

*Tuesday,
19th September, 1916*

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Council of the Governor General of India,
LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Vol. LIV

September 1916

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA

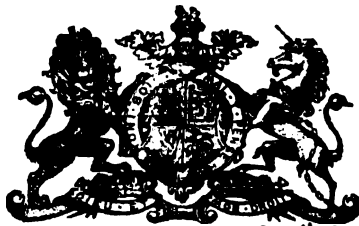
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ASSEMBLED UNDER
THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1915
(5 & 8 Geo. V, Ch. 61).

The Council met at the Council Chamber at Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on
Tuesday, the 19th September, 1916.

PRESENT :

His Excellency BARON CHELMSFORD, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., G.C.M.G., Viceroy
and Governor General, *presiding*, and 52 Members, of whom 45 were Addi-
tional Members.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following Additional Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation
of allegiance to the Crown :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Dinshaw Edulji Wacha.

„ Raja Sir Muhammad Ali Muhammad
Khan, K.C.I.E., Khan Bahadur, of
Mahmudabad.

„ Nawab Salyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri,
Khan Bahadur.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble Khan Zulfiqar Ali Khan asked :—

1. “ (a) Is it a fact that about 98 per cent of the Punjabi soldiers (Sikhs, Hindus and Muhammadans) of the Indian Army have been recruited from amongst Zamindars of the Punjab ? wider employment of Punjab Zamindars in the public services.”

(b) Is it a fact that Punjab Zamindars have rendered valuable and distinguished services during the present war ?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to offer wider opportunities of public service to the Zamindar families of the Punjab ? ”

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.] [Sir Reginald Craddock ; Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi ; Sir George Barnes.]

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

“(a) The exact proportion of Zamindars or members of agriculturist families serving amongst the Punjabi soldiers of the Indian Army cannot be stated, but it is probably more than 90 per cent.

(b) It is a fact that the Punjab Zamindars have rendered most valuable and distinguished service during the present war. Such service has been rendered by the entire Indian Army.

(c) So far as the Government of India are aware, no previous representation has been made that the Zamindars or agriculturist families of the Punjab should be given preferential treatment in the matter of admission to the public services. The matter is primarily one for the Punjab Government to deal with, but any proposals which it may wish to put forward in this respect will receive sympathetic consideration by the Government of India.”

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked:—

Fishing resources of the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

2. “Since the abandonment by the Government of Bengal of the enterprise of the ‘Golden Crown,’ has any Provincial Administration directly or indirectly encouraged the exploitation of the fishing resources of the Bay of Bengal or the Indian Ocean? If so, where, when and how?”

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

“As the Hon'ble Member is aware, the ‘Golden Crown’ was employed by the Bengal Government from June 1908 to December 1909, with a crew of expert fishermen in trawling operations in the Bay of Bengal, with the object of locating and charting the fishing grounds and of ascertaining what kinds and quantities of fish were obtainable in the Bay. The results of the trawling operations were published by the Bengal Government in 1910, and a collection of papers dealing with the fisheries survey of the Bay was published separately in 1911. In 1914, a Bulletin by the Deputy Director of Fisheries was published by the same Local Government drawing attention to the results of the operations of the ‘Golden Crown,’ and inviting capitalists to take advantage of the investigations which had been made by Government. This was followed by another Bulletin which was published only last year.

With respect to the operations of the Madras Fisheries Department under Sir Fredrick Nicholson, I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the various Bulletins issued by that Department, which give a full account of the important work that is being done. The work of the Madras Government in connection with the curing and canning of fish on the west coast is well-known.”

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

School Final examination.

3. “(a) Will the Government be pleased to state in what provinces of India the School Final system has so far been introduced? What is the total number of students who have passed in the School Final in those provinces, year by year, from 1912 up to 1915?”

(b) Has any Indian University any control or supervision of any kind over the School Final system of secondary education? If so, where and in what way and to what extent is the supervision exercised?

[*Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi ; Sir C. Sankaran Nair.*] [19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

(c) Is it a fact that in some parts of the country there is some fear of the School Final system partially supplanting and effectually interfering with higher University education ?

