

Tuesday, 3rd August, 1943

COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

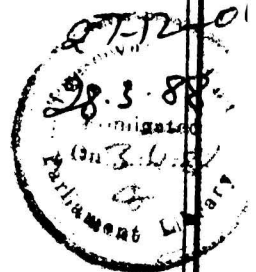
VOLUME II, 1943

(2nd to 31st August, 1943)

FOURTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1943



PUBLISHED BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI
PRINTED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI
1944

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COUNCIL OF STATE

Tuesday, 3rd August, 1943.

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

MEMBER SWORN :

THE HONOURABLE MR. MUHAMMAD SALEH AKBAR HYDARI, C.S.I., C.I.E., (Industries and Civil Supplies Secretary).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

37. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state the object of creating the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, and its present activities ? What is likely to be its recurring annual expenditure ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press Communiqué, dated the 14th April, 1943, and to the Home Department Notification No. 107/43-Public (c), dated April 21st, 1943, which was published in the *Gazette of India*, dated April 24th, 1943, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

2. As regards the second part of the question, the annual recurring expenditure on the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies is estimated to be Rs. 6,60,000 against which there will be a saving of roughly Rs. 2,00,000 in the Department of Commerce and the Directorate General of Supply on account of the transfer of certain posts therefrom to the new Department.

Communiqué, dated the 14th April, 1943.

Since the outbreak of the war, under the stimulus of the vast demands to meet Defence Service requirements, and of the difficulties in importing from overseas, Indian industry has shown remarkable development. When, however, war demands disappear, and overseas trade becomes normal, these new and expanded industries will come up against a variety of difficulties, and it is of the greatest importance that all possible guidance should be given to Indian industry so that when peace returns, the momentum that has now been received by industry may not be lost, and industrial development continue over an ever widening field. Allied to this vital question, there are also numerous problems relating to civil supplies (other than the supply of foodstuffs), satisfactory solution of which requires continuous and careful attention, these are of great importance not merely so long as the war lasts but also thereafter.

His Excellency the Viceroy has therefore decided to create a Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. The importance of the work that the new Department have in itself and in relation to reconstruction and future industrial development and civil supplies needs no emphasis. His Excellency has selected Mr. M. S. A. Hydari, C.S.I., C.I.E., on the termination of his duties as Acting Chairman of the Eastern Group Supply Council, to be the Secretary of this Department.

MURDER OF A POLICE CONSTABLE IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT.

38. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government make a statement giving the details and circumstances relating to the execution of the four Kayyur peasants in India on March 29, which formed the subject-matter of interpellation in the House of Commons in April, 1943 ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : My reply to this question is rather a long one. With your permission, Sir, I will however read it in order to give full publicity to the facts.

In certain villages of Kasargod Taluk of the South Kanara District peasant organisations had been established under the name " Karshaka Sangams ". The ostensible object of these organisations was protection of the agriculturist tenants against alleged oppression of landlords and village police and excise officials. Each union had a body of volunteers who wore uniform and carried *lathis*. At about 1 P. M. on the 28th March, 1941, there was a rally of volunteers at a village near Kayyur. On the same day a constable named Subraya had gone to Kayyur to execute two warrants of arrest. While he was sitting inside a shop at Kayyur, he was noticed by a large group of volunteers of the " Karshaka Sangams " which was marching in that direction. They immediately surrounded the constable, and under threat of death forced him to carry the flag of the Sangams. After going some distance he threw down the flag and tried to escape by running away. He was chased and caught,

whereupon some of the volunteers beat him with *lathis* until he fell down. He was then thrown into the nearby river, but, while he tried to escape by swimming away, he was stoned until he sank in the river and died.

In connection with this crime 60 persons were prosecuted ; of these the Sessions Judge convicted 22 persons out of whom 4, viz., Madathil Appu, Podavara Kunhambu Nair, Chirukandan and Avokara were sentenced to death. In the course of his judgment the Sessions Judge remarked that " it was a savage murder and carried out with deliberate and persistent brutality " and that there were no extenuating circumstances. This judgment was pronounced on 9th of February, 1942. The convictions and sentences were reviewed by two Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Madras who at the same time heard appeals from the various convicted accused. The Judges of the High Court upheld the convictions and confirmed the four sentences of death. In doing so, they remarked that " the death of this unfortunate constable was shown to have been brought about under singularly atrocious circumstances ". A petition for mercy on behalf of the four condemned men was made to His Excellency the Governor General and was rejected. Thereafter the accused applied to the Privy Council for special leave to appeal, but this application was also rejected. The execution was therefore carried out on the 29th March, 1943.

EMPLOYMENT BY JAPANESE OF INDIANS FOR POLITICAL WORK IN BURMA.

39. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Is there any information in possession of Government to verify the Press report that many Indians have been sent by the Japanese Government to Burma for political work ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Certain Indians overseas have co-operated with the Japanese and it is probable that some of these have been sent to Burma. We have no information to suggest that the number actively co-operating would merit the term " many ". On the other hand, we have information which suggests that the " co-operation " may not be as general as the Japanese believe or would desire.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN JAPANESE HANDS.

40. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a reply in the House of Commons, by the War Minister, Sir James Grigg, on the 6th April, 1943, that " telegrams from Geneva show that the Delegate of the International Red Cross in Tokyo recently visited six prisoners of war camps near Osaka, and seven near Fuknoka. Two of the camps near Osaka contain Dutch prisoners from Java, and the other four have British and American prisoners " ?

(b) Will Government state whether British prisoners in the above include Indian prisoners as well ? Have Government made any attempt to find out the approximate number of Indian prisoners in the various camps in Japan, and their condition ?

(c) Will Government make as detailed a statement as they can on this subject to relieve the natural anxiety prevailing in India in this matter ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. G. OGILVIE : (a) I have not seen the statement quoted. The information contained in it has, however, been received by us.

(b) and (c) So far as is known, there are no Indian prisoners of war confined in Japan proper, where the camps referred to are situated. Continuous efforts are being made through the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross to ascertain the names of Indian prisoners of war in Japanese hands. Information has not however been forthcoming because up to the present the Japanese have not allowed representatives of the Protecting Power or the International Red Cross to visit camps in which Indian prisoners of war are confined.

INTERNMENT BY JAPANESE OF NATIONALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

41. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Is it a fact that the Japanese are proceeding with the internment of the nationals of the United Nations including India, in occupied China, both in Shanghai, and other centres ? How many Indians were in occupied China, and what has been their fate ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : Sir, information reaching the Government of India shows that with the exception of Indians the Japanese are

interning all nationals of the United Nations in occupied China and Shanghai. The Indian Civilian population are not interned although there are doubtless exceptions to this rule.

2. So far as the Government of India are aware there are 1,700 Indians in Shanghai and 103 Indians in Tientsin. The number of Indians in other parts of China is believed to be very small.

ADMISSION OF INDIANS TO THE ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

42. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (a) Is it a fact that a young Indian doctor from Lahore, who is an M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., who volunteered for service in London sometime back in the Royal Navy and presented himself for interview and medical examination, and subsequently received a letter appointing him as a probationary surgeon and lieutenant in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve; but three days later, he got another letter cancelling his appointment presumably on the ground that the R.N.V.R. regulations require that candidates must be of pure European descent? Do Government propose to make an inquiry into this and state the full facts of the case?

(b) Is it a fact that no such racial or colour bar exists in the British Army and R. A. F. where Indians are not only eligible, but actually hold at present a number of commissions? If so, do Government propose to press for suitable amendment in the R. N. V. R. Regulations?

(c) Is there any branch of public service in India civil or military including Army, the Navy and the Air Force, from which the Britishers are excluded on grounds of race or colour? If not, why should there be any such discrimination against Indians in England, even in these times of war?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) An inquiry has been made and it appears that owing to an administrative error the Indian doctor in question was not admitted to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. There are no regulations which prohibit Indians in the United Kingdom from joining the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and if the doctor in question is still in the United Kingdom, he will be offered a temporary commission as a Surgeon Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

(b) I can confirm that Indians in the United Kingdom are eligible for commissions in the Royal Navy and in its Reserves as well as in the Army and in the Royal Air Force. The second part of the question does not arise.

(c) European British subjects are not eligible for the Indian Air Force or for the Indian Territorial Force.

CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST CONGRESS FOR THE PRESENT DISTURBANCES.

43. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (a) Why the Government of India have no intention of staging a trial of Mr. Gandhi and other detained Congress leaders to use Mr. Amery's words in the House of Commons on the 27th May last?

(b) When do Government propose to disclose all the information in the possession of Government and the "Large volume of evidence which it is undesirable to publish at present" as stated by Sir R. Tottenham, Additional Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, in his preface to the booklet *Congress Responsibility for the Disturbances, 1942-43*?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: Sir, the question answered by the Secretary of State in Parliament on the 27th May related specifically to charges which were alleged, but, as the Secretary of State pointed out, were wrongly alleged to have been made in the White Paper.

2. The Government of India must of course at all times be free to take against any person such action as is warranted by the law. I am not prepared to make any further statement regarding their present intentions in this respect or in reply to part (b) of the question.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Viceroy in the course of one of his letters to Mahatma Gandhi which was published last year did refer to the public trial which Mahatma Gandhi and his associates must be prepared to face?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: I am aware, Sir, of the reference made. But His Excellency's letter to Mr. Gandhi gave no indication of the manner in which Congress would be placed on their defence before the world or of the intentions of Government in that regard.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Am I to understand that their intention to try these people is still there?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: I have already answered that. I am not prepared to say anything further about Government's intention in this matter.

