ends meet, that he is an earning member of the family known as the Government of India.

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

Sir, coming to the specific points, I will not touch on everything from A to Z, as I did last year, but I will confine my attention to a very few points which are mentioned in the two reports supplied to us. In the first place, I take this from page 7 of the first report :

“ The Director of Railway Audit also raised the question whether in view of the difficulties involved in preparing accurate balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts of individual railways such accounts should now continue to be prepared.”

I think this is now a very important and an important question. If we continue the system of having every line complete in itself, why not have a separate profit and loss account and demand the grant, not in a lump sum, but for each railway separately, so that we can have an occasion to review the working of each line. No doubt the pink books are supplied to us and we are given certain accounts, but if the demands are made separately for each particular railway, we will have an opportunity to compare the income and expenditure of each railway. Because, in the same book we find that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway does not even pay the interest charges ; it is running most uneconomically ; while the Bombay, Baroda and Central India is running economically. If the demands are made separately for each railway during the budget discussion, we will know what the position is and criticise the administration of each line separately and compare the income and expenditure of each item in each railway.

The second point mentioned here is about collieries. We find this in the report :

“ The Director of Railway Audit has brought to our notice a case in which the negotiations of an agreement about certain collieries have been pending for over 20 years.”

I know, of course, that 20 years is not a very big period for the Railways, and nothing has yet been settled. Again, we find also the following :

“ In this connection the Auditor General raised the question whether the summary of the financial results and the provisional balance-sheets of collieries of the succeeding year, prepared by the Financial Commissioner for presentation to the Committee, might not be discontinued as they had fulfilled the purpose for which they were originally demanded.”

Sir, the question of Railway collieries has been the subject of discussion for a long time and it seems desirable that there should be a separate balance-sheet for the Railway-managed and the Railway-owned collieries and the demands should be made separately in the list of demands so that we may be able to criticise these things. No doubt all the items are included in the totals given in the General Budget, but they are put in such a manner that there is no one except the Financial Commissioner himself who can understand all the details of the budget which is presented to us. But if the account of each railway is made separately we will be able to follow it.

Thirdly, there is the question of depreciation. This is also reviewed by both these committees. I remember distinctly that the Honourable Member for Railways once said that the amount debited on account of depreciation was perhaps too much. But the Railway Accounts Committee did not discuss the question, whether it was too much or too little, sufficient or insufficient, but they said that there were no rules by which we can find

out whether a particular item does or does not come within the purview of the depreciation fund. I think the rules should be framed and we should know definitely whether a particular item can or cannot come within the purview of this expenditure. And, I think the time has now come when we ought to take cognisance of the facts and determine exactly the amount of depreciation which we have to allow each year and define exactly the purpose of this depreciation fund. At present it is the milch-cow of the Railway Department. When there is a deficit, they fall back on the depreciation fund as if it is there always to be drawn from. In the book, they, of course, say that it is a kind of loan on which they pay interest. But I think it is not the intention of the depreciation fund that it should be given as a loan, and to the very same department for which it is created. It was really created with the object of meeting emergencies, and if it is spent in ordinary expenditure, then when an emergency comes they will have no money to fall back upon.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, is not here or I would have said something about him. Perhaps I shall say that on some other occasion. But there are one or two points which he raised to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. The first point he raised was about Berar. There is no doubt that we pay 25 lakhs from the General Revenues, and he said that though we may not object to paying 25 lakhs a year, we should know where we are. I think it is very desirable that we should at least know what are the revenues and expenses of Berar, how much of the income passes to the expenses of the Central Provinces, and, after receiving the income from Berar, what are the deficits of the Central Provinces and how much we are going to contribute? In the case of the North-West Frontier Province we know that we have to pay a subsidy and we know the reasons. Here we pay a subsidy to the Central Provinces Government in an indirect form and I think it is desirable that we should know the exact particulars. We should know how much Berar contributes to the Central Provinces and how much we have to contribute to the same Government on account of Berar, and so on.

The next point he raised was about the audit and expenditure incurred in England. This is also very important that all the expenses, either by the Secretary of State or the High Commissioner for India, must come within the purview of the Auditor General in India and he should be responsible for all the expenditure incurred by the Indian Exchequer. Of course he will have to depute somebody who is responsible to the Auditor General to check the expenses. Therefore, all the expenses incurred by the Indian Exchequer in the country or outside ought to come within the purview of the Auditor General.

The next point he raised is also very important and is the question of building expenses. I notice there the Public Accounts Committee in their Report for 1932-33 also reviewed the problem. They maintain—and I think rightly—that whenever you build a house for residential purposes this house must be considered to be a paying concern. You come forward and demand these grants; you make us believe that they are paying concerns, but really they are not. Therefore, whenever we build a house and a plan is drawn up, it ought to be reckoned whether the rent actually realised will pay the interest on the capital charges. This is exceedingly important and in these calculations we very often omit the rent of the ground, with the result that to certain classes of officers, we give large compounds, because the rent of the land is not calculated, and in other cases,

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

like the poor Members of the Assembly, they get practically no grounds, because they are birds of passage and they are not there to demand this particular privilege. I think it is desirable that whenever a demand is made, we ought to be assured that this will be a paying proposition and that the ten per cent. realised from the salaries of those persons will pay the interest and repair charges.