(d) Do the Government propose to place the control of the School Final system with Boards consisting of official and non-official educational experts in provinces where the system obtains at present ? "

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

" (a) The School Final system has so far been introduced in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, in the United Provinces, Burma and the Central Provinces. The number of students who have passed in the School Final examination in the provinces which have adopted the system is shown below :—

	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
*Madras	4,269	4,379	4,860	5,529
Bombay	677	609	759	723
United Provinces	539	608	722	969
Burma	47	94	141	167
Central Provinces	141	302	311	268

(b) It is probable that some members of the Boards are also Fellows of the Universities. Apart from these, there are two representatives of the Allahabad University on the United Provinces Board and, according to the latest arrangements, there are four University representatives on the Madras Board. Some of the Universities exact special conditions in the case of pupils who have obtained certificates under the School Final system and seek admission to University courses.

(c) Judging from expressions of opinion that have been published in the public press, it appears that some such fear exists in certain quarters.

(d) The Government of India have not laid down any general rules with regard to the control of the School Final system, and the arrangements vary in the different provinces. There are Boards consisting of official and non-official educational experts in Madras, the United Provinces and the Central Provinces. Similar Boards have been proposed for Bihar and Orissa and Ajmer-Marwara."

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

1. " How many Agricultural Colleges are there in India ? Where are they situated, and what has been the total number of students attending them, year by year, from 1910 ? "

Agricultural Colleges in India.

*The figures for Madras represent the number of candidates who have received certificates.

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

[Mr. C. H. A. Hill; Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi; Sir George Barnes.]

The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. A. Hill replied :—

“A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

Besides the Agricultural Research Institute and College at Pusa, there are six Provincial Agricultural Colleges in India at Coimbatore, Poona, Sabour, Cawnpore, Lyallpur and Nagpore. The total number of students attending them, year by year, since 1910 has been as follows :—

College.	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING.						
	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-3	1913-14.	1914-15.	
Pusa	Post graduate course ...	4	8	7	10	8	8
	Short courses ...	49	59	33	19	7	4
Coimbatore ...	31	48	50	48	50	74	
Poona ...	110	104	114	110	127	121	
Sabour ...	College not opened.	21	18	20	18	20	
Cawnpore ...	150	142	122	109	44	38	
Lyallpur ...	35	65	49	90	48	75	
Nagpore ...	47	52	58	54	46	52	

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

Conversion of the Sara-Siliguri branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway into a broad gauge line.

5. “(a) Has the Railway Board made any definite recommendation regarding the proposal of bringing the Sara-Siliguri branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway into line with the broad gauge system ?

(b) If so, has the Secretary of State assented to the conversion of the Sara-Siliguri into broad gauge ?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when the work will be taken in hand and when it will be completed ?”

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

“The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

As regards the second and third parts of the question, the matter has still to be considered by the Government of India, and all that can be said is that this will be done and their recommendation to the Secretary of State made without delay.”

[*Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi; Sir Reginald Craddock; Sir George Barnes; Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Shafi; Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma.*]

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

6. "Is there in any existing University any Chair for the teaching or any facilities for the study and research of the indigenous system of medicine? If so, where? If not, do Government intend to remove this want by the establishment of such Chairs in the Universities of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta?"

Facilities for the study and research in the indigenous system of medicine.

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

"There are no special facilities in any Indian University for the study of, or research in, the indigenous systems of medicine. As the Hon'ble Member is aware, the Government of India are giving their earnest attention to the matter of placing these ancient systems on a scientific basis and increasing their usefulness, but, as at present advised, they cannot see their way to establish Professorial Chairs for this purpose in the Universities of Madras, Bombay or Calcutta."

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

7. "(a) Has any proposal for the construction of a Railway line connecting India with Burma been before Government? If so, has the proposal been abandoned for the present?"

Railway line connecting India with Burma.

(b) If the answers to (a) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such abandonment?"

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

"There have been various proposals for the construction of a Railway line between India and Burma, but the project, like other proposals for constructing new Railways, is in temporary abeyance during the war. The Government, however, fully recognise the importance of the connection, and the project will be among the first to be considered when funds and material are available."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Shafi asked :—

8. "Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a comparative statement showing the total value of the import and export trade of the three provinces Bihar and Orissa, Agra and Oudh and the Punjab in the three years 1913-14, 1914-15 and 1915-16?"