STANDARD CLOTH SUPPLIED TO PROVINCES.

44. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (a) With reference to my question No. 25 of the 23rd September, 1942, regarding the supply of standard cloth to the people of India, will Government make a statement as to the variety and quantity of such cloth produced in the Indian mills; and the extent of their requisition by and supply to the different Provincial Governments up to date?

(b) Are Government aware that the sufferings of the people in general in rural and urban areas have in no way abated as such clothes are not available to them?

(c) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the towns or areas in different provinces in which such standard cloth shops or depots for sale have been opened and the quantities supplied to them as in most of the provinces the Legislatures are not functioning and such information cannot be got through the Provincial Governments concerned?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: (a) Standard cloth is being produced in 66 types of shirtings, dhotis and sarees. There is no question of provinces or States requisitioning supplies of standard cloth. The 1,150 million yards for which we have placed orders for delivery by the end of January, 1944 at the rate of 150 million yards a month have been allotted to provinces and States on a population basis.

(b) No.

(c) No. The value of such information would not be commensurate with the labour entailed by its collection.

RETIRED INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS SERVING UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

45. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government lay a statement giving the following information about the retired I. C. S. officers now (on 15th July, 1943) serving under the Government of India:—name, pay and post held at retirement, pay and post held on 15th July, 1943 and pension, if any, being drawn?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of retired I. C. S. officers re-employed by the Government of India and the salary as well as the pension drawn by each of them.

Name of the officer.	Post held and pay at the time of retirement.	Present post and pay.	Pension.
Sir Alan Lloyd, C.S.I., C.I.E.	Secretary, Commerce Department. Rs. 4,000.	Establishment Officer to the Government of India. Rs. 2,250.	Rs. 1,111-2-0.
Mr. G. M. Young, C.I.E.	Secretary, Army Department, Government of India. Rs. 4,000.	Joint Secretary, War Department, Rs. 1,000.	Full retiring pension.
Lt.-Col. A. C. Beynon	District and Sessions Judge, Burma. Rs. 2,000 + Judicial pay Rs. 150 + Overseas pay £30 + Burma allowance Rs. 165.	Additional Deputy Secretary, War Department. Rs. 2,280 per mensem.	The question whether he should draw his proportionate pension in addition is under consideration.

Name of the officer.	Post held and pay at the time of retirement.	Present post and pay.	Pension.
Mr. P. J. Griffiths, C.I.E.	Deputy Commissioner, Bengal. Rs. 1,700+ Overseas pay £30.	Central Publicity Adviser to the Government of India. Does not draw any pay from Government.	Rs. 696.
Mr. S. S. Bajpai	District and Sessions Judge, United Provinces. Rs. 1,700+ Overseas pay Rs. 300.	Assistant Director, Counter Propaganda Directorate. Rs. 800.	Rs. 200.
Sir Colin Garbett, K.C.I.E., C.M.G.	Financial Commissioner, Punjab. Rs. 3,500.	O. S. D., Defence Department. Rs. 1,200.	£1,000 per annum payable in England.

OFFICERS OF THE BURMA SERVICES SERVING UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

46. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government lay a statement giving the information asked for in the preceding question about officers of Burma services now serving under the Government of India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. G. OGILVIE : The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

BURMANS, ANGLO-BURMANS AND INDIAN EVACUEES SERVING IN GAZETTED POSTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

47. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government lay a statement giving the information asked for in the preceding question about Burmans, Anglo-Burmans and Indian evacuees from Burma now serving in gazetted posts under the Government of India ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. M. G. OGILVIE : The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

ACCOMMODATION PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA.

48. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government state the number of houses, flats and rooms handed over to the Government of Burma and its officers in Simla and the rent realised by the Government of India in the year 1942-43 from the Burma Government ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. TUFNELL-BARRETT : The following accommodation was placed at the disposal of the Government of Burma in Simla for the year 1942-43 :—

1. Residential accommodation—			
Houses	9	Clerks quarters	4
Suites in Government hostels	73		

2. Office accommodation 28,287 sq. ft.

The amount of rent realised for (1) was Rs. 1,08,653 and for (2) Rs. 63,667.

PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX BY OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA.

49. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Are the officers of the Burma Government resident at present in India subject to Indian Income-tax; if not, how and for what reason have they been exempted ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part does not therefore arise.

COST OF ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GRAND HOTEL, SIMLA.

50. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government lay on the table full information (a) about the total expenditure in acquiring and rebuilding of the Grand Hotel, Simla; (b) the actual income last year, and the estimated income; (c) the supplies made to the caterer and charges made from him, if any; (d) the duration of the present contract; and, (e) whether any complaint has been received by Government against the caterer ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. TUFNELL-BARRETT : (a) No compensation has so far been paid for acquisition. The question is at present the subject of arbitration. The expenditure on improvements to old buildings and on new construction amounts to Rs. 11,93,334.

(b) The actual income during 1942-43 was Rs. 1,72,252. The estimated income was Rs. 1,80,000.

(c) No supplies were made to the caterer and no charges were made from him.

(d) From 16th April, 1943 to 15th October, 1943.

(e) No.

NUMBER OF OFFICERS, INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND SUPERINTENDENTS, OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT, BELONGING TO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES.

51. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government lay on the table information on the lines of question No. 102 of 6th March, 1943 but including Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents as well on 30th June, 1943.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House. In the meantime I may inform the Honourable Member that, so far as Muslims are concerned, one Muslim Secretary and three Muslim Under Secretaries to the Government of India have been appointed since the last statement was prepared.

RUPEE DISBURSEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA.

52. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government state how the Rupee Disbursements of the Government of Burma are being financed? Do the Government of India or the Reserve Bank receive repayment for this in sterling from His Majesty's Government; if so, what was the amount so received last year?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : The Burma Government's ordinary rupee disbursements are being financed by the Reserve Bank which is reimbursed by His Majesty's Government in sterling. The total amounts advanced and recovered by the Bank last year are not known to Government.

SUSPENSION OF PERIODICAL PAYMENTS DUE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA.

53. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Have the Government of India taken any steps to recover the annual payment due from the Burma Government or have they approached His Majesty's Government to set it off against sterling due from India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. JONES : The prescribed periodical payments due by the Government of Burma to the Government of India in respect of the debt annuity and the divisible pensions have, as stated in the Explanatory Memorandum on the current year's budget, been suspended for the present; so also has the adjustment of certain credits due to the Government of Burma from India. These matters will be reviewed at the appropriate time.

20s. COUNT YARN.

54. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : (i) Will Government lay on the table a statement giving the following information about the 20s count yarn: (a) the price and quantity taken by the Supply Department in each month of 1942 and 1943; (b) the quantity utilised in India and sent outside in the first six months each of 1942 and 1943 and (c) the quantity manufactured in India in this period; (ii) Has any effort been made to substitute coir or jute yarns for cotton yarns in the specification of Supply Department goods, if so, what are the items and since when has this been done?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI : The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be furnished to him in due course.

GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IN REGARD TO COTTON PIECEGOODS.

55. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government state whether they are framing any scheme to deal with the cotton piecegoods undisposed of by the retail trade at the end of October, 1943, or do Government propose to extend

the period for disposal ? Do textiles of foreign origin also come under the purview of the Government of India's orders or only Indian manufactured goods come in ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI : Government do not propose to extend the period for disposal. As regards a scheme to deal cotton piecegoods undisposed of by the end of October, should any action be found to be necessary after the end of October Government will take it. Cotton textiles of foreign origin come under the purview of Government's orders.

WORKING OF TEXTILE MILLS.

56. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government lay a statement giving the following information about the working of textile mills of India by important centres on 30th June 1943 : (a) total number of spindles and looms in each centre ; (b) single shift average capacity of yarns by weight and cloths by yards in each centre ; (c) the number of spindles and looms working double shift, treble shift, single shift and lying idle in each centre ; and (d) the rationalisation scheme, if any, prepared by the mills ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI : Collection of the information requested in parts (a), (b) and (c) of this question would entail an amount of work which would be out of proportion to the value of the information. As regards part (d) of the question it is not for the mills to prepare any rationalisation scheme but for the Textile Control Board. The Board of which the Honourable Member is a member, has this matter under consideration.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS HOLDING RESIDUARY POSTS.

57. THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU : (a) What was the total number of I. M. S. officers holding residuary posts at the outbreak of the war under the (i) Central Government and (ii) provincial Governments ?

(b) What is the total number of such officers now and what posts are they occupying ?

(c) Is it intended to recall them to military duty ?

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : (a) (i) 30.

(a) (ii) 43.

(b) The total number of I. M. S. officers holding residuary posts now under the Central Government is 18 and under the Provincial Governments 30. A statement showing the posts held by these officers is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The position is reviewed from time to time in consultation with Provincial Governments and officers who can be spared from their civil posts are recalled to military duty.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : With regard to the answer to part (a) of the question, may I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that an Indian officer of the I. M. S. who was Professor of Surgery in the Medical College at Lahore was reverted to military duty and a European I. M. S. officer was appointed in his place ?

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : I require notice of the question, but I will make enquiries and inform the Honourable Member.