Coming now to one or two other points of Mr. Das, I would first tell him that according to the old philosophers, if you want to know your merits and demerits, you must always consult those persons who sit close by you-- what they call *Hamnashin*. I have that privilege and so I am in a better position to say what kind of man he is. I know he has got all the virtues : we have a very high opinion of his honesty, tenacious character and stability of opinion and so on ; but he has got one very bad vice which I have no hesitation in mentioning on the floor of the House. He has got a fiancée and he is desperately fond of her and on no occasion will he stand anything being said against her. If you ask me to reveal her name, I have no hesitation in saying that her name is Orissa : he is so jealous of his fiancée, that is Orissa, that he cannot stand her remaining with either Bengal or Bihar ; he would like her to be separated and associated with neither person--Bengal or Bihar.....

Mr. B. Das : But I am married in Madras.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The last point which I would like to deal with is that about combination of Railways : this is really a big issue on which we can have a whole day's debate. I think we ought to try and combine all the Railways into one unit : perhaps we may have some difficulty about some of the Company-managed Railways ; but England solved this problem : they had at first a large number of concerns : they combined them into five units and now they are trying to combine those five units into one ; and now it is practically certain that all their communications will be combined into one large central administration, because, in these days, we cannot have different administrations and we cannot afford to pay higher overhead charges. So, not only in the case of Eastern Bengal Railway and the East Indian Railway, which we advocated more than once, but in the case of all the Railways I would advocate a combine ; but this is a point which is really very big, and in the short time at my disposal I cannot develop it. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, railways have come in as usual for a good portion of the criticism in this debate, and with your permission I shall very briefly endeavour to answer some of the criticisms that have been levelled against them. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, asked me to let him know about the exact position of the Government with regard to certain questions that were raised in the Public Accounts Committee last year. It is a pity he was not present at the meetings of the Committee this year where the same questions were asked of me and I gave a fairly full reply. The first point he raised was as regards concessions for military traffic. This question is at present under the consideration of the Government and I have been authorised by the Honourable the Railway Member to say that it is hoped that the question will be settled within a short time and probably before the next Budget is introduced.

The second point raised was with regard to the problems connected with the depreciation fund. Government fully realise that this is a matter of very great importance, but it must not be taken as purely or even mainly an accounting matter. It is a matter of great financial importance and the question is intimately connected with other questions of still greater importance, of the future financial relations between Railways and the Central Government as to how the surplus if any should be allocated between the Central Government and the Railways and so on, and I am sure, my Honourable friend will realise that these are questions which cannot be decided in a hurry. I can assure him, however, that the matter is engaging the serious attention of the Government.

The third point he raised was with regard to the discontinuance of the summary of financial results. I am unable to say why the Public Accounts Committee, to the report of which my Honourable friend is a signatory, has decided to go back on their previous recommendation. But, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, told the House, I should be quite prepared to answer any questions which the committee may wish to put as regards the results of the following year if the meetings of the committee take place in July or later.

Finally, Mr. Mitra referred to what he called the anomaly of the Director of Railway Audit being posted as officiating Controller of Railway Accounts and after a short time being reverted as Director of Railway Audit; and he asked me on how many occasions the same thing had happened? So far as I recollect, this is the only occasion on which such an arrangement has been made. This aspect of the case, I must say, was not lost sight of at that time and the appointment in question was made after full consultation and with the full approval of the Auditor General. It will be clear to the House that in the present situation, when most of the senior posts in the Railway Accounts Service are being filled by officers borrowed from the Audit Department, it is impossible to avoid such occurrences; and, in the second place, there is in some respects a definite advantage in the officers responsible for audit having an intimate and detailed knowledge of the accounts and having opportunities of coming in closer contact with the accounts than would otherwise be the case if they were always in the Audit Department.

Sir, I have been authorised by the Auditor General to say, and I may add, as a member of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, it gives me great pleasure to convey it to this House—I have been authorised by the Auditor General to say that in his opinion the officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and of the Indian Audit Department can be fully trusted to maintain an attitude of independence in whatever position they are placed.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : This claim is made for every service !

Mr. P. R. Rau : The next speaker who took part in the debate, was Mr. B. Das, and I was agreeably disappointed in his reference to Railways. He usually roars like a lion, but today he cooed as gently as a sucking dove. The only faults he could find with the administration of the Railways were two, one was an attack on his own colleagues of the Public Accounts Committee for certain recommendations which they made, and the other was an attack on Mr. Pope for venturing to express an opinion about the necessity or otherwise of an expert committee. I need not dwell

[Mr. P. R. Rau.]

on the first point at all. On the second, I do not think Mr. Pope meant any sort of disrespect to public opinion, whether expressed in this House or elsewhere, and least of all, to the Committee over which you, Sir, so ably presided, when he expressed his opinion that, after having gone, as far as possible in the limited time at his disposal, over the economies already achieved by the railways, the most important thing was to concentrate on what might, at first sight, be considered minor points of detail rather than have a full dress expert enquiry into questions of policy. At his suggestion the Railway Department placed certain officers on special duty in most of the Railways, and the results of this job analysis, as it has been called, have been fully summarised in a report which I placed recently before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, copies of which are contained in their proceedings. Briefly, I may say that on five Railways,—from State-managed Railways, excluding the Burma Railways, and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway,—it has been reported that, in 1933-34, these investigations into minor details resulted in a saving of about Rs. 30 lakhs per annum.

Finally, I come to my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, who claimed that the Railways cannot be termed an earning Department. In this connection I would like to read a short extract from the volume entitled "Results of Working of Indian Railways for 1933-34" which was recently published.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What is the book ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : "Results of Working of Indian Railways". It was prepared by Sir Guthrie Russell and myself. Here we said :

"The year 1933-34 marks the end of the first decade since the separation of the Railway Budget from the General Budget of the Government of India, and it is convenient to consider the results of the decade as a whole. Of the ten years, the first six were prosperous years and the next four the reverse, but, on the whole, the net result of working of the State-owned Railways in India during these years was a surplus of 20 crores and an accumulated balance in the Depreciation Fund of 32 crores."