Import and export trade of Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces and the Punjab.

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

"The comparative statement* asked for by the Hon'ble Member has been laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

9. "(1). Will Government be pleased to state whether they are contemplating the introduction after the war of any changes—

Changes in the constitution of the Imperial and Provincial Executive and Legislative Councils after the war.

(a) in the strength and composition of the Indian Imperial and Provincial Executive Councils,

*Vide Appendix A. to these Proceedings.

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

[*Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma ; Sir Reginald Craddock ; Sir C. Sankaran Nair ; Sir William Meyer.*]

(b) in the strength, composition and powers of the Imperial and Provincial Legislative Councils ?

(2). Is it a fact that on some previous occasion or occasions changes contemplated with regard to the Imperial and Provincial Legislative Councils were published for general criticism and suggestions before they were finally sent up to, or considered by, the Secretary of State ?

(3). If the answer to part 1 (a) or 1 (b) is in the affirmative, do Government intend publishing their recommendations before the same are finally sent up to the Secretary of State ?

(4). If the answer to (3) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to give the reasons for their intention not to publish their recommendations ? ”

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

“ The Government of India are unable at present to make any statement in the matter.”

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

Changes in District and Local Boards and Municipalities after the war.

10. “ (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are contemplating the introduction after the war of any changes in the strength, composition and powers of District and Local Boards and Presidency and mofussil municipalities ?

(b) If so, do Government propose (i) to publish their proposals before the same are finally approved, and (ii) to consider the desirability of postponing all local self-government legislation till the war is over ? ”

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

“ The Government of India look forward to an extension of local self-government, but have not laid down any definite scheme for introduction after the war.”

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

Loans.

11. “ Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What rates of interest the cash amounting to £5,793,000 placed at short notice on the 31st March 1916, was earning ?

(b) Whether the loans if any which have fallen in since have been renewed, and, if so, at what interest ; whether any of the renewals is in favour of the same persons, and, if so, in how many cases ?

(c) Whether the bank rates in India for short term loans were much the same or higher than those secured in London ? ”

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer replied :—

“ The Hon'ble Member's question apparently relates to the balances of the Gold Standard Reserve in London on the 31st March. We have no definite information as to the actual arrangements made by the Secretary of State on that date, or as to the precise rates of interest payable. We understand, however,

[*Sir William Meyer; Rao Bahadur
B. N. Sarma.*]

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from information received not long before that date, that the Gold Standard Reserve balances were almost entirely placed at short notice with the Bank of England and at an adequate rate of interest. In the absence of information as to the exact rates payable on these deposits, Government are not in a position to state whether the rates which would have been paid by Banks in India for short term loans at that time were much the same or higher than those secured in London. I may add that the rates of interest given by Indian Banks at any time vary with the circumstances of individual Banks and the extent of their desire to obtain fresh money on deposit."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma :—

"May I ask, as a supplementary question, will the Government of India be pleased to obtain the information?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer replied :—

"I do not see the necessity for constantly telegraphing to the Secretary of State as to the precise rates of interest obtainable at any particular time on deposits made from the Gold Standard Reserve. We get periodical statements of the moneys of the Gold Standard Reserve and the amount of interest accruing from their investment. We regard that as sufficient."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

12. "Will the Government be pleased to state—

Gold stand-
ard
serve.

(a) Whether the Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency recommended that the best rule would be that not less than one-half of the Gold Standard Reserve Fund should be held in actual gold when the total fund exceeds 30 million pounds, and that a minimum amount of 15 millions should be accumulated as rapidly as possible, and if so, whether its recommendations in this connection had been discussed or dissented from prior to the war?

(b) Whether the amount of actual gold held in India on 31st March, 1916, was only £239,000?

(c) What such amount was at the commencement of the war and on the 1st September, 1916?

(d) Whether the Secretary of State has intimated to them his views prior to taking action in the investment of the Gold Standard Reserve Fund in England or obtained their previous approval to such action or acted against their wishes.

(e) Whether they contemplate taking any steps to keep the actual gold in the Gold Standard Reserve in India, and to secure the retention of the reserve of minimum gold by statutory enactment?

(f) Whether there was any weakness in the exchange in the earlier months of the year owing to there having been no gold in the reserve?"