Residuary posts held by I. M. S. officers.

Central Government—

1. Director-General, Indian Medical Service.
2. Deputy Director-General, Indian Medical Service.
3. Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.
4. Assistant Director-General, Indian Medical Service (Stores).
5. Director, Haffkine Institute, Bombay.
6. Civil Surgeon, Ajmer.
7. Assistant Director, Central Research Institute, Kasauli.
8. Civil Surgeon, Simla/Delhi.
9. Civil Surgeon, Simla East.
10. Health Officer, Karachi Air Port.
11. Chief Medical Officer, Andamans and Nicobar Islands (On special duty in Bombay Jails Department).
12. Chief Medical Officer, Delhi Province.

E. A. & P. Departments—

13. Residency Surgeon, Hyderabad (Deccan).
14. Residency Surgeon, Bangalore (Mysore).
15. Chief Medical Officer in the Western India States Agency and Residency Surgeon, Rajkot.
16. Chief Medical Officer in Baluchistan.
17. Agency Surgeon, N. Waziristan—Medical Officer, N. W. Scouts.
18. Agency Surgeon, S. Waziristan—Medical Officer, S. W. Scouts.

Assam—

19. Civil Surgeon, Silchar.
20. Civil Surgeon, Dibrugarh.
21. Civil Surgeon, Shillong.

Bengal—

22. Specialist in Ophthalmology.
23. Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynæcology.
24. Specialist in Surgery.
25. Civil Surgeon, Darjeeling (now Director, Casualty Services, Bengal).
26. Civil Surgeon, Dacca.
27. Civil Surgeon, Chittagong.

Bihar—

28. Civil Surgeon, Ranchi.
29. Specialist in Mental Diseases (Ranchi).
30. Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynæcology.

Bombay—

31. Civil Surgeon, Poona.
32. Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynæcology.
33. Specialist in Surgery.

C. P. and Berar—

34. Civil Surgeon, Nagpur.
35. Civil Surgeon, Amraoti.

Madras—

36. Specialist in Medicine.
37. Civil Surgeon, Nilgiris.
38. Specialist in Surgery.
39. Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynæcology.

N. W. F. P.—

40. Civil Surgeon, Peshawar.

Orissa—

41. Civil Surgeon, Cuttack.

Punjab—

42. Specialist in Surgery.
43. Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynæcology.
44. Civil Surgeon, Rawalpindi.

Sind—

45. Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Sind, Karachi.

U. P.—

46. Civil Surgeon, Lucknow.
47. Civil Surgeon, Allahabad.
48. Specialist in Surgery (Naini Tal).

RANKS ASSIGNED TO INDIANS AND ANGLO-INDIANS IN THE INDIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

58. **THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU :** What are the ranks assigned to Indian and Anglo-Indian members of the I. M. D. respectively ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : All I. M. D. personnel have now been absorbed into the I. A. M. C., either as Commissioned officers or in the combined cadre of the Special Medical Section to which there will be no new recruitment. Among the commissioned officers all ranks are open to both Indian and Anglo-Indian officers and the Special Medical Section the ranks are :—

Up to 12 years service, for Indians, Subedar Class II ; Anglo-Indian, Sub-Conductor ; after 12 years service for Indians, Subedar Class I ; Anglo-Indian, Conductor.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Since both Anglo-Indians and Indians belong to the same Medical Corps why are their ranks of a different character ? Why are not the same designations used ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Indian Medical Department is a very old service and of very long standing and the present position is that there will be no further recruitment to the Indian Medical Department. That will cease to exist and gradually fade up as these individuals who now remain

in it pass out of the service. I will go into the question of these ranks which the Honourable Member has raised but I very much doubt whether in a dying service it is really worth upsetting the existing arrangements.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is His Excellency aware that though the Indian Medical Department will be abolished its personnel will remain as part of the I. A. M. C. and that ranks will have to be given to the I. M. D. people who are absorbed in the I. A. M. C. whether of the higher grade or of the lower grade ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The situation is of course that all members of the I. M. D. who are considered fit shall be given Commissions in the I. A. M. C. Those who are not considered fit will remain in the I. M. D. but as I have said the I. M. D. is a dying service and will not be perpetuated.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will the I. A. M. C. contain Viceroy's Commissioned officers or not ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : I will require notice of that question.

STATEMENT BY SWAMI BHAWANI DAYAL AND MOHAMMAD AHMAD JADWAT ON DURBAN CITY COUNCIL SCHEMES.

59. THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement issued by Swami Bhawani Dayal and Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Jadwat on the 16th July, 1943, from Bombay regarding the decision of the Durban Town Council to remove Indians from two areas which they have been occupying for generations ? Will Government give full information on the subject ?

(b) If the above-mentioned allegation is correct, what steps do Government propose to take to safeguard the rights of the Indian community in Durban ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. BOZMAN : (a) Yes. It is understood that the Riverside Scheme is not likely to be pursued. As regards the other scheme at Merebank I am informed that the land expropriated part of which is under Indian occupation, will be utilised for economic and sub-economic schemes for Indians and that the Natal Indians Association has approved the proposal. No Indians have been evicted by military authorities as alleged in the statement. (b) In the circumstances explained, no action on the part of Government is called for at this stage.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : With regard to the answer to part (a) has the information given by the Honourable Member been received by Government from their Agent in South Africa ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. BOZMAN : Yes, Sir.

RECRUITMENT TO THE INDIAN ARMY.

60. THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU : What has been the total recruitment to the Indian Army since the outbreak of the war ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : It would not be in the public interest to give exact figures at this stage but I can say that the figure approaches the two million mark.

PROPORTION OF INDIAN OFFICERS TO BRITISH OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY.

61. THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU : Taking into account all officers serving in the Indian Army, whether regular service officers or Emergency Commissioned officers or British Service officers, what is the proportion of Indian to British officers ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The proportion on the 15th July, 1943 was 1 Indian to 3.7 British.

NUMBER OF UNITS COMMANDED BY INDIAN OFFICERS.

62. THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU : What is the number of units commanded by Indian officers? What are the categories to which these units belong ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Sir, on the presumption that the Honourable Member refers to units of a size normally commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel, the answer is 97.

These units comprise :—

Commanders of Cavalry Regiments	1	
Commanders of Infantry Battalions	5	Commanders of Field Medical Units 37
Commanders of R. I. A. S. C. Units	5	Commanders of Garrison Medical Units 46
Commanders of Ordnance Depots	2	Commanders of Remount Units 1

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Does the figure of 97 include Indian officers of the I. M. S.?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Certainly. The I. M. S. officers command the Field Medical Units and the Garrison Medical Units.

NUMBER OF INDIAN OFFICERS IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

63. THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU : With reference to the remarks made by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief during the discussion on the Finance Bill on the 26th March, 1943, regarding the small number of Indian officers in the General Headquarters, what steps have Government taken to increase their number ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The number of Indian officers in General Headquarters is now 45 against 36 on the 1st March, 1943. My Honourable friend will observe that the number has increased by 9. I may add that I have every reason to suppose that this number will continue to increase as suitable Indian officers become available.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is it a fact that a large majority of the officers in G. H. Q. are junior officers. Cannot officers of their ability be found among Indian officers ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Actually, in what we call graded appointments of officers in G. H. Q., six are holding first-grade appointments, that is to say, as Lieutenant colonels or colonels ; nine are holding second grade appointments, that is to say, as majors ; and seven are holding third-grade appointments, that is to say, as captains : total number is 22. In the miscellaneous appointments, there are two first grade Staff Officers, two majors, 14 captains and five subalterns. The proportion is really half and half between the more senior and the more junior officers.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What I wanted to know is this. His Excellency said that as qualified Indians became available he had no reason to doubt that they would be appointed in the G. H. Q. I therefore asked whether it was a fact that many British officers in G. H. Q. were junior officers, that is to say, officers who before their appointment were originally not above the rank of captain. Is not a sufficient number of qualified Indians already available for performing the duties which these junior British officers perform in the G. H. Q.?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : I think we ought to look at the whole field, if I may say so. The policy of G. H. Q., so far as we have been able to follow it, is to appoint officers who are not physically fit to hold active appointments in the field. There is no particular magic about G. H. Q. Quite a number of officers would rather not be engaged there.

PROPORTION OF INDIAN OFFICERS TO BRITISH OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY.

64. THE HONOURABLE PT. H. N. KUNZRU : (a) Did the Defence Secretary state during the discussion on the Finance Bill in the Legislative Assembly on the 15th March, 1943, that the proportion of Indian to British officers among the regular service officers of the Indian Army which was 1 Indian to 5.5 British at the outbreak of the war rose to 1 Indian to 4.5 British by the 3rd September, 1942 ?