I am sure that no railways in the world have, in the period mentioned, produced such results as these. Secondly, if my Honourable friend had calculated the profits of Railways, as he wanted this House to do in the case of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, profits expressed, not as a ratio of the capital at charge, but as a ratio of operating expenses, he will find that our profits are usually 50 per cent. of the operating expenses. (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What about the interest charges ? That is really the most important point. You have forgotten that.

Mr. P. R. Rau : My Honourable friend forgot interest charges when he was talking about the Tata Iron and Steel Company. (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : You can only say you are running most economically, but you cannot say you are running profitably.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : He is following the Honourable Member's line ! (Laughter.)

Mr. P. R. Rau : Finally, my Honourable friend referred to the absence of profit and loss accounts of individual railways, separate

balance sheets of collieries, and definite rules about depreciation fund. I spend a good deal of time preparing a number of memoranda for various committees of this Legislature and for this Legislature itself, and I usually take special precautions to send a copy of these publications, particularly to my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad. Sir, one can take a horse to the water, but one cannot make him drink. (Laughter.) I think my Honourable friend's speech today shows conclusively that he has not done me the honour of reading any of the reports that have been placed before him for the last two or three years.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : You can examine me on any page and I will answer !

Mr. P. R. Rau : Profit and loss accounts of individual railways and separate balance sheets for collieries have been circulated to members of the Public Accounts Committee and they have been in the Library of the House for the last three or four years, and the rules about the depreciation fund were promulgated about ten years ago.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What I said was that there ought to be a separate demand in the budget for collieries. No doubt the accounts are there, but no separate demand is asked for them, but there ought to be a separate demand for it in the budget.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I hope that my Honourable friend will do us the honour of reading the memoranda placed before him more carefully in the future. Finally, there is the question of combination of Railways in one administration. This is a recommendation which my Honourable friend has been fond of making in this House and outside. He wants the whole of the Railways in India to be administered by one Railway Administration with a 100 divisional superintendents, or was it 25, I am not sure !

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : 32.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not know why my Honourable friend particularly likes that figure 32 except that it is the fifth power of two. He apparently wants either two to be raised to the power of five or five raised to the power of two. But I think the House will agree with me that it is bound to be a top-heavy administration if one administration at Delhi or anywhere else in India were to control in detail the administration of a number of railways of over 40,000 miles in length. Anyway, the question of amalgamation of adjacent lines, which has been recommended by the Pope Committee, is receiving attention of the Government, and subject to practical difficulties that I alluded to in my reply to a question a day or two ago, we hope that we shall be able to do, whatever we can, in this matter in order to obtain economy combined with efficiency. (Cheers.)

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, the Departments, in my charge, have, 3 P.M. with one small exception, escaped unscathed from the criticisms of the three very acute students of the report of the Public Accounts Committee who have spoken. Before I refer to the point raised by Mr. Das, which is the only point I am called upon to answer, I should like to say that I very much appreciate what has fallen from my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, regarding the improved position of the finances of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and hope that we shall not make too bad a showing at the end of this year. My Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das,

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

confessed that, as a result of his work on the Stores, Printing and Stationery Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee, he had been compelled to admit the excellent work which was being done by the Indian Stores Department, and he paid a tribute, which I greatly appreciate and which I am glad to have the opportunity of endorsing, to all that Sir James Pitkeathly has done as the head of that department. Well, Sir, I think we on these Benches would be almost prepared to endure the terrors of further retrenchment committees if we could secure such whole-hearted conversions from Honourable Members opposite as has been the case with Mr. Das. His conversion has been so complete that he now wants the Indian Stores Department to take on more work and to take over the work of the Stores Department in London. He has raised a difficult question which has been and still is under our consideration. My own view is that the amalgamation of the two departments is bound to come in course of time. Their recent history shows that complete fusion will probably in the end be desirable, but, in the meantime, there are difficulties and I should be failing in my duty to the House if I did not point them out. There is the difficulty arising from the position of the High Commissioner as representative and Agent of the Governor General in India. There is the difficulty arising from securing effective control of day to day operations in England, and there is always the possibility of delays in disposal of business if references back to India have to be made as they would have to be if the two Departments were amalgamated. Those are some of the difficulties which stand in the way of amalgamation, but I can assure my Honourable friend and the House generally that we shall continue with our examination of this question and see how far those difficulties can be overcome. As I have said, complete fusion is inevitable, but the time at which and the manner in which amalgamation can be effected will require most careful consideration and examination in consultation with the High Commissioner for India. My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, stressed the desirability, meanwhile, of effecting all the economies we can in the working of the Stores Department in London and I need hardly assure him that that is also a point which is engaging our careful attention. I have seen the evidence which was given before the Public Accounts Committee and I noticed a remark by my Honourable friend that it might take me ten years to make up my mind on that subject. I am not in the habit of keeping files lying for ten years. I must admit that owing to my preoccupations with the work of the Assembly this Session, the particular file about the Stores Department in England has been on my table for three weeks. I should like to point out that very considerable economies have already been effected in the expenditure on the London Stores Department. It had been reduced from £240,918 in 1930-31 to £169,973 in 1932-33—a very considerable reduction. Further economies have, I think, been effected since the end of 1932-33, but I have not the figures available. What I would like to emphasize is that one cannot judge the extent of economy which should be effected by the mere fall in the purchases made by the department. The two things do not bear an exact mathematical relation and the fact that the purchasing work of the department has fallen by half or three-fourths does not mean that the expenditure on the department can be reduced in like measure. It has other duties than complying with demands by purchasing authorities in India,—an important duty