The Hon'ble Sir William Meyer replied :—

"(a) The answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. With regard to the latter part, it was explained in paragraph 93 of my speech introducing the Financial Statement for 1915-16 that, just before the outbreak of the war, the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Indian Finance

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[*Sir William Meyer ; Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma ; Sir C. Sankaran Nair.*]

and Currency were referred for the opinions of Local Governments and representative commercial bodies, but that for obvious reasons the authorities consulted had been informed that an expression of their views might be deferred until the restoration of normal conditions. At the time when the war broke out, therefore, no conclusion had been arrived at in the matter referred to by the Hon'ble Member.

(b) The gold holding in the Gold Standard Reserve in India on the 31st March 1916 amounted to £238,734.

(c) The gold holding in the Gold Standard Reserve in India on the 1st September 1916 amounted to about £620,000. No gold was held in India on behalf of the Reserve at the time of the outbreak of the war. There was, however, at that time a holding of £4 million (6 crores) in rupees, which shortly after the war broke out was exchanged for £4 million of gold held in the Paper Currency Reserve. This transaction was explained to the public at the time, and was also referred to in paragraph 5 of my speech introducing the Financial Statement for 1915-16. Subsequent transactions in connection with the Gold Standard Reserve, including the taking of temporary loans from that Reserve by Government, were made public, (i) in paragraphs 37 and 55 of my speech above referred to, (ii) in paragraphs 21 and 106-107 of my speech introducing the Financial Statement for the current year, (iii) in a recent Press *Communiqué*, dated the 12th September, 1916.

(d) The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to the papers printed as Appendix V of the Interim Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency. This contains the complete correspondence on the subject of the investment of the Gold Standard Reserve up to the time when the Commission met. The Government of India have since been consulted by the Secretary of State in respect of all important steps taken in regard to the administration of the Gold Standard Reserve.

(e) For the reasons explained in my answer to (a) above, no decision has been arrived at on the points in question.

(f) There has been no weakness in exchange during the current year, and there have been only two periods of depression since the war broke out. The first of these, which was referred to in paragraph 5 of my speech introducing the Financial Statement for 1915-16, commenced on the outbreak of war, and was due to what may be called international panic. The second, which occurred from June to September 1915, was explained in paragraph 102 of my speech introducing the Financial Statement for 1916-17. The remedial measures, which were successfully adopted in both cases, consisted in a prompt setting free of funds in London by means of reverse councils against a corresponding payment to the Government in India."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

13. "(a) Has any representation been made to the Government of India on behalf of the Madras Corporation asking that an opportunity may be given to the Corporation of offering its suggestions regarding the Madras City Municipal Bill drafted by the Local Government ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to give the Corporation the desired opportunity before they give their administrative approval to the Bill prior to its introduction in the local Legislative Council ?"

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

"No such representation has yet been made to the Government of India, and it is probable that some little time will elapse before the Bill can be introduced into the Local Council."

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

[*Mir Asad Ali, Khan Bahadur ; Sir Reginald Craddock ; Sir C. Sankaran Nair ; Rai Bahadur Bishan Dutt Shukul.*]

The Hon'ble Mir Asad Ali, Khan Bahadur, asked :—

14. "Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received any proposal for strengthening the Madras High Court by the appointment of either permanent or temporary additional judges ; and

(b) If so, whether they propose to publish the correspondence relating to the above subject, before making their final recommendation to the Secretary of State for India ? "

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

"The Government of India have received and are considering proposals for increasing the permanent strength of the Madras High Court. They do not at present propose to publish the correspondence."

The Hon'ble Mir Asad Ali, Khan Bahadur, asked :—

15. "(a) Have the Government of India received any suggestion from the Government of Madras that the standard of the local Madrasa-i-Azam should be raised in consequence of the difficulties experienced by Muhammadan pupils, especially those from the mofussil, in gaining admission into Madras colleges for want of room ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to raise the Madrasa-i-Azam to a second grade college ? "

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

"No such suggestion has been received from the Government of Madras."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bishan Dutt Shukul asked :—

16. "Will Government be pleased to say—

(a) If any definite proposals regarding the establishment of a University at Nagpur have been received from the Local Government ?