(b) Did he also state that even taking into account British Service officers attached to Indian units the proportion of Indian to British officers rose from 1 to 7.5 to 1 to 4.5 ? If so, how do Government reconcile these statements ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The proportions mentioned by the Honourable Member in part (a) related to the regular service officers of the Indian Army. In calculating these proportions no account was taken of British Service officers serving with and attached to Indian Army units. If such officers are taken into account, the statement that the proportion of Indian officers (i.e., regular service officers and emergency commissioned officers) to British officers (i.e., regular service officers, emergency commissioned officers and British Service officers serving with Indian Army units) rose from 1 to 7.5 per cent to 1 to 4.8 is correct.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : From the point of view of arithmetic, may I ask how the number of Indians required to raise their proportion from 1 Indian to 4.5 British officers in the first case be the same as in the second. Will not, in the second case, a larger number of Indian officers be required to raise their proportion to British officers from 1 : 7.5 to 1 : 4.5 ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I believe the figures as given are correct. I have not worked them out myself. The real cause of the apparent discrepancy was the fact that in the original figures only the regular service officers were taken into account. The proportion of Indian officers was small, and was going to be increased as the in-take was increased at Dehra Dun. There is no attempt to hide anything.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: I have no such suspicion at all. What I have not been able to understand is this. How can: 1 : 4.5 Indian officers be equivalent to 1 : 7.5 ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: My own arithmetic is very weak. If the Honourable Member will come with me, I will get the individual who prepared the figures, and we will work them out together.

INDIAN SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce:—

“A Bill further to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925”.

The Motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS: Sir I introduce the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: As regards Resolution No. 2, in view of the impending debate, I take it that the Honourable Mr. Dalal does not wish to move his Resolution?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. N. DALAL (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): That is right, Sir. We will discuss it on the 12th.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I understand from my Honourable friend Mr. Bozman that Government is allotting a special day for the discussion of the South African question. In view of the fact that we are going to get a special day for the discussion of this question, I would beg leave to withdraw the Resolution, I do not wish to move it.

RESOLUTION RE PAY AND STATUS OF INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVING ABROAD.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:—

“This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to represent to the higher authorities that the Indian commissioned officers serving abroad be paid at the same rate as the British officers in the Indian Army and that the Viceroy's commissioned officers and Indian soldiers serving abroad be paid at the same rates as persons occupying corresponding positions in the British Army serving alongside the Indian Army.”

Mr. President, I have felt impelled to raise the question to which my Resolution relates not merely because it is important in itself, but also because my recent visit to the Middle East along with some other members of the Defence Consultative Committee has made me realise its urgency. The question of the pay and the position of Indian Commissioned officers is one which relates to the entire Indian Army; but I am in this Resolution dealing only with those Indian Commissioned officers who are in the Middle East. I may be asked why it is that I have not referred to the officers that are here. Sir, there is a long history behind the question of the pay and allowances of Indian commissioned officers. While Indian cadets had to pass through the British Military College at Sandhurst, the pay and other conditions of service of Indian and British officers were the same in all respects. But when Government decided to establish the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, it announced, in July, 1932, that the pay of the officers who passed through the Indian Military Academy would be lower than that drawn till then by British officers in India and by Indian officers who had passed through Sandhurst. The reason given for this in 1934 by Mr. Tottenham, who was Defence Secretary at the time, was “that the Government were preparing rates of pay and conditions of service which they considered to be more appropriate for a National Army”. Had Government really proceeded with the scheme for the establishment of a National Army in India I think that the difficulties which have now arisen because of the differences between the pay of British and Indian officers would not have arisen. But Government

Note.—The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam was not present to move his Resolution.

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

so far from accepting even the principle of the nationalisation of the Army, introduced a scheme which created dissatisfaction among Indian Commissioned officers and was severely criticised by Indian public opinion. It is the fruits of the policy followed by the higher authorities in this matter that we are concerned with now so far as the Middle East goes.

I have referred to the past history of the question in order to explain why it is that my Resolution does not cover the Indian commissioned officers in India. The whole country desires the establishment of an Indian National Army. If such an Army is going to be created—and we shall press for it with all the strength that we can command—the question of raising the pay of Indian officers in their own country will not arise. But if, unfortunately, we fail in our best efforts and Government, utilising the force that they have always at their disposal, trample on our aspirations and maintain the existing state of things, the question referred to in my Resolution will arise in this country too.

Sir, having given my reason for excluding the Indian commissioned officers in India, I shall proceed to deal with the case of Indian commissioned officers in the Middle East and what I shall say of the officers in the Middle East will apply, generally speaking, to Indian officers in the other forces also, *i.e.*, Indian officers who are serving in Iraq and Iran.

Sir, the importance of the question that I am dealing with was brought to the notice of the Government about four years ago. A Committee was established early that year called the Army Indianisation Committee, the work of which was unfortunately discontinued because of the outbreak of the war. I think I may say, Sir, without giving away any secret, that if that Committee had been allowed to continue its work and to report, it would have dealt on broad and comprehensive lines with the question of the salaries of Indian and British officers belonging to the Indian Army. I think that, without being guilty of any impropriety, I may go further and say that the Committee received evidence both from Indian commissioned officers and the Commanding Officers of Indianising units showing on the whole that the complaint of the Indian officers with regard to the inadequacy of their salary was legitimate. My Honourable friend Mr. Ogilvie was a member of that Committee and I hope that he will bear out the accuracy of the statement that I have made—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You say the Committee was not allowed to report.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces : General) : The war broke out and the Committee could not meet.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What I said was that the Committee was discontinued.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I quite understand you now.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The meetings of the Committee were discontinued because of the war. Although I am persuaded that the Committee to which I have referred would have dealt with the question of the salary of Indian commissioned officers in India, I am for the time being confining my attention to Indian commissioned officers who are in the Middle East for reasons which I have already explained. Sir, these officers belong to the same messes as British officers of the Indian Army belonging to their units. It will not do, therefore, to say that the salary of Indian commissioned officers serving in the Middle East should be compared with the salary of the British Service officer serving in the same region. Generally speaking, it might seem more fair to say that the salary and conditions of service of Indian officers serving in their country are the same as those of British officers serving in their country. Had Indian officers had to work side by side only with such British officers, the question that I have raised would not have arisen. But Indian officers have to work not with British Service officers but with regular British officers belonging to the Indian Army. They have to belong, as I have already said, to the messes meant for units of the Indian Army, and although they receive a smaller pay than the British commissioned officers, their expenses in connection with the messes, to take only one instance, are the same as those of British officers with a larger salary than they get. It may be said that officers, whether

British or Indian, now serving in the Middle East are getting their rations free. That, I understand, is correct. But, in order to pay for the extra things that are used in all messes, they are called upon to contribute between £6 and £8 a month. Again, the rations that are supplied are B. T. rations, *i.e.*, rations supplied to British troops. The G. H. Q. have ruled that the rations supplied to Indian troops should be supplied to such officers as want them. They have made it clear that they have not the slightest objection to the issue of I. T. rations, that is, rations given to Indian troops, to Indian commissioned officers. But the execution of the order depends on a large number of Commanding Officers of units. I understand, that generally speaking, the instructions issued by the G. H. Q. have not been properly carried out. Indian food is not banned in messes, but Indian officers are not allowed to have it as frequently as they would like. Besides, the British rations include such a thing as bully beef which is not used by Hindu and Sikh officers. There are Muslim officers too who abstain from beef. But the military authorities compel them to eat beef by saying that as their religion does not prohibit the use of beef they must either take beef or go without the substitute dish that might be given to a Hindu and Sikh commissioned officers. The substitute dishes that are given to Indian commissioned officers are generally, I understand, of a monotonous character. They consequently supplement what they get in the mess with what they can get from outside. In other words, they have to purchase things themselves from the bazaar in order to satisfy their needs. In view of these facts it is clear that Indian officers, whose salary is comparatively small, are put to expenditure which is heavy expenditure which even in India is not lower than that of a British officer of the Indian Army and which is greater than the expenditure of a British officer of the Indian Army in the Middle East. I ask therefore, Sir, that so far as the Middle East is concerned, Indian commissioned officers who are serving along with British officers in the Indian Army should be placed on a footing of equality with them in respect of their salaries.

Before passing on from this question I will refer only to one other matter, and that is, the allowance that Indian commissioned officers get in the Middle East and in Iraq. These officers do get allowances when they serve outside India, either in the Middle East or in Iraq and Iran. But even so their salary is appreciably lower than that of the British officer of the Indian Army as is evident from the figures supplied by Government in answer to a question of mine on the 29th September, 1942.

My argument therefore is not weakened by the allowance that is given to Indian commissioned officers in the Middle East. British officers of the Indian Army are not given any special allowance in the Middle East because they already get a special allowance for serving outside their country. But the circumstances are such that Indian officers find it hard to bear the expenditure to which they are put in view of the special circumstances in which they are placed notwithstanding the special allowance they get.

I will now pass on to the question of Viceroy's commissioned officers and Indian soldiers. I will take up the question of the Viceroy's commissioned officer first. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief laid papers on the table of the House yesterday to show the salaries of Viceroy's commissioned officers and of sergeants and warrant officers of the British Army. I have been supplied with what I regard as a fuller statement through the kindness of the Additional War Secretary, Mr. Hutchings. I got tables relating to the salaries of Viceroy's commissioned officers and sergeants and warrant officers from him, I believe, last month. A comparison of these two tables is instructive. The jemadar gets an initial salary of Rs. 75 which rises by increments of Rs. 5 to Rs. 100 and if he is serving in the Middle East he gets an expatriation allowance of Rs. 14 and batta of Rs. 11 per mensem; there are one or two smaller allowances, including the messing allowance which has been done away with in the case of the Indian Army, so that the entire arrangements in regard to the feeding of the troops might be taken over by the army authorities as the small messing allowance given to Indian officers was considered inadequate at a time like this when prices have risen considerably. Sir, including all these allowances, the pay of a newly appointed jemadar would amount to about Rs. 104 per month. The pay of a sergeant, including all allowances, marriage allowance, war pay, post-war credit, messing allowance and one or two smaller allowances, comes to Rs. 267-8-0 per month.