it is true but it is certainly not the only one. It inspects stores and supplies during manufacture and before shipment from manufacturers' works in Europe. It assists purchasing authorities in India to obtain the widest possible field of competition for their orders. It acts as the agent of the purchasing authorities in India in dealing with references from tendering firms in Europe. It examines and reports, when so required, to purchasing authorities in India on tenders received from firms in Europe on which technical advice is required. It assists the High Commissioner's Education Department to obtain openings for practical training for Indian scholars and students and it arranges shipment of stores purchased in India on an *F.O.B.* European or American port basis by authorities in India. I think I have shown that the fall in the value of the purchases actually made by the London Stores Department is not a true measure of the work which is done on behalf of India by that department. Much of the work undertaken by the London Stores Department takes the form of assistance to the purchasing departments in India and is to a great extent complementary to the work done in these departments. There is no question of rivalry between the Indian Stores Department in this country and the London Stores Department. The two are complementary, and their relations, I am glad to say, are most harmonious. I can only assure my Honourable friend once more that we are keeping in very close touch with the situation in regard to the work of the Stores Department and, as that work falls, we shall do our best to secure all possible economies compatible with efficiency.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, referred to one more point, and that is the fee which is paid to the Consulting Engineers in England. He did not say very much about it as he knew that it has recently been reduced. From 1925 to 1928 it was £7,000. This is, of course, apart from the actual cost of inspections carried out by the Consulting Engineers, but the fee paid to the partners in the years 1925-28 was £7,000. In the years 1929-32, it was £7,800, from 1932-33, it was £7,020, in 1933-34 it was £7,000 and from this year for two years it has been reduced to £6,000. We have entered into a short term arrangement in order that we may have an opportunity of reconsidering the point at the earliest possible date with reference to the work we find that the firm is doing for us. I trust I have said enough to convince the House that we are exploring all possible means of economy in connection with the work of the London Stores Department.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, very much has not come my way in this debate, but what has come is the bitterest stuff of all, quinine, so I had better get over what I have to say pretty quickly. My Honourable friend wanted to know the exact position as regards the negotiations with the Kina Bureau. My Honourable friend will appreciate that the details of these negotiations cannot, in the very nature of things, be disclosed, but, as a result of the conversations which I had with the representative of the Bureau, we have already addressed those Local Governments, which are within our sphere of influence, as also the Government of Bengal which has, as my Honourable friend is aware, also a very large surplus stock of quinine, and we have asked those Local Governments to let us have their views not later than the beginning of September, because the Kina Bureau has promised to let us have their final terms by the 15th September. I am hoping that, as a result of these negotiations, we shall, as our depart-

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

mental representatives foreshadowed before the Public Accounts Committee, be able to give a much more satisfactory account of the disposal of surplus stocks of quinine next year than we have been able to do so far.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, on the army side we are so much more accustomed to kicks than compliments as regards the administration of our finances that I welcome all the more the kind remarks which were made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, about the improvement which the Public Accounts Committee had noticed in this respect in the course of their consideration of the army accounts, and which he coupled particularly with the names of the Quartermaster General, the Master General of the Ordnance and the Engineer-in-Chief.

The first point with which I have to deal is the question of the Civil Grant for the Indian Territorial Force to which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, referred. The Civil Grant had its origin in the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee over which General Sir John Shea presided. That Committee suggested that, as the Indian Territorial Force was largely a political and educational body, a grant should be made from civil funds to develop it in certain respects. The process of development has admittedly not been as fast as it might have been. We have been tied down by the terms under which the Civil Grant is given to spending it on a particular series of items of which I will refer to only three. One of the most radical innovations resulting from the Committee's report was the introduction of the Urban Units of the Indian Territorial Force, and we found these units bad starters in most cases ; in fact, I am sorry to say, that the Madras unit has never really started at all in spite of the very vigorous campaign conducted by Sir Sivaswami Aiyar in Madras itself. We budgeted for the full strength, but the actual strength never rose beyond three figures. Another item was the provision of senior-grade officers, that is officers of the rank of Second-Lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain and above. It took us some time to get more than one or two of these for any of the units—I admit it was partly due to the over-elaborate system of selection that we had laid down—and as a result most of the pay that we had budgeted for for them lapsed. Again, though we had a considerable number of boys in the University Training Corps units which were paid for from this Grant, under the rules, the Corps does not draw any money for any individual unless he makes himself efficient. Efficiency includes attendance in camp and the attendance in camp was in every case very small. These were some of the difficulties that we had to contend with and as a result we only worked up gradually towards the original figure of Rs. ten lakhs which was reduced in 1931-32 to Rs. eight lakhs. In 1931-32, we got up to within half a lakh of the amount granted, and then came retrenchment. I am afraid that it is retrenchment that in recent years has made it difficult for us to spend the full amount granted. I would add that the total expenditure on the Indian Territorial Force is the one thing that in the whole of the Army Budget has not suffered a twenty per cent. decrease since 1931.