(b) If so, what action, if any, is proposed to be taken for the early establishment of the same ? "

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

"There have been informal discussions between the officers of the Department of Education and those of the local Administration, but no definite proposals have yet been submitted to the Government of India."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bishan Dutt Shukul asked :—

17. "Have Government received any opinions and proposals relating to the constitution of a Chief Court at Nagpur from the local Administration ? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the whole correspondence on the subject ? "

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

"The recommendations of the local Administration on this subject have not yet been received."

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

[*Rai Bahadur Bishan Dutt Shukul ;
Sir C. Sankaran Nair ; Sir
Reginald Craddock ; Dr. Tej
Bahadur Sapru.*]**The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bishan Dutt Shukul asked :—**Levy of a
cess for the
development
of light local
railways and
tramways.

18. "Did the Royal Commission on Decentralization in India, in paragraph 765 of their Report, make certain recommendations regarding powers to be conferred on District Boards to levy a special extra cess for the development of light local railways and tramways? If so, will Government be pleased to state how far those recommendations have been given effect to in the various provinces in India?"

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

"The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In regard to the latter half of the question, Local Governments and Administrations other than Madras (where the power already exists) were empowered in 1913 to undertake legislation if they so desired, authorising District Boards, subject to conditions similar to those laid down in the Madras Local Boards Act (V of 1884), to levy a special extra land cess not exceeding 3 pias in the rupee on the annual net value of land for the development of light local railways and tramways.

The Punjab Government recently proposed an amendment of the Punjab District Board's Act with the object of conferring such powers on District Boards, but have decided to withdraw the Bill on account of the opposition of the non-official members of the local Legislative Council. No other Local Government has so far undertaken any legislation on the subject."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bishan Dutt Shukul asked :—Enlargement of the
C.P. Legislative
Council.

19. "(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to any memorial recently submitted to the Local Government by the Provincial Association of the Central Provinces and Berar, praying for the enlargement of the local Legislative Council to the maximum number of thirty members prescribed by the Government of India Act, 1915?"

(b) Is it a fact that various important professions and interests are not adequately represented in the Central Provinces Legislative Council owing to the present number of members being limited to twenty-five only?"

(c) Do Government propose to take into consideration the question of raising the number of members of the said Council?"

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

"(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Government of India are not aware that the facts are as stated by the Hon'ble Member.

(c) The Central Provinces Legislative Council has only been in existence for two years, and no question of enlarging it has come under consideration."

The Hon'ble Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru asked :—Establishment of an
Executive
Council in
the United
Provinces.

20. "(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have recently recommended to the Secretary of State for India in Council the establishment of an Executive Council in the United Provinces, and whether any reply on the subject has been received?"

[*Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru; Sir Reginald Craddock; Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu; Sir George Barnes.*] [19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

(b) Do Government propose to establish an Executive Council in the United Provinces with a Lieutenant-Governor or a Governor as its head ?”

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

“ The Government of India have renewed their recommendation to the Secretary of State for the establishment of an Executive Council in the United Provinces. They are not in a position at present to give further information on the subject.”

The Hon'ble Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru asked :—

21. “ Will Government be pleased to state if they have under contemplation any scheme of constitutional reforms to be given effect to after the war ? If so, do they intend to invite an expression of public opinion on the scheme before taking any final decision in the matter ?” Scheme of Constitutional Reforms.

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock replied :—

“ The Hon'ble Member is referred to my reply to a similar question by the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma to-day.”

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked :—

22. “(a) Is it a fact that there has been in India a marked reduction in the consumption of spirits and drugs from April, 1913, to March, 1916 ? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing such reduction in the various provincial areas ?” Reduction in consumption of spirits and drugs.

(b) Do the Government of India propose to consider the question of suggesting to Provincial Governments the advisability of reducing the number of shops in which spirits or drugs are sold, with a view to discourage the consumption of intoxicants ?

(c) Is it the avowed policy of the Government of India to discourage such consumption ?”

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

(a) “ Figures for 1915-1916 are not available, as the Excise Administration Reports for that year have not yet been received. I lay on the table, however, a statement* showing the consumption of spirits and drugs in the various provinces during the years 1913-1914 and 1914-1915, from which it will be seen that there was in the latter year a considerable fall in the consumption of spirits.