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

The difference is very large, too large to be considered justifiable. Now take the case of the Viceroy's commissioned officer of the highest rank, that is the subedar-major. His basic pay is Rs. 200, and he gets a personal allowance of Rs. 50, and including the allowances that are given to such officers in the Middle East he would get about Rs. 295 per month. The warrant officer, class I, would, however, get, including all allowances, Rs. 404-6-0. It is obvious, therefore, Sir, that there is a very large difference between the pay of Viceroy's commissioned officers and sergeants and warrant officers. I have asked, therefore, that the pay of the Viceroy's commissioned officer should be commensurate with the responsibility placed on his shoulders and should consequently be the same as that of persons holding similar ranks in the British Army. Sir, by far the large majority of platoon commanders in the British Army consist of King's commissioned officers. Now, I recognise that owing to the policy followed in the past with regard to the selection and appointment of Viceroy's commissioned officers, most of these officers are old by the time they are selected for promotion and are, generally speaking, men with inadequate education. It may, therefore, be said that there can be no comparison between the Viceroy's commissioned officer and the King's commissioned officer. I recognise the cogency of this argument but I do not think that this ends the matter. Sir, when Mr. Hore Belisha was War Secretary he found that there was a shortage of commissioned officers in the British Army. He therefore created the class of warrant officers who could be made platoon commanders, so that the deficiency existing in the ranks of British officers might be done away with. Now I hope it will not be questioned that the position of the Indian subedar and subedar-major can, broadly speaking, be likened to that of the warrant officer, Class I. There is, therefore, no reason in my opinion why such large differences between the pay of Indian and British officers, below the rank of K.C.O. or I.C.O., who are serving together in the Middle East should be remunerated at vastly different rates. I shall probably be told by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that the rates of pay prevailing in the Indian Army are suited to Indian conditions : they are adequate in the economic conditions that prevail in this country to enable the Army to get the type of men that it wants. Well, if he uses this argument today I am sure that he will not be able to use it two years hence when the enlightenment of the Indian Army on this question will have proceeded much further and their feelings on the subject too will have become much stronger.

As I have already said, Sir, I was only a few weeks ago in the Middle East. I found that the Indian officers, i.e., the Viceroy's commissioned officers there were conscious of the difference between their pay and those of officers discharging the same responsibilities as they did in other Armies. Apart from this they complained that they were getting less than the Sudanese troops did, less than the Ceylonese troops at least under certain conditions. I have not got the figures relating to the Sudanese Army with me but I understood, generally speaking, when I was in the Middle East that the Sudanese Army was being paid at higher rates than the Indians were. I was told that it was the same with regard to the Singalese troops. Indeed, I understand that some Singalese units are on British rates of pay. Now, if the facts that I have mentioned are correct, there can be no warrant for keeping up the distinctions that I have drawn the attention of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the House too. The Viceroy's commissioned officers in the Middle East have proved their worth. I believe that they will remain a permanent part of the Indian Army. At any rate that they will remain for as long as we can see ahead at the present time. It is in my opinion desirable therefore that they should be chosen at a much earlier age than at present and that they should be better educated, but I cannot deal with those questions today. I am only concerned today with the question of their salary and considering all the facts that I have mentioned and the special circumstances that exist now I hope Government will see that the disparity between the rates of pay of Indian and British personnel is a source of political discontent.

I shall now pass on, Sir, to the case of Indian soldiers and I shall deal with it very briefly.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Your time is nearly up.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : I shall finish my speech soon. In a statement which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief laid

on the table yesterday he gave us figures relating to the salaries of Indian and British privates. An Indian private in the Middle East on enlistment will, if he has less than six months service, get Rs. 30 per mensem and after a year's service will get Rs. 33-8-0 including all allowances. The British private in the Middle East on the other hand will get Rs. 60 per mensem on enlistment and including the allowance that he would get if his wife were in India and the colonial allowance he would receive Rs. 86-10-0 per month excluding the separation allowance which is granted only when the husband is separated from his family. After one year his salary will rise to Rs. 75 and he will get Rs. 111-10-0 in all. It is clear, therefore, Sir, that so far as ordinary soldiers are concerned the difference is even greater than in other ranks. I know, Sir, that the Indian soldier is, generally speaking, uneducated when he is enlisted but owing to the policy, the welcome policy, followed by the Army authorities he becomes literate during a short time. Apart from this it has been admitted by all authorities that he has given an excellent account of himself wherever he has served during the present war. Again Indian soldiers serving in the Middle East are very conscious of the difference between their pay and that of British and other soldiers. They too compare their emoluments with those of the Sudanese and the Ceylonese. Their case, it seems to me, stands on an even stronger footing than that of the officers to whom I have already referred.

These, Sir, were the main facts that I wished to place before the House. The question of the salary and allowances of the officers and men of Indian Army is much wider than the question covered by my Resolution. I have good reason to believe that this wider question is receiving attention at the hands of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and General Headquarters. I do not, however, know when a decision will be arrived at, and it seemed to me that the case of the officers and soldiers serving in the Middle East should be considered by Government without any avoidable delay. It is a matter of great urgency that the grievances of our men in respect of their salary should be looked into and sympathetically dealt with. I appeal in this connection not merely to the Government in general, but also to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, because of his long connection with the Indian Army. He has been connected with the Indian Army for about 40 years, and he is held in deep respect and affection by Indian soldiers and officers wherever they may be. We had ample proof of it while we were in the Middle East. The Indian Army looks upon him as its friend, as one who would stand up not merely for its rights and privileges but also for its self-respect and dignity. It is this indeed which has endeared His Excellency more to the Indian Army than even his long connection with it and I hope, therefore, my Resolution will receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of His Excellency.

THE HONOURABLE CAPTAIN SARDAR SIB BUTA SINGH (Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I am the only other member of the House, besides the Honourable Pandit Kunzru, who had the occasion of going to the Middle East and having the opportunity of coming into contact with a large number of Indian units ; and I do not wish to conceal the fact that the differences and distinctions in the matter of emoluments and promotions are creating a sense of grievance amongst officers, particularly when in the battlefield they are performing the same sort of duties as officers of any other country and are taking the same risks. It has been admitted that the Indian soldier and the Indian officer are second to none. I am glad to say that the sons of good families have found a career in the Army and are happy. I hope that the process that has started of taking a larger number of Indian young men in the Army will continue till the whole Army is Indianised, and that after the war our young men will be given permanent commissions so that the Indian Army may be of a size commensurate with the size of the country, because, after the war it will be necessary that our country should secure an honourable position in the world by having a good army so that we may be able to defend ourselves. I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution of my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces : General) : Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House, as the Resolution of my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru relates to a particular point, that is, Indian officers serving abroad. I had not the good fortune of accompanying my friends to the Middle East, but the question is also agitating the minds of the Indian officers here. The point is that if Indian officers abroad are doing the same sort of work which British officers

[Mr. V. V. Kalikar.]

in the Indian Army are doing, if in the Indian Army we have got competent and suitable educated men serving as officers and who are ready to shed their blood and who are doing the same sort of work, why should there be an invidious distinction between their pay and the pay of the British officers? I fully agree with my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru that the exploits of the Indian officers have been praised during this war, and that the Indian officers are in no way inferior in the performance of their duties as compared with the British officers. In fact, at Keren, it is stated that the Indian officers succeeded in driving out the enemy and played their part very well.

Apart from the economic question of requiring so much money for expenditure on the Army, according to me the point is, if an Indian officer is equally able and courageous, if an Indian officer is ready to sacrifice his life, then, Sir, the Indian officer must be paid equally with British officers. I am very sorry that he feels strongly because there is an invidious distinction between his pay and the pay of the British officer for the same sort of work that both are doing. We shall have to tackle this question about Indian officers serving in India also sooner or later—I believe sooner. According to me, there is some discontent even amongst Indian officers about their pay, but that is not covered by this Resolution, and I am not going to dilate on that point. My point is that it is in the interests of Government, that it is in the interests of all of us, that there should not be any discontent about pay among Indian officers on the ground of discrimination between Indian and European officers. We must have the goal before us always: the war must be won, and won soon. So far as the Defence Services, especially those covered by this Resolution, are concerned, Government ought not to look at the question from a financial point of view in this emergency. It may be said that if Indians are given more pay, that will be a burden on the finances of the country. This is not the time to look at the question from that point of view. Under the circumstances, situated as we are, we must look at it from a different point of view, and that point of view is that there ought to be no discontent among the Defence Services so far as pay is concerned. I therefore strongly appeal to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to see that this distinction is removed as early as possible.

So far as the pay of the Indian soldier is concerned, that point is under the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and therefore we need not dilate on that point any more. I therefore very strongly support the Resolution of my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru.