Next I pass to my friend, Mr. Das's point about the re-equipment programme, which arises out of Annexure III to the Military Accounts

Committee's Report. I must say that I think the points that he raised in connection with the spending of the ten crores, at which the re-equipment programme was originally fixed, are all dealt with in the note which forms that Annexure. That note makes it absolutely clear, I think, that we have not gone outside the limits of the original programme and that the financial control by our own Financial Adviser and also by the Finance Department proper have been extraordinarily strict. There is one point in this connection that I would like to make. We have not really had a stabilized Budget for a long time, nor have we ever had the ten crores for the programme. The stabilised Budget was to go on for four years from 1928-29 at a figure of 55.10 crores, but the figure began to drop in 1930-31 and now in 1934-35 we are more than ten crores below it.

Finally, Sir, I have to deal with the reference to the Capitation Tribunal's award which is made in the report of the Home Auditor. My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, quoted what was said in that report, viz.:

"The net result of the settlement is highly beneficial to India's revenues in that the contribution from the Imperial Government will approximately balance the estimated annual cost of the effective capitation charges."

This is not a new point at all. I would refer him to the speech made by the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, in January, 1932, in this House in which he said:

"In broad result the effect of this award is to wipe out the capitation charges, taking into account the amount of the general contribution."

We should all have liked the award to be greater, but it cannot be denied that it has been a wind-fall even though it produces a zero result if balanced against the capitation charges. (Applause.)

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row (Government of India : Nominated Official) : Sir, as the questions raised during this discussion relating to other Departments have already been dealt with, I shall confine myself to the points relating to the Finance Department. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, criticized the delay in the discussion of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee by this House. Unfortunately it is true that there has been some delay in the past, but I may mention that this year the report was signed only ten days ago and it is being discussed in the House today, and I hope that we shall be able to do the same in future years. The next question raised by my friend, Mr. Mitra, was the question of allowing the Auditor General to have direct access to the Secretary of State. Sir, this question was first raised by the Auditor General himself. At present, the Auditor General is fully satisfied with the present position under which his comments on the Appropriation Accounts are incorporated in a letter which is forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Government of India.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : There has been a change of personnel ; the Auditor General who raised the question is no longer in office.

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : The present Auditor General is satisfied with the present position.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : It is not a question of an individual ; it is a constitutional question, and it matters not whether a particular Auditor General is satisfied.

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : And as the present Auditor General is satisfied with the position as it stands at present, the Government of India do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Was it not decided that the question should be referred to the Constitution Committee in London ? Why now have the Government of India been going back upon the opinion which they accepted formerly ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : Because formerly the then Auditor General was pressing for it.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Was it not decided by the Public Accounts Committee, and did not the Government of India accept the suggestion that this question should be referred to the Constitution-making Committee ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I do not think it is correct to say that the Government of India accepted the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee ; that recommendation was made on a suggestion by the Auditor General but the latter now does not press the point.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : How many years before was that decided and when was that opinion revised ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I think it was decided about five years ago.

The next question raised by Mr. Mitra was that an opportunity should be given to the Public Accounts Committee or this House to express their views before the Governor General declares as non-votable an item of expenditure which has been hitherto votable. Sir, the question whether an item is votable or non-votable is to be decided by the provisions of section 67A of the Government of India Act, and, under the provisions of that section, the decision of the Governor General on any question of doubt is to be final. I have no doubt that the opinion which the Governor General would receive before deciding a question will be expert legal opinion and I do not think it will serve any useful purpose if the question is placed either before the Public Accounts Committee or before this House. It is purely a question whether the item is covered by section 67A of the Government of India Act. Mr. Mitra then referred to the question of the debit of the cost of residence of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to the Army Budget. Sir, the reason urged by him in favour of his proposal was that all expenditure relating to the Army should be included in the Army Budget. As this House is aware, there are several other items which the Honourable Members would like to be included in the Army Budget. The whole question is one which will have to be considered in detail when a definite contract grant is to be fixed for Defence after the inauguration of the new Constitution. In any case, the Government of India are at present of opinion that no change as regards this particular item is necessary. Mr. Mitra next referred to item No. 14 in the special appendix and desired to know what are the circumstances which would render it desirable to refer the case to arbitration, and, in dealing with this item, he referred to the expenditure on Persian Legation. I am afraid he made some mistake and thought that this item No. 14 related to the expenditure on Persian Legation. The expenditure on Persian Legation is shown against item No. 18 and against this item it has been noted that it is under the consideration of the Government of India in connection with the constitutional changes. Item No. 14

relates only to some expenditure which was incurred in Persia immediately after the war and about the incidence of which there was some disagreement. All that the Government of India meant by this remark was that if a similar occasion should arise in future, they would consider the suggestion made by the Public Accounts Committee.

I next come to the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das. He referred to the position of the Home Auditor and to the allocation of ecclesiastical expenditure between Civil and Army Budgets. As stated in the remarks column, both these items are under consideration at present. Mr. Das referred to the payment of Rs. 25 lakhs on account of Berar and desired to know why that amount was debited to the Central Government and not to the Provincial Government. Sir, under the Government of India Act all payments to be made in accordance with a treaty with any Indian State are treated as political charges and all political charges are Central under the Devolution Rules. I may also mention that the fact that the Central Provinces Government was getting all the revenue of Berar and the Central Government was paying this 25 lakhs was taken into account during the Meston Settlement.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask one question ? Can the Honourable gentleman tell us what is the exact amount of the revenue of Berar ? Also what is the expenditure and what is the net profit ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I am afraid I cannot give the figures off-hand, but I can assure my friend that there is a definite allocation of revenues between Berar and the Central Provinces and in doing this the actual revenue realised and the expenditure incurred in Berar is taken into account.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are these figures available ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I think they are. Mr. Das in the course of his remarks said that the Governments of Bombay and the Punjab have repudiated the loans taken by them from the Government of India. I do not know exactly what he meant by this. He added that the Bombay Development Scheme was not going to be a success and so the Government of Bombay were not paying interest on the loans taken by them for those schemes. I can assure him that the Government of Bombay is paying the full amount of interest on all the loans taken by them for their development schemes. It is only on the loan taken by them for the Sukkur Barrage that no interest is being paid and it was one of the arrangements, at the time the loan was taken, that during the period of the construction of the Barrage the interest which could not be paid from the sales of land is to be debited to capital.