(b) With reference to part (b) of the question, I would invite the Hon'ble Member's attention to Volume I of the papers relating to Excise Administration in India, published in the Supplement to the Gazette of India of the 25th July, 1914, which shows that the matter was recently carefully considered both by the Government of India and the Local Governments and Administrations, and that instructions were issued to the latter to keep in view the policy of reducing the number of shops for the sale of liquor and drugs. That they are steadily following this policy will, I think, be clear from the further statement that I place on the table showing the number of shops for the sale of exciseable articles in the various provinces during each of the years 1912-1913 to 1914-1915.

(c) The answer to part (c) of the Hon'ble Member's question is in the affirmative.”

*Not included in these Proceedings.

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[*Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi; Sir C. Sankaran Nair; Mr. C. H. A. Hill; Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma.*]**The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi** asked :—

New Universities in India.

23. "Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many schemes for new Universities in India have been matured, and by what time each of such Universities is likely to be established ?

(b) Which of these proposed Universities are to be of the purely federal type, which of them purely residential, and which of them of a mixed type ?"

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

"(a) Schemes for Universities at Dacca, Patna, Rangoon and Nagpur are in various stages of preparation. It is not possible to say when each of these is likely to be established, but it is proposed to introduce legislation in connection with the Patna scheme at this session.

(b) The Patna scheme contemplates a mixed type of University, but the exact type to which the other proposed Universities may conform cannot be definitely stated at present."

The Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi asked :—

Cadastral survey.

24. "(a) In what parts of India have any operations under the cadastral survey been so far commenced or completed ?

(b) Are Government aware of any grievance regarding the operations of the cadastral survey in any part of India, in connection with the relation between the landlord and the tenant and between the zamindar and the State, and also in connection with the expenditure which the survey has involved ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. A. Hill replied :—

"(a) Cadastral survey operations commenced in practically all parts of British India many years ago, and in most Provinces and Administrations have already been completed. The only Provinces in which original operations on a large scale are now in progress are Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. Revision surveys are carried out as occasion requires under the orders of the Local Governments.

(b) The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. N. Sarma asked :—

Discussion in London on the question of Indian emigration.

25. "(a) With reference to the statement on the subject made by His Excellency the President in his speech in Council on the 5th instant, will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) when approximately the discussion on the question of emigration to the Colonies is expected to take place in London ?

(ii) whether India will be represented at such discussion by the Secretary of State, or by any special officer or officers from this country deputed for the purpose, and whether the services of any representative non-official Indian will be utilised ?

(b) Is there any intention to consider what the respective relations and the relative positions of India, the Colonies, and the other integral parts of the British Empire should be therein after the war ?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of suggesting the postponement of such a discussion on the ground that it is controversial ?"

[*Sir George Barnes; Rai Sita Nath Ray Bahadur; Sir C. Sankaran Nair; Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu.*] [19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

“The Conference between the India Office and the Colonial Office, to which the Hon'ble Member refers, will, we believe, take place in January next. The India Office will be represented by Lord Islington, the Under Secretary of State, and an officer who will be specially deputed by the Government of India for the purpose from this country. The answer to part (b) of the Hon'ble Member's question is in the negative, and part (c) consequently does not arise.”

The Hon'ble Rai Sita Nath Ray Bahadur asked :—

26. (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Bill to establish the University of Dacca is likely to be introduced in this Council? Dacca University Bill.

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reply given by the Government of Bengal to a question regarding the Dacca University modified scheme, put at the Dacca session of the Bengal Legislative Council on the 7th August last? If so, will the Government be pleased to state if it is proposed to establish the said University in the modified form as sketched out in the above reply?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal have refused to open a department to teach Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in the Dacca School of Engineering?

(d) If so, do the Government of India propose to consider the question of providing a fully equipped Engineering College under the University of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Sir C. Sankaran Nair replied :—

“(a) and (b). The question of legislation for the University at Dacca, and the scope of the scheme are at present under consideration.

(c) The Government of India have no information on the matter, and hence the portion of the question lettered (d) does not arise.”

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked :—

27. (a) Have the Home Government entered into a contract with Messrs. Ralli Brothers for the supply of jute to the Dundee mills for the purposes of the war? Contract with Messrs. Ralli Bros. for supply of jute to the Dundee mills.

