

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1931

Vol. I—No. 11

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 28th January, 1931.

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Jamal Muhammad Saib, M.L.A. (Madras: Indian Commerce).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE MASSES.

90. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar): Have Government any proposals under their consideration for enquiring into the economic condition of the masses, especially of the agricultural and peasant proprietors class; if not, do Government propose to undertake such an enquiry at an early date?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No, Sir, in view of the fact that an enquiry into the economic condition of the agricultural classes has recently been made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture and that the Royal Commission on Labour is at present holding an enquiry into the existing conditions of labour in industrial undertakings.

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN BRITISH INDIA.

91. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar): Have Government any information as to the number of people who are unemployed in British India, and if not, do they propose to give directions to the Census department to ascertain and collect information on this subject also?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: Government have no precise information as to the number of unemployed persons in British India. It has been decided to collect statistics of educated unemployed at the next census.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES.

92. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar): Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons (i) arrested, (ii) prosecuted, (iii) convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, (iv) who have defended themselves at the trial and (v) who are still confined to jail, in respect of the political offences after the civil disobedience movement began?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (i) to (v). I am not sure to what classes of offenders the Honourable Member is referring. If his reference is to those sentenced to imprisonment in connection with the civil disobedience movement, I would refer him to the answer I have given to Sardar Sant Singh's unstarred question No. 12, dated 26th January, 1931.

I am not in possession of information as regards parts (i), (ii) and (iv) of the question. As the Honourable Member will realise the collection of this information would be an extremely laborious task, which it would not be reasonable to impose on Local Governments.

**CASES OF INQUIRY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
MOVEMENT.**

93. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** (on behalf of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar):
(a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases where persons received physical injuries during the dispersal of unlawful assemblies connected with the civil disobedience movement and the number of police or other officers who received injuries on such occasions?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India issued directions to Local Governments in March or April, 1930, that assemblies in connection with civil disobedience movement should be generally dispersed by the use of force, and will Government be pleased to lay on the table the instructions issued by the Government of India to Local Governments during the year 1930 on this subject?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the casualties among the public up to 31st July, 1930, resulting from firing, and also the casualties among the police and military up to the same date. I have no information regarding the injuries otherwise caused, and the Honourable Member will no doubt realise that it is not possible to collect it with any pretension to accuracy.

(b) The Government of India have issued no such instructions. The law is quite clear as regards the circumstances in which an assembly becomes unlawful and may be dispersed by the use of civil or military force.

Statement of Casualties.

Provinces.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among Police.		Casualties among Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
			<i>April 1930.</i>			
Madras— Madras City, April 27th.	2	6 (One died subse- quently).	..	..	..
Bombay— Victoria Termi- nus, 4th April (Railway strike).	1	7 (One died subse- quently).		24		

Provinces.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among Police.		Casualties among Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
<i>April 1930—contd.</i>						
Bombay— <i>contd.</i> Bhusaval, 6th April (Railway strike).	*1	*2		..	..	..
Kurla, 6th April (Railway strike).		1		2		..
Karachi, 16th April.	1	6 (One of whom died subsequently.)		18		..
Bengal— Calcutta, 1st April.	7	59	..	57	..	..
Calcutta, 15th April.		3	..	62 (Includes 20 members of fire brigade.)	..	..
24-Parganas, 24th April.	1	3	..	12	..	..
Chittagong, 18th, 19th & 22nd April.	10 (terrorists).	2 (terrorists. Both died subsequently).	1	4	3	1
Naokhali (Feni), 23rd April.	..	..	..	3	..	..
Chittagong, 24th April.	1 (terrorist)	..	..	..	..	..
N.-W. F. P.— Peshawar, 23rd April.	30 (approximately).	33 (approximately).	..	3	1	9
<i>May 1930.</i>						
Madras, May 1930.	..	2	..	..	..	..
Bombay— Sholapur, 7th May.	..	..	..	31	..	..
Sholapur, 8th May.	12	28	2	30	..	..
Wadala Salt Pans, 24th May.		1	..	9	..	..

* These casualties were the result of an accident.

Provinces.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among Police.		Casualties among Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
		<i>May 1930—contd.</i>				
Bombay— <i>contd.</i> Bhendy Bazar, 26th and 27th May.	5	67	..	16	..	..
Bengal— Howrah, 6th May.	..	5	..	1	..	..
Chittagong, 7th May.	3 insurgents and 1 other.	1 insurgent (who died subse- quently) and 5 others (2 of whom died sub- sequently).	..	1	..	..
Mymensingh, 14th May.	1	Between 30 to 40	..	44 (includes 1 Addi- tional Magistrate and 11 Excise staff).	..	..
Midnapur, Gopi- nathpur, 20th May.	..	..	..	12	..	..
Dacca, 25th and 27th May (Communal riot).	2	1	..	..	..	..
Lillooah, E. I. Railway, 29th May.	..	5	..	..	..	..
Midnapur (Pra- ta P dighi), 31st May.	2	2	..	..	..	..
United Provinces —Lucknow, 26th May.	1	about 42 (2 died subse- quently.)	..	34	..	..
Punjab— Kalu, Jhelum District, May 18th.	..	1	..	..	..	..
Burma— Rangoon, last week of May.	5	37	..	29	..	..