Mr. B. Das : Did not the Government of Bombay suspend the payment of their interest charges last year because they had no money ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : No, Sir, they did not suspend the payment of their interest charges. They do pay their interest charges but they have suspended only the repayment of capital owing to financial difficulties. If Sind is not separated from Bombay, the Bombay Government will continue to be responsible for the amounts advanced by the Government of India for the Sukkur Barrage. The difficulty has arisen because the question of the separation of Sind is now under consideration. My Honourable friend also desired that a careful examination of all the projects for which money is advanced by the Government of

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India should be made by them before the money is advanced. I can tell him that this is being done at present as carefully as we could. He also referred to the future relations between the Central Government and the Provinces. Sir, the Government of India realise that this is a matter of very great consequence and I may assure him that it is a matter which will receive the most careful consideration of the Government of India.

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

“ That the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the Locomotive Running Shed at Bhnawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

CIVIL.

EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of ‘ Expenses in connection with Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research ’.”

Sir, this is the first instalment of the capital expenditure on the removal of the Agricultural Institute from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi. It has been carefully examined in the Standing Finance Committee and it has been ventilated a good deal in the press and in this House. I have no doubt that a number of Honourable Members wish to make observations about it and I do not want to detain the House longer than is required merely to move formally the motion. Any points which may arise in the debate will, of course, be dealt with by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, who is much more experienced in these matters than I am.

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

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of ‘ Expenses in connection with Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research ’.”

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhanmadan) : Sir (Applause), in trying to resist the passage of this supplementary demand through the House I feel I am ploughing the sands of the sea shore. In the decision of a question of this kind, provincial jealousy and provincial points of view are apt to cloud our vision, but still I hope that Honourable Members will look at this question not from the provincial point of view, but from an all-India point of view and specially

from the point of view of the general rate-payer of this country who is going to be mulcted to the tune of over 36 lakhs of rupees. Sir, I should very briefly place before the House the history of this scheme. It was on 4th June, 1903, that the Government of India addressed a Despatch to the Secretary of State embodying a scheme for the establishment of an Agricultural Research Institute, an Experimental Farm and an Agricultural College at Pusa in the District of Durbhanga, and not in the District of Muzaffarpur as has been wrongly recorded in the official memorandum which was placed before the Standing Finance Committee. Lord Curzon, that far-sighted statesman (Hear, hear), devoted a great portion of the generous donation of £30,000 which had been given to him by an American gentleman, Mr. Henry Phipps of Chicago, to be applied to some object of utility preferably in connection with scientific research. Now, Sir, a large Government estate happened to be available to Lord Curzon at that time, and he utilised this money for the establishment of an institution which is now known as the Pusa Research Institute. Sir, the continuance of this institute at Pusa has been attacked from various points of view. It has been stated that the soil of that place or the climate of that portion of Bihar is not suitable to Agricultural research like the one we have there. In that connection, I will read out only a short passage from that agricultural Bible of the Government which is called the report of the Royal Agricultural Commission, by which many of my Honourable friends swear, and I presume my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, who is going to speak, is very likely to quote from it. I will quote just one small passage from the report. It will be found at page 46 (Chapter III) :

“ In this connection we should mention that we have given careful consideration to the question whether this handicap could not be removed by transferring the work now carried on at Pusa to some more eligible site.”

—the handicap referred to is its supposed inaccessibility—

“ We are, however, of opinion that so much has been spent on buildings and equipment and on the development of the estate that it would be impossible to justify such a proposal. Moreover, the climate is good and the soil fertile and well suited to the growing of important Indian crops. A district chosen by men with a good eye for country such as the early Dutch and English planters is not lightly to be abandoned.”

I need not quote more. (Laughter.) If my Honourable friends want, I will read further :

“ The second reason is the relative decline in the prestige of the Pusa staff.”

I wanted to make no reference to this as I did not want to cast any sort of reflection on the staff of Pusa, and that is why I did not want to continue the quotation.

With regard to the comparative inaccessibility, I may state that it is not more inaccessible than most other parts of the country. The only thing is a journey by steamer and a journey by the Bengal and North Western Railway. With regard to this question of comparative inaccessibility I will read out one short passage from the *Times of India* which is generally inclined to view a particular question from the stand point of the Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : It has now been deposed by Government in favour of the *Statesman*.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : However, with regard to this comparative inaccessibility, this paper in its leading article dated the 20th July, 1934, states as follows :

“ Those of us who know our India would not regard such disabilities in too serious a light. They may sound rather tragic to people accustomed to the accessibility of all corners of England, but in this country such difficulties of access can be taken almost as a matter of course not only in getting to Pusa but in getting to many other parts.”