THE HONOURABLE SIR A. P. PATRO (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I do not think there is any difference of opinion on this question. Any one who has given any thought to this subject will necessarily come to the conclusion that this difference in the pay of Indian and British officers serving abroad is not at all justifiable. I do not think that this question before the House needs any long argument in view of the fact that His Excellency General Sir Claude Auchinleck has already indicated his sympathetic desire and has said that he has under his consideration the pay of the Indian soldier and of the Indian officer, subject to certain conditions which he pointed out rightly, namely, finance and other matters connected with other Departments. Nevertheless, we have his sympathy in connection with this matter of pay of the Indian soldier and Indian officer. Sir, there are three classes of Indian officers serving abroad, namely, those that have been recruited directly under the old system, trained in Sandhurst, those that have been trained in the Military Academy at Dehra Dun, and those that have been recruited on Emergency Commissions and by selection. After some training they are placed in charge of platoons or companies or units. These Indian officers hold equal position of responsibility with the British officers.

I could not take advantage of the opportunity to fly to Iraq and Iran, but I have had the opportunity of coming in contact with a number of British and Indian officers who have been coming to the East Coast and I had talks with them on friendly terms. All of them unanimously assured me that this question of the pay of Indian officers abroad is a very important question and that the pay should be equalised since the grievance exists among Indian officers. This is the opinion of British officers, majors and lieutenant-colonels, with whom I came in contact, and whose opinions I value. They, from their experience and knowledge of things think it very desirable that this inequality should be removed as early as possible. They said,

“ Oh, poor devils, they are not able to make both ends meet. They have to keep up their position along with us and find themselves in a very great difficulty. Therefore, it is necessary that something must be done to relieve the situation ”. That is the experience given to me by British officers who have known the Indian officers. The Indian officers too, who came on leave, were not so much complaining as explaining to me the circumstances that exist outside. In connection with their food and other arrangements they have no complaints to make. They said they were very happy. In social matters they all work in a brotherly spirit. There is absolutely no difference made about food and rations. They are opposed to any sort of separate rations being given to Indian officers. They do not want to isolate themselves. Nor did they want to form a caste in the military. They would like to mess in the same messes and carry on the work with their British brethren and not ask for any separate rations or separate treatment. Therefore, I am sure that the majority of the Indian officers who are serving abroad or in India are willing to have the same kind of mess and take part in the mess arrangements as they do now. There may be a very few people who may not like the particular arrangements of the mess, but in such cases it cannot be helped. They must give their service to the country and they must forget all this narrow-mindedness, all this kind of caste spirit. Caste must disappear. Until we kill the caste we cannot have a National Army. Today accounts have been given to us of Indian soldiers in the Middle East and in the desert of Africa mixing with American soldiers and soldiers of other countries and of their finding no difficulty whatsoever in the matter of food or caste observances or ceremonies. To me it seems that having separate arrangements for food is an absurdity in army matters. These people must sink all their small differences and a free independent social atmosphere must prevail in the army. Otherwise there can be no National Army at all. As regards the formation of a National Army, the Resolution does not raise the question of the salary of the Indian officers serving in the Indian Army in India. The Honourable Mover confined himself in his speech to Indian officers serving in Iraq and Iran. While the wording of the Resolution is more comprehensive, the Honourable Mover in his speech limited it to Indian officers serving abroad. I am sure that every Britisher, not saturated with ideas of British India, will agree that it is desirable that the Indian officer should not be made to feel that he is in any way inferior to the Britisher. This has a very unhealthy effect upon the Indian mind. After all, India has to meet the bill. We know that India has met the bill in many other ways. Whatever the bill may come to, Rs. 5 crores or Rs. 10 crores more, I think that India will be prepared to help for the growth of a healthy spirit among the Indian officers, so that a real National Army could be gradually developed. I am sure that with such sympathy as His Excellency the present Commander-in-Chief has shown in his attitude towards the growth and development of a healthy Indian Army, we may expect in course of time that he will be able to work this what I would call miracle. For years and years a policy has been pursued on grounds of superiority and domination, but now I hope a change will take place. It cannot take place in a day or in a year. It will have to take place gradually and when we achieve the ideal of a National Army, it will be a great satisfaction that we will have Swaraj. Until then it is useless to hope for anything better. This question of the Indian Army on proper lines is a very important question compared to other political matters. Unless we can defend ourselves, unless we have got an army, officers to command the army, and officers of experience to defend us, there is no use of saying that we will have independence or Swaraj. Therefore to my mind it seems that this Resolution has got my support and every one who is thinking of the question from the national point of view and the point of view of how to make the British and Indian officers feel equal in time of war or at any other time. I have therefore great pleasure in supporting the Resolution, restricted as it is, and I am sure His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will also express great sympathy with the spirit of the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which my esteemed friend the Honourable Dr. Kunzru has moved. I had occasion to meet many officers and men who have come from the war theatres and I cannot avoid saying that they all think that when their legitimate demands are not met during the war they have absolutely no hope of their being met in the near future. My friend Sir A. P. Patro has made

[Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

some religionless observations. It is religion which prompts everyone to serve his King and country. Those people who have no religion will only serve for the money and nothing else. Sir, I have no faith in the loyalty of those who ignore religion. This is the time, Sir, when people who are willingly shedding their blood for their King and country should be satisfied, and their legitimate grievances met. Soldiers with whom I had the pleasure of talking said that our popular Commander-in-Chief exerted to avoid colour discrimination and those who have returned from the Desert speak in very high terms of His Excellency Sir Claude Auchinleck but the colour discrimination notwithstanding his efforts still arises there. As regards the National Army in which there should be no discrimination of food, that I should say is only an ideal. Even now the majority of people serving in the army do not want food which their religion prohibits. If you ask any Muslim, Sikh or Hindu to take prohibited food, he will never agree. There are exceptions, because nowadays there are people who profess no religion. I would, therefore, strongly request His Excellency Sir Claude Auchinleck to expedite this decision and to avoid the grouse of Indian officers and men who are shedding their blood in the field and meet their legitimate grievances. The view that they hold is that if this legitimate demand is not met now it will never be met.

With these words, I strongly support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, I support the Resolution so ably moved by my Honourable friend Dr. Kunzru and I am in entire agreement with all the observations that he has made in support of it. I feel that he has made a very strong case. Whatever might have been the reasons for making any difference between the pay of the Indian soldier and the British soldier in the past, those reasons do not hold good now. It is surprising that even at this hour of trial, at this critical hour, when the whole world has been caught up in the catastrophe of this war, this total war, and it is necessary that whatever loyalty and patriotism is available should be harnessed for the service of the country and the Empire, this distinction is still kept up. This distinction is a source of evil, great evil. It is dangerous in two ways. It is dangerous because it tends to introduce a feeling of inferiority, inferiority complex, in a section of the army that is fighting the battle of the country. It is dangerous in this respect also that it is likely to impair the feeling of loyalty in the troops that are fighting the battle of the Empire. You expect the same service from all armies which are engaged in the war. You expect the Indian soldier to lay down his life, to be prepared to take all risks, in a total war like the present. And what is the justification for making any difference between the treatment given to the Indian and the British soldier? Sir, I have very great respect for my Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro. But I cannot support the view which he has expressed in regard to the food to be supplied to the Indians. I am in agreement with him in respect of what he said as regards the elimination of the distinction between man and man in this country. But I am one of those who really would wish that there should be no superior caste, or inferior caste, that we should do away with the distinction of superior and inferior caste in this country. But at the same time I hold—and hold very strongly—that we should not do anything which will go to lacerate the feelings of any people in respect of religion. If anyone has a religious objection to a particular kind of food, then that food should not be forced down his throat. Every attempt should be made to see that every body is given the facility to have the same kind of food which his conscience or his habit requires him to take. After all, food is not the only way in which equality is secured. Equality is secured in other ways also. If it is not possible for different messes to be arranged for different people, the Honourable Mover has suggested that every facility should be given to the Indian soldier to satisfy his requirements by supplementing what he gets at the common mess. The best way to do that would be to raise his pay. And for thus supplementing his food, the Indian soldier serving abroad has got to incur extra expenditure, expenditure which is not necessary for the British soldier, and to help him to meet this extra expenditure it is necessary, it is only fair, that we should give him a higher pay, and far from that as things now are the Indian soldier gets much less than his British comrade. It is high time that this invidious distinction is done away with and equality of pay secured.

Sir, I would not be satisfied with mere lip sympathy. I would request that an earnest and sincere endeavour be made to do away with the distinction. I am glad that now we have got in our House our old and honoured colleague, His Excellency Sir Claude Auchinleck who, I know, is very sympathetic and has always been endeavouring to meet the wishes of this side of the House. I feel sure that His Excellency will do his best to see that the distinction is done away with at once and the loyalty and patriotism of the Indian soldier, who is fighting the battles of the Empire so valiantly in different theatres of the war, is compensated by justice being done to him, even though at this late hour.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Sir, I have listened with great interest to the speech of my Honourable friend the Mover of the Resolution and to the speeches of other Honourable Members on this subject. Some of those speeches, if I may say so, appeared to me to go beyond the terms of the Resolution, but they were none the less interesting and I hope that I have benefited by them. I propose, in replying to the Resolution, to confine myself to the terms of the Resolution, but I would like to say at once, before I say anything else, that so far as the motive of my Honourable friend the Mover of the Resolution is concerned I am in entire sympathy with him because I am quite sure that it is his genuine desire to improve the welfare, the contentment and the happiness of the officers and men of the Indian Army. If that is his desire—and I am sure it is—I am entirely with him. How this object can be attained is another matter. The proposals in the Resolution are far-reaching enough but as I have said before they only cover a very small part of the field. There are many other proposals of a similar or connected nature at present under my consideration and all those proposals, I am afraid I must say, are bound up, very closely bound up, with the economic situation prevailing in the country as a whole. They cannot be separated, however much we may like to separate them. Well, as we all know, the economic situation is at the present moment causing considerable anxiety but I propose to say no more about it now. I do not propose to go into details, but I would rather discuss the Resolution on matters of principle.