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether, before the contract was entered into,—

(i) they were consulted by the Home Government?

(ii) any British firm or group of firms had been approached with regard to the contract?

(c) Will Government be pleased to make a statement as regards their policy in their dealings between British and non-British firms with respect to Government contracts?”

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

“With the permission of His Excellency the President, I would ask the Hon'ble Sir Francis Stewart also to ask his question, as for the convenience of Council, I would propose to answer both questions together giving the two Hon'ble Members and this Council such information as I can on the subject.”

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

[*Sir Francis Stewart; Sir George Barnes.*]**The Hon'ble Sir Francis Stewart** asked :—

Appointment of Messrs. Ralli Brothers as the sole purchasers and shippers of jute required by Government.

28. “ (a) Have the Government of India received information of any arrangement made at Home between His Majesty's Government and Messrs. Ralli Brothers whereby the latter will become the sole purchasers and shippers of Government jute requirements for Dundee ?

(b) Are Government aware that the report that such an arrangement has been made was received with astonishment and indignation in Calcutta and elsewhere in India ?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state—

(i) The detailed terms of this arrangement, including approximately the quantity of jute involved and the period during which it is proposed that the arrangement should continue ?

(ii) If the arrangement was made with the previous knowledge and approval of the Secretary of State for India, and the Government of India ?

(iii) If the answer to (ii) is in the negative, what steps, if any, the Government of India have taken in the matter, and how it now stands ?

(d) Have the Calcutta Baled Jute Shippers Association made any counter proposals ? If so, have the Government of India recommended to His Majesty's Government the adoption of those proposals ?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what reply they have received ?”

The Hon'ble Sir George Barnes replied :—

“The arrangement in question has apparently been entered into by the War Office, but whether it is a formal contract or not, I am unable to state. I think I ought to state at the outset that the arrangement was made without the knowledge of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India. As to the nature of the arrangement, I think the best course will be that I should read to you some extracts from telegrams which have been received by His Excellency from the Secretary of State.

‘ War Office ask me to place following statement of case before you. Rallis undertake to place at disposal of War Office their whole organization and up-country establishments throughout India. Proportion of Ralli's total purchases of jute will be allocated to War Office, and will be collected, sorted and pressed by Rallis. Payment will be made at actual net cost f. o. b. Calcutta, including expenses of labour, transport pressing, after verification of cost by Government auditors. In addition, Rallis will receive flat rate commission for general establishment expenses, calculated on establishment expenses for several years. Except for saving on establishment expenses no provision made for profit or commission. All intermediate profits are excluded and Government charged net cost. Rallis further agree to forego all private dealings in jute for Dundee during currency of agreement. Arrangements do not preclude War Office from buying other dealer's marks either through Rallis or direct, if market conditions warrant it.’

‘ Arrangement has been made for the duration of the war. It is impossible to state quantities of jute involved, which will vary with War Office requirements and amount purchased from other firms, but it may be mentioned that War Office have been taking approximately one-third of output of Dundee.’

With regard to the latter parts of the Hon'ble Sir Francis Stewart's question, I hope that he will be satisfied if I assure him that the Government

[*Sir George Barnes; Mr. G. R.
Lowndes.*]

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

of India are in close communication with the Secretary of State on the subject of the arrangement, and with reference to the counter proposals which have been made by the Calcutta Baled Jute Shippers Association, and if I tell him that the Hon'ble Mr. Low is at present in Calcutta by His Excellency's special leave in order to consult with the various interests concerned.

So far as the Hon'ble Member's questions have not been covered by the foregoing statement, I would add in answer to the Hon'ble Mr. Basu's question (b) (ii) that the Government of India have no information on the subject, and with regard to his question (c) that the Government of India are not prepared to make any general statement of policy at this juncture. In regard to (b) of the Hon'ble Sir Francis Stewart's question, the answer is in the affirmative."