One can as well argue that as Coimbatore is situated at a far off corner of the Indian Peninsula, the Agricultural Research Institute which is established there and which is doing such good work should be transferred to the neighbourhood of Delhi. This question of inaccessibility is not a very serious question. Of course, I know that on account of this comparative inaccessibility a few Members who are at the head of the Government of India are at present precluded from visiting the Pusa Research Institute twice or thrice a year.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly) : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : How many from South India could visit the Pusa Research Institute ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : How many from North India could visit the Agricultural Institute at Coimbatore, and will you, therefore, agree to the Research Institute at Coimbatore being transferred to the neighbourhood of Delhi ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Oh ! yes, if you can prove that Coimbatore is not really suitable, as Pusa is not suitable.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I find from the departmental memorandum which has been submitted to us that the mere cost of transfer of the equipment and other things from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi would cost about 2½ lakhs of rupees. Now, let us look at the way in which this proposal has been hatched in darkness and comparative secrecy and placed before us almost as an accomplished fact. The sanction of the Secretary of State has already been obtained behind the back of the Standing Finance Committee and of the House, and a notification has already been issued for the acquisition of land.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I do not wish to interrupt my Honourable friend, but I should like to correct one particular statement, namely, that the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained behind the back of the Standing Finance Committee. That statement is not correct, because Sir George Schuster, the then Finance Member, towards the end of the last Session, actually submitted to the Standing Finance Committee that the Government intended to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State to the proposal for the removal of the institute from Pusa.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, before the Standing Finance Committee or before this House gave its approval to the proposal, it is a fact that the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained and a notification was issued for the acquisition of about five to six thousand acres of land, about 12 miles from Delhi.

Sir, I will refer very briefly to the objections filed by those people whose lands are going to be taken away for the purpose of locating this institution in the neighbourhood of Delhi. My object is merely to show

how far the land which is going to be acquired is fit for the purpose. In a petition which was filed by the villagers to the authorities at Delhi, the petitioners stated as follows :

“ That the water of the wells in the village is extremely saltish and unpalatable for taste. Its drinking is not conducive to health and its use for agricultural purposes is sure to cause disappointment.

That the soil of the village is not fitted for the purpose for which village lands are being acquired. It is neither fertile nor productive. That it is wholly unsuited to an ideal farm is a matter which can little be disputed and can very well be tested by a scientific examination of the soil.

That the area of the village consists of low lands which, for most part of the year, specially during the rainy season, remains under water and are rendered unfit for cultivation.”

And so on. As against this statement, there is nothing on record to indicate what experiment has been made, what inquiry has been instituted and what report has been submitted to Government that the lands are quite suitable for the purpose for which they are sought to be acquired. A meeting of the Standing Finance Committee was held the other day, and I repeatedly asked the Department to produce any sort of written record in order to rebut those allegations, but I regret to say that no report has been forthcoming up to this moment. Sir, in this connection, I should also like to say that one of the petitioners wrote a letter to Mr. B. C. Burt, the Agricultural Expert at Pusa, in which they repeat the same allegations to which I have just made reference. He suggests this :

“ I would humbly suggest to you to do boring in a piece of land before starting farm work, otherwise the Government and the villagers of Tikri Kalan have to undergo a heavy loss.”

A largely attended public meeting was held of about 30 villages in which among others the following Resolution was passed :

“ Resolved that the Government expert and the district authorities must be challenged upon our past experience that the saltish water shall not be beneficial for the ideal farm for the Pusa Institute. Our boring wells are of no use at present. We offer the Government a piece of land free of charge, if the Government is inclined to make its own boring for this daylight truth.”

Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated Non-Official) : May I interrupt the Honourable Member ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : You will have your chance of stating your case.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. The Honourable Member is not giving way.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, my second point is that it is proposed that this expenditure should be met out of loan funds. Sir, I strongly object to such experiments being carried on on borrowed capital. If Government have got sufficient money in their coffers, I do not object to the expenditure being incurred for beneficial proposals. But simply because money can be available at a cheap rate, that is no reason why Government should incur expenditure for schemes which have emanated as a brain wave from some officer of the Government of India. Sir, public opinion in Bihar may not count for much, because it may be supposed to be tinged with local patriotism, but I venture to submit that public opinion outside as reflected in the public Press has opposed this proposed transfer. I will only refer to the *Statesman*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and the

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

Forward of Calcutta, the *Searchlight* and the *Indian Nation* of my Province, the *Leader* of Allahabad, and many other papers. I will not refer to a manifesto which has been issued by the leading gentlemen of Bihar, consisting of all shades of public opinion, disapproving of this proposal. I will read out one little passage from the *Times of India* to which I have already made reference. In its issue of the 20th July, it states as follows in its leading article :

"In these days when it is so difficult to get even the smallest sum for beneficial State activities, it is right and proper that an estimated outlay of Rs. 36 lakhs for the transfer of this Institute should be very critically regarded. Estimates of cost, particularly when they are put up by those supporting a scheme, naturally tend to be conservative. It is an open question whether the sum of Rs. 36 lakhs would be the end of expenditure on the transfer suggested."

And it concludes its leading article in these words :

"The proper way to judge the plan is solely in relation to the great financial stringency of the moment, and the inability of Government to finance many a measure of social importance, let alone reduce the crushing burden of taxation their first duty. It would be interesting to have more details as to how the Rs. 36 lakhs estimate of the cost of the transfer has been compiled, and whether it has been proved that the capital outlay will be recouped in a reasonable time by savings effected through removal from Pusa. There would be a case for the transfer if that were demonstrated beyond a doubt, but unless and until it can be, the Assembly should turn down the plan."

Sir, I have not got all the newspapers which have condemned this scheme. I will just refer to a paper from Madras, the *Federated India*, which, in its issue, dated the 1st August, 1934, says :

"India will condemn with one voice the monstrous proposal to spend 40 lakhs of rupees on the erection of an Agricultural Research Institute at Delhi to take the place of the Institute that has been located all along at Pusa. When the estimated expenditure is 40 lakhs, we may expect the final expenditure to close at a few annas less than 50 lakhs. The question that has to be faced is whether, when the agriculturist is in need of practical relief in so many directions, money should be wasted on research' in this lavish and light-hearted manner."