It is well known that discrepancies exist, discrepancies such as have been alluded to by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution and by the other Honourable Members. These discrepancies exist; that is well known. They have existed for some time. It is also well known that as a result of these discrepancies there is among certain classes of officers certainly, possibly of men also, a certain amount of dissatisfaction with their position. That is common knowledge; I do not attempt to dispute that. But there are wider considerations which I think require to be gone into and thought over.

Now, to take the Resolution as it stands, it falls under three main heads. The first concerns the pay of the Indian commissioned officer serving abroad—not in India but abroad—his pay compared with the pay of the British officer of the Indian Army serving abroad alongside him, that is to say in the same unit and possibly in the same battle. That is the first part of the question as I see it. The second part deals with the pay of the Viceroy's commissioned officer serving abroad compared with his opposite number, that is similar people holding similar positions in the British Army serving abroad alongside him in the Middle East. The third part concerns the pay of the Indian soldier, that is to say, the pay of the non-commissioned officers and of the men serving abroad in the same conditions alongside the British Army. As I see, those are the three heads of this Resolution and I propose to deal with those three heads separately.

The Resolution, you may notice does not urge the introduction of the same rates everywhere but only in the Middle East and I think the Honourable the Mover included Persia and Iraq as well; well they are practically the same place, almost the same theatre. For those serving abroad it is of course possible to make special allowances, special overseas allowances for both officers and soldiers and that is done in many cases, but it seems to me, again sticking strictly to the terms of the Resolution, that if you are going to introduce very largely increased rates for Indian officers and Indian soldiers serving abroad and do not apply those rates to the same people, the same class of people, serving in India, that would create, to my mind, an impossible situation at once. I do not see how it could possibly work. The soldier returning from abroad, or the officer returning from abroad, would at once have to

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drop his increased pay and come down to very much lower rate of pay. That will make him extremely dissatisfied. Those who have not been sent abroad would I think at once begin to clamour that their pay should be raised to a rate comparable to that of their comrades serving abroad. Now serving abroad is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of being ordered. That will happen also in India and in other places where the Indian Army is serving alongside the British Army, that is Burma, Ceylon and other places too, Aden for instance, where Indian soldiers are serving alongside the British soldiers and doing exactly the same work. They would also ask to be considered equally with their comrades serving in the Middle East.

Well, as I have said before on many occasions, no one is more concerned with the welfare and contentment of the Indian Army than I, and I take the point made by my Honourable friend, Lala Ram Saran Das, that practical sympathy is required, not lip sympathy. I take that point. If you are going to have an efficient army, you must have a contented army: without reasonable contentment in the army you will not have efficiency. And it is my business to ensure that the Army is content; and with your help I propose to ensure it. But this contentment must be reached by means which are within the bounds of reason, and within our capacity to achieve. The theory that men doing the same job, that is, fighting side by side in the same battle, undergoing the same hardships, serving in the same places,—the theory that these men should be all given the same pay and treated exactly in the same way cannot be gainsaid; no one, I think, will dispute that theory. But, Sir, this is a world of hard facts, and that theory cannot so easily be put into practice.

I think we should clear our minds about the principles which may be said to govern the rates of pay received by an army, whether in peace or in war. It seems to me that possibly—I do not know for certain—my Honourable friend the Mover had in mind that the prestige of the Indian Army abroad suffered by being paid at lower rates. If so, I cannot bring myself to agree with him that prestige depends upon pay. I am sure it does not, and I am sure that the Germans and the Italians whom we fought in Africa did not think so either. It seems to me that it is impossible to fix the rates of pay of an army by comparison with the rates of pay paid to other armies, even if both these forces or armies are part of the same general army and fighting on the same front side by side, with the same object. I think this applies whether the troops concerned come from different parts of the British Commonwealth or whether they come from different Allied countries such as America, China and other countries which are providing troops to fight the common enemy. I think it applies in all cases. It seems to me that the pay of an army must be connected with, and cannot be separated from, the general cost of living in the country from which the soldiers come and the general emoluments paid to people in civil life in the countries from which the soldiers come. I do not see how you can separate the pay of an army from those two factors. To put it rather bluntly, it is a matter of supply and demand, and has always been. Even in conscript armies it is a matter of supply and demand. Even in a conscript army the pay is related to the factors which I have just mentioned, because public opinion, even in those countries which have conscript armies, will force the Government to pay its soldiers at reasonable rates, that is to say, rates comparable with those which they are accustomed to receive and live on in civil life.

Well, the first step is to attract your recruit. And to attract him, you offer him pay which you think is reasonable and which is likely to produce the number of men you require. That is the first step. Now, having got your recruit and turned him into a soldier, it is your business and my business—the business of all of us—to see that, having become a soldier, he is paid at such rates as will keep him reasonably contented and enable him to maintain himself and his family in the way in which he is accustomed to do. That seems to me to be the crux of the matter. I grant you that the pay which was originally fixed some years ago may not be adequate today, and may require revision. And this process of revision of pay has been going on constantly since the war, not only in the Indian Army, but in other armies as well. As I said, if we are to have an efficient army, we must keep the soldier contented, once he has been enlisted. When I say soldier, I mean the officers

as well—we take soldiers as a whole. It has been my constant care and particular concern to see that the officers and men are kept contented so far as in me lies.

The Resolution presumably was not based on the principle I have mentioned, because, if it had been, it would have referred not only to soldiers serving in the Middle East, but also to soldiers serving everywhere else. In fact, I think the Honourable Member admitted that; and certainly several other Honourable Members mentioned it in their speeches.

Well, when you compare the different habits of life and the different standards of life obtaining in the various countries from which Allied soldiers come—when I say Allied, I mean Indian, American, British, Australian, New Zealanders, and many, many others—I think you will find it extraordinarily difficult to fix flat rates or similar rates, for all these soldiers, wherever they may come from. I will touch upon that point again later.

To take these three classes. The Resolution speaks first of all of Indian commissioned officers. The facts are these. The British officer of the Indian Army serving in India gets what is called the Indian Army allowance. I will not go into details about it: I think you all know about this special allowance paid to the British officer because he is serving all his life out of his own country. Whether it is justified or not, that does not matter: there it is. He gets nothing extra when he goes overseas. He does not get overseas allowance when he is sent overseas. The Indian officer, on the other hand, although he does not draw the Indian Army allowance, because he is a native of India, when he goes overseas he gets what is called the colonial allowance, on the same scale as is given to officers of the British Army when they leave the United Kingdom for service overseas. As a matter of fact, that colonial allowance differs in each country according to what is supposed to be the cost of living in those countries. It is a peace-time arrangement; the allowance is paid, according to the status of the officer in peace-time, in the various countries to which he may be sent. It has been perpetuated in war-time, not always with very happy results; but there it is. As a matter of fact, as the result of drawing this colonial allowance, in certain cases, for instance, in Iraq, some Indian officers are drawing more pay than the British officers of the same units serving in that country. As I said, in various countries it acts differently. But it is a fact that sometimes it produces a situation where an Indian officer is drawing more than a British officer of the same unit. I do not think I need say anything more about it.

So far as the Viceroy's commissioned officer is concerned, there is no parallel with the Viceroy's commissioned officer in the British Army. It is generally true to say that the functions of the Viceroy's commissioned officer are to command platoons and troops, and similar organisations; that is to say, he is a sub-unit commander, generally commanding about 30 to 50 men, or some equivalent unit. In the British Army, as the Honourable Mover rightly said, Mr. Hore Belisha at one time tried to substitute non-commissioned officers and warrant officers for commissioned officers as platoon commanders. That experiment failed—and some time ago it was dropped; and the command of the platoons and similar small units was again made the responsibility of commissioned officers, that is to say, in the British Army, commissioned officers carry out the same duties as Viceroy's commissioned officers—jemadars, subedars, risaldars—in the Indian Army. It is, however, wrong really to compare Viceroy's commissioned officers with sergeants or warrant officers. If you are going to compare them, you ought to compare them with platoon commanders. I grant you that in doing that the discrepancy becomes even greater. But there it is; you cannot get away from it. If you want the Viceroy's commissioned officer serving abroad—in the Middle East, according to the terms of the Resolution—if you want to put him on an equal footing with his opposite number in the British Army, if you are going logically about it, you will have to promote him to be a lieutenant and give him the same pay as the commissioned officer receives. I do not think that is a practical scheme at all. I do not think it will work. The Viceroy's commissioned officer holds a special place in the Indian Army such as is held by nobody in any other army and I do not think we can do without him. I do not say it is the only possible system, but it is the system and to alter it now would be, to my mind, impossible. What may happen

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after the war I do not know. But I should be very sorry to see this class of Viceroy's commissioned officers disappear. For many years, in many battles and campaigns, they have made a name for themselves as the mainstay and prop of the Indian Army, and without them it would be extremely difficult to carry on. It is a class which is respected everywhere and is practically indispensable and I hope that nothing will be said or done by anybody to detract from their status or from their position. Without them the Indian Army would be a very difficult army to run.