Province.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among Police.		Casualties among Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
			<i>May 1930—contd.</i>			
North-West Frontier Province.	17	37	1	13	..	1
Delhi, 6th May .	4	40	..	38	..	..
Madras . . .	3	18	<i>June 1930.</i>			
Bagmari (Midnapur), 1st June 1930.	2	3	..	6	..	..
Chechuahat (Midnapur), 6th June 1930.	..	11	2	4	..	..
Narendia (Midnapur), 6th June 1930.	..	19	..	8	..	..
Fakirhat (Midnapur), 10th June 1930.	..	1 (Died subsequently).	..	1	..	..
Kherai (Midnapur), 11th June 1930.	..	21	..	10	..	..
Ramnagar (Barkarganj).	..	1	..	1	..	..
North West Frontier Province.	3	..	..	..	4	5
Madras . . .	2	9	<i>July 1930.</i>			
Khersai (Midnapur), 2nd July 1930.	..	1	..	11	..	..
Keshoreganj (Mymensingh).	..	11	..	5	..	..
Saran (Etah), 11th July 1930.	5	19	..	34	..	..
Amunagar Sarai (Meerut).	1	..	..	..	..	..
Jubbulpore, 19th July 1930.	..	6	..	83 (mostly slightly injured by stone throwing).	..	..
Bombay, 5th July 1930.	..	..	..	..	..	2

PROVISION OF A CLUB FOR THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE GUN
CARRIAGE FACTORY AT JUBBULPORE.

94. *Sir Hari Singh Gour: (a) Is it a fact that the Gun Carriage Factory have built a club for their European members at Jubbulpore?

(b) Is it a fact that this club has cost Government about one lakh and 74 thousands of rupees? If not, how much has it cost?

(c) Is it a fact that there were only 18 European members of the Factory when the club was built?

(d) How many members are there now?

(e) What return, if any, do Government get upon this outlay?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes. This institute has been in existence for about 25 years, ever since the factory was established.

(b) No, Sir, but the institute has recently been rebuilt at a cost of about Rs. 90,000.

(c) No, Sir. The membership was about 70.

(d) About the same number.

(e) Government get no monetary return.

PROVISION OF A CLUB FOR THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE GUN
CARRIAGE FACTORY AT JUBBULPORE.

95. *Sir Hari Singh Gour: (a) When was the construction of the Gun Carriage Club at Jubbulpore sanctioned? When did its building commence and when was it completed?

(b) Is it a fact that Jubbulpore possesses a recognized club for Europeans known as the Nerbudda club?

(c) What necessity was there for building another club?

(d) To what account has this cost been debited?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) The reconstruction of the institute building was sanctioned in December, 1928. The work was begun in January, 1929, and completed in May, 1930.

(b) Yes.

(c) This institute is primarily intended for members of the factory subordinate staff, who are not eligible for membership of the Nerbudda Club.

(d) Army estimates.

PROMOTION OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

96. *Sir Hari Singh Gour: (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board have recently decided that no Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the State Railways Service can be promoted to the grade of Assistant Surgeon unless he obtains the degrees of M.B., B.S.?

(b) Is it a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Civil Medical Service and those employed in the Company-managed railways, on their completion of 20 years' service, become eligible for selection to certain Assistant Surgeons' posts?

(c) Is it a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the service of the East Indian Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway were eligible for promotion to the grade of Assistant Surgeons before their transfer to the State?

(d) Is it a fact that in the Military Medical Service the selected Sub-Assistant Surgeons with 15 years or less service become eligible for promotion to the grade of Assistant Surgeons?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The conditions under which Sub-Assistant Surgeons on State-managed Railways may be considered eligible for promotion to the rank of Assistant Surgeon are at present under consideration.

(b) The information in possession of Government shows that Sub-Assistant Surgeons are eligible for promotion to the rank of Assistant Surgeon in very special cases and to a limited number, in Madras after 20 years' service, and in the Punjab after 15 years' service. The practice in other provinces is not known. I am obtaining information in regard to the practice on Company-managed Railways and will communicate with the Honourable Member when this has been received.

(c) No, though in 1921 one Sub-Assistant Surgeon on the East Indian Railway, who was considered to be specially deserving, was promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeon.

(d) On the Military side the honorary rank of Assistant Surgeon may be granted to Sub-Assistant Surgeons for exceptionally meritorious service over a period which, in practice, is not less than twenty years.

PROMOTION OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

97. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Is it a fact that Assistant Surgeons on the State Railways, on completion of 17 years' service, become eligible for promotion to the grade of an Assistant Medical Officer, which is a gazetted post with pay rising upto Rs 700 per mensem?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of finding some means of encouraging the State Railway Sub-Assistant Surgeons by making some of them eligible for promotion to the grade of Assistant Surgeons as heretofore?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) As I have just informed the Honourable Member in reply to his previous question, the conditions under which Sub-Assistant Surgeons on State-managed Railways might be considered eligible for promotion to the rank of Assistant Surgeon are at present under consideration.

DISCONTINUANCE OF SALUTES.

98. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which have influenced them to alter the incidence of costs of salutes with effect from the next financial year?

(b) What was the practice hitherto and now in vogue?

(c) What is the cost of such salutes to be henceforth charged against the civil and military estimates respectively?

(d) Have Government considered the advisability of limiting if not totally discontinuing the salutes?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a), (b) and (c). It has always been the practice hitherto that the military authorities, whose duty it is