I understand, though I speak subject to correction, that the *Hindu* also condemned this scheme.

Sir, with regard to the attitude which my Honourable friends, the Members of the European Group, may take on this question, I will refer to the opinion of one or two indigo planters of my Province. I will first read out the opinion of Mr. C. Ivan Parr of Hursingpore Concern, Samastipur, in the district of Darbhanga. In a letter to the *Statesman*, which has been reproduced in the *Searchlight*, dated the 3rd August, 1934, he states as follows :

"It would be difficult to write better articles on the transfer of Pusa than your two very able leaders though I think it would be wise to publish these leaders again in large print and bring them before the public to again make them realise the iniquity of this waste of public funds at a time when economy should be the watchword on every occasion to bring about a more stable position in the world at large."

He has also characterised this proposal in the course of his letter, as "misleader". With regard to the estimate of cost he proceeds to observe :

"Their estimate, I believe, at present is Rs. 35 lakhs. I do not accept it and I am pretty sure if you double that figure you would be nearer the mark."

With regard to damage which has been done to the buildings at Pusa, the letter proceeds to observe as follows :

" I know Pusa very intimately, and apart from the college buildings, the damage is not so very great : the college in spite of heavy rains and subsequent severe shocks we had afterwards still stands very much as it was after the day of the big disaster ; and having been over it, though admittedly not an engineer, I should say it was quite capable of repairs and that the cost would not be so enormous."

Further on he states :

" Pusa is an agricultural institute or is by name : it is situated in an agricultural Province and possesses lands that are eminently adapted for experiments and for the improvement and more proficient cultivation of crops, and so on."

I shall now refer to the opinion of a very influential organisation in Bihar—I mean the Bihar Planters Association. Mr. Meyrick, the Secretary of this Association, consisting exclusively of European indigo planters, writes as follows : (*Vide* the *Statesman* of the 28th instant) :

" After the lakhs or crores that have been expended on Pusa during the last decade, and just when the past 30 years of experiments are now bearing fruit, all this public money and all this valuable work shall not be wiped out at a minute's notice, without giving each Province time to ponder and realise what their action means. For Pusa is now at a state when each year they are producing new kinds of wheat, barley, oats, paddy, linseeds, pulses of all varieties, jute, hybrids of hemp, sugar cane and many types of tobacco, all of which are definite benefits to the agriculturist."

A question has been asked whether the Institute has failed in its object. I am not competent to pronounce any opinion on that. If it has failed in its object, I think the brunt of responsibility must fall upon the Government, because after all they do not find fault as much with the climate of Pusa or with the soil of Pusa as with the comparative inaccessibility of the place : in other words, a few Government officials do not want to undertake the journey which will be involved in visiting that institution. Now, a writer in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* says, writing in 1922 :

" The Institute has within the comparatively short period of its existence done magnificent service to Indian agriculture by producing improved varieties of crops. In particular it has achieved remarkable success by evolving strains of wheat which give a high yield, of powers of resistance to rust, are able to mature with less water than the generality of Indian wheats and give good results under diverse conditions of soil and climate."

In the course of interpellations which took place in this House sometime back, my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, told us that he will seriously consider the proposal of retaining the Botanical section at Pusa, because if the Institute is transferred to Delhi there would probably be no need for having a duplication of the Botanical Institute at Karnal. I do not know what exactly he meant by that. I am thankful for what little promise—or what little expectation—he has held out, but it is cold comfort to us. I am looking at this not so much from the provincial point of view, but from the point of view of the rate-payers' money which is involved in this question of transfer. The other day, I asked a question as to how much money has been sunk in Pusa. My Honourable friend objected—I probably gathered from his reply that he objected—to the word " sunk " ; but I find the same expression has been used in the official blue-book which has been supplied to us—where it says in the foot-note :

" Rather than sink more money in repairs on an inaccessible and ill-adapted place like Pusa, it is proposed to transfer the Institute to a site near Delhi."

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

I would conclude my observations by making an appeal to Honourable Members of this House to consider this question very carefully before they allow their provincial patriotism to run away with their intellects. (Laughter.) I know I am placing a case to which serious consideration, in my opinion, has not been bestowed. I will make only one observation and it is this, if, in the interests of all-India, it is necessary to transfer the Institute from Pusa—and I am assuming it without admitting the proposition—I suggest that Local Governments should be addressed on the subject to find out the best place for the location of the Institute. They have made this proposal without consulting the Government of Bihar and Orissa, without consulting any Government at all, without recording the opinion of those experts who have advocated this transfer. In these days of financial stringency, is it worth while really to undertake this change ?

An Honourable Member : Now finish.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Shall I continue tomorrow, Sir ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member should perhaps finish now.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : When, on account of financial stringency, the five per cent cut on the salaries of Government servants has not yet been restored, when the increased income-tax rates introduced some time ago have not been brought down to their original level, is it, I ask, equitable on the part of the Government, at this fag end of the Assembly, to undertake an experiment which, on their own showing, involves a capital expenditure of about Rs. 40 lakhs, and which may exceed in course of time the original estimate ? I, therefore, finally conclude my observations by asking the Government seriously to consider this proposal and to keep this thing waiting for a few months, in which interval they should obtain the opinion of the Local Governments and other experts, and bring this proposal up for discussion and decision in the January Session of this House. (Cheers.)

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 31st August, 1934.