Now, to come to the other ranks, the third head of the Resolution, the Resolution again appears to urge—it looks as if it urges—that all soldiers serving in the same theatre of war should get the same pay. You could carry this forward to its logical corollary and say that all other ranks the world over, who serve side by side, should get the same pay. You might carry it even further and say that all armies in the world, whether they are on this side or on that side, should get the same pay. You might come to the position when the enemy might go on strike. That might be one way of ending the war. But I do not think really that is practical politics.

These are the three heads of the Resolution and I have kept strictly within the terms of the Resolution.

I do not want to detain Honourable Members any longer. I am afraid I must repeat my conviction that the pay of the soldier cannot be regulated by the pay of soldiers of other Armies coming from countries in which conditions of life are quite different. The pay, I think, must continue to be based on the laws of supply and demand. As I say, you have first to secure your recruit, and having secured him you have to keep him contented and efficient. In saying this I do not wish to appear hard-hearted. In fact, I am not. I am not unsympathetic. Far from it. So far as my Honourable friend the Mover seeks to assure for my comrades in the Indian Army the proper reward for their services I am with him now and always. This has always been, is and always will be my constant endeavour so long as I remain here. But I am sure he will realise and I am sure Honourable Members will realise that my hands as Commander-in-Chief are not free. I do not stand *in vacuo*. I have many colleagues with whom I have to confer and whose arguments I have to listen to. Some of those arguments are extremely strong. As I said before at the beginning of my speech, this is only one of the many problems which are at present under my consideration. All these problems are related one to another and it is for me to see how far they can be solved with your help. The general economic situation in the country I have already referred to. We all wish to be generous, but hasty generosity, not properly considered and not properly digested, however attractive it may be and however one could wish to put into effect, might defeat its own object and cause much greater suffering and discontent in the end. Therefore, I think it is necessary in all these matters to consider them very carefully and to go slowly. As I said before, I do not think the matter can possibly stop at the limits suggested in the Resolution and the implications of extending the measures proposed in the Resolution to the whole of the Indian Army are really tremendous and almost incalculable. The sums involved are very great indeed. I purposely refrained from mentioning the financial side of the business because I do not wish to base my arguments on that. I am trying to base my arguments on principle and common sense. Perhaps I have not succeeded. There is the financial aspect also to consider and as I said, the cost would be very great indeed.

Sir, I do again assure my Honourable friend the Mover that the improvement of the conditions of service of the officers and men of the Indian Army is and will remain my constant and anxious care so long as I hold my present position, and with this assurance I would like to ask my Honourable friend to withdraw his Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Mr. President, I took care in moving my Resolution to explain why I had dealt only with the question of the I. C. Os. and V. C. Os. and soldiers serving in the Middle East. I pointed out, Sir, that all questions relating to India could be considered only with reference to the establishment of a National Army. If a National Army is going to be established here, the rates of pay and allowances would have to be such as would be appropriate to such an army. But a National Army does not exist at present, and if Government are not going to take early steps to create a National Army, then the questions of

which I have spoken will arise in this country also. I referred to the Army Indianisation Committee and pointed out that there was dissatisfaction among the I. C. Os. with their present rates of pay even in peacetime and that it was felt that owing to their having to undergo the same expenses as the British officers who set the standard of expenditure in the messes and elsewhere, their pay was inadequate to meet their obligations. As long as the present state of things with its two kinds of officers of different races lasted, the difficulty that I have drawn attention to will continue to trouble us. But I do not think that the fact that my Resolution may be taken advantage of by men who are not at present in the Middle East should be a bar to the acceptance at least of the spirit of its spirit. His Excellency has in general terms said that it will be his constant endeavour while he is at the head of the Army here to bear the questions that I have dealt with in mind. But I personally do not regard such an assurance as sufficient. The observations that fell from His Excellency with regard to the general canons that should guide the authorities in fixing the pay of different classes of their servants in the Army and of approximating them to the pay which would be received by men occupying the same status in civil life may, theoretically speaking, be regarded as sound. But here again if the conditions in India remain what they are for a long time, the Indian soldier will no more remain contented with his present position than the Indian officer is. Theoretical comparisons will not satisfy him. I have drawn attention to the difficulties of the officers and men in the Middle East because they can be regarded as a category by themselves and Government can even during the war take steps to show that they mean to create rapidly a National Army in this country. If they take such steps they will find that the repercussions of the acceptance of my Resolution will not be of the same character as His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief fears. When people realise that the character of the Army is going to be changed, that it is going to be placed on the same basis on which the British or any Dominion Army rests, all questions relating to it, whether they concern officers or men, will begin to wear a different complexion. But if the present state of things continues, and continues indefinitely, then as I have said more than once, the questions which I have dealt with in regard to the officers and men in the Middle East will arise also in regard to the officers and men in India. That is the danger of the present situation and the way to deal with it is not to refuse to consider the legitimate grievances of the officers and men in the Middle East but to change the prevailing policy in regard to the Army in India. I feel, therefore, that in spite of the fact that my Resolution does not refer to the whole Indian Army but deals only with that particular part of it which is serving abroad, there is no reason why on the merits it should not be accepted. It is perfectly true, as His Excellency pointed out, that the Resolution refers not merely to the Indian Army in the Middle East but to Indian officers and men wherever they may be outside their country and it is for this reason I drew attention to the Ceylonese rates of pay and to the equality of Ceylonese units with British units in the matter of salary. I think, Sir, that whatever objections might be urged against my Resolution it must be admitted by the military authorities that the demands of the officers and men at the present time are based on just grounds and that the principle underlying the changes which they ask for should be accepted by the authorities concerned. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is prepared to keep the object of the Resolution that I have in view in mind. But unless he accepts the principle underlying it what will guide him in the consideration of this important question? It is only when he accepts the principle underlying it that we can have a reasonable assurance that the question will be dealt with in a proper way and sound conclusions arrived at. As such an assurance has not been forthcoming, I regret that, in spite of the high regard that I have, if I may say so, for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, I cannot withdraw my Resolution.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Sir, I formally oppose the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Resolution moved:—

“This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council to represent to the higher authorities that the Indian Commissioned officers serving abroad be paid at the same rate as the British officers in the Indian Army and that the Viceroy's Commissioned officers and Indian soldiers serving abroad be paid at the same rates as persons occupying corresponding positions in the British Army serving elsewhere in the Indian Army.”

[The President.]

Question put : the Council divided :

AYES—10.

Ataullah Khan Tarar, Hon. Chaudhri.
Chettiyar, Hon. Mr. Chidambaram.
Das, Hon. Mr. N. K.
Kalikar, Hon. Mr. V. V.
Kunzru, Hon. Pandit Hirday Nath.

Mahtha Hon. Rai Bahadur Sri Narain.
Padshah Sahib Bahadur, Hon. Saiyed
Mohamed.
Ram Saran Das, Hon. Rai Bahadur Lala.
Sapru, Hon. Mr. P. N.
Yuveraj Datta Singh, Hon. Raja.

NOES—24.

Bozman, Hon. Mr. G. S.
Burder, Hon. Mr. J. H.
Charanjit Singh, Hon. Raja.
Chinoy, Hon. Sir Rahimtoola.
Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency the.
Conran-Smith, Hon. Mr. E.
Das, Hon. Rai Bahadur Satyendra Kumar.
Devadoss, Hon. Sir David.
Ghosal, Hon. Sir Josna.
Hissamuddin Bahadur, Hon. Lt.-Col. Sir.
Jogendra Singh, Hon. Sardar Sir.
Jones, Hon. Mr. C. E.
Khurshid Ali Khan, Hon. Nawabzada.

Lal, Hon. Mr. Shavax A.
Mahomed Usman, Hon. Sir.
Menon, Hon. Sir Ramunni.
Mukherjee, Hon. Sir Satya Charan.
Ogilvie, Hon. Mr. C. M. G.
Parker, Hon. Mr. R. H.
Roy, Hon. Sir Satyendra Nath.
Sobha Singh, Hon. Sardar Bahadur.
Srivastava, Hon. Sir Jwala Prasad.
Tufnell-Barret, Hon. Mr. H.
Wood, Major-General the Hon. E.

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE RECONSTITUTION OF THE HINDU LAW COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Mr. Mahtha, will you please only read your Resolution today. As we have got only one more Resolution on the next non-official day I shall allow the discussion of your Resolution on that day. If you will read the Resolution now you will get priority for your Motion.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA (Bihar : Non-Muhanmadan) : Mr. President, I would like to seek your permission to move my Resolution in a very slightly amended form.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : What is the change ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA : I would like to replace the word "reappoint" by —

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You should remember to always inform the Chair well in time if you want to make any amendment after the Resolution is once admitted and brought on the List of Business.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA : I am sorry Sir, I should have done that. But in order to arrive at a greater measure of agreement between my colleagues I have discovered first now that I should agree to replace the word "reappoint" by the word "reconstitute" and to omit the words starting from "originally" and ending with the figure "1941".

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I will allow that, but will you please give a copy of the amended Resolution to the Secretary.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA : I shall certainly do so. I shall now, Sir, with your permission, read out the Resolution as I would like to move it in the amended form :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to reconstitute the committee commonly known as the Hindu Law Committee and to charge this committee with the work of suitably amending and codifying the Hindu Law in all its branches so as to enable Government to place before the Central Legislature necessary legislative measures for due enactment as early as possible."

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 4th August, 1948.