THE AMENDING BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. R. Lowndes :—" My Lord, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend certain enactments. The Bill is a short and unimportant one, making only certain formal amendments in various Acts, such as have to be introduced from time to time. The larger number of the proposed amendments are concerned with the creation of the Patna High Court under the recent Government of India Act, which necessitates certain amendments in the Criminal Procedure Code and in the Civil Procedure Code. I may add, for the information of members, that if this motion is accepted, it is proposed that this Bill should be passed at the next sitting of this Council. I formally move, my Lord, to introduce the Bill."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. R. Lowndes :—" My Lord, I beg to introduce the Bill, and to move that the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons relating thereto, be published in the Gazette of India in English."

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE INLAND STEAM-VESSELS BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. R. Lowndes :—" My Lord, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate the enactments relating to Inland Steam-vessels. The principal Act, which is Act VI of 1884, has been amended by many Acts—seven, I think, in all, and three of these seven Acts have again been amended by other Acts. It is thought, therefore, that the time has now come to have a Consolidating Act. The present Act is not intended to make any alterations in the law, but merely to consolidate the existing enactments. I may add, for the information of members, that it is not proposed to take this Bill into further consideration in this session, but, if the motion for introduction is agreed to, it will be left over till the Delhi session."

The motion was put and agreed to.

56 THE INLAND STEAM-VESSELS BILL; THE INDIAN LUNACY
(AMENDMENT) BILL; THE HINDU AND MUSSALMAN
DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY BILL.

[19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.]

[Mr. G. R. Lowndes; Sir Reginald
Craddock; Mr. Mahomed Ali Jinnah.]

The Hon'ble Mr. G. R. Lowndes :—“My Lord, I beg to introduce the Bill, and to move that the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons relating thereto, be published in the Gazette of India in English, and in the local official Gazettes, except the Fort St. George Gazette, in English and in such other languages as the Local Governments think fit.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE INDIAN LUNACY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock :—“My Lord, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, be taken into consideration. On the last occasion when the Bill was before the Council, I explained the reasons for the introduction of the Bill, and as no notice has been received of any amendments since the Bill has been put before the Council, I beg now to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock :—“My Lord, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, be passed.”

The motion was put and agreed to.

**THE HINDU AND MUSSALMAN DISPOSITION OF
PROPERTY BILL.**

The Hon'ble Mr. Mahomed Ali Jinnah :—“My Lord, on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Setalvad, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to enable Hindus and Mussalmans to make dispositions of property by transfer *inter vivos* or by will for the benefit of unborn persons.”

The Council adjourned to Wednesday, the 27th September, 1916.

SIMLA;
The 22nd September, 1916. }

A. P. MUDDIMAN,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Legislative Department.

APPENDIX A.

[Referred to in answer to Question No. 8.]

Statement showing the value of the total import and export trade of the provinces of Bihar and Orissa, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and the Punjab during the three years 1913-14, 1914-15 and 1915-16.

I.—IMPORTS.

A. Merchandise.

Provinces.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).
Bihar and Orissa	27,30	27,05	26,93
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	40,93	36,33	36,81
Punjab	31,83	31,43	33,94

B. Treasure.

Bihar and Orissa	1,29	1,23	1,04
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	5,68	2,92	3,43
Punjab	6,56	8,46	6,78

C. Total Merchandise and treasure.

Bihar and Orissa	28,59	28,28	27,96
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	46,29	39,25	40,24
Punjab	38,39	39,89	40,72

II.—EXPORTS.

A. Merchandise.

Provinces.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).
Bihar and Orissa	32,17	31,02	32,89
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	36,54	28,26	33,16
Punjab	34,44	27,85	31,66

B. Treasure.

Bihar and Orissa	2,25	1,64	1,42
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	2,81	4,36	1,49
Punjab	2,74	74	2,13

C. Total Merchandise and Treasure.

Bihar and Orissa	34,43	32,66	34,31
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	39,35	32,62	34,65
Punjab	37,18	28,59	33,79

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

A. Merchandise.

Provinces.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).
Bihar and Orissa	59,47	58,07	59,81
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	77,17	64,61	74,77
Punjab	66,26	59,28	65,60

B. Treasure.

Bihar and Orissa	3,51	2,93	2,46
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	8,47	7,28	4,92
Punjab	9,80	9,20	8,91

C. Total Merchandise and Treasure.

Bihar and Orissa	63,01	60,99	62,27
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	85,64	71,89	79,69
Punjab	75,56	68,48	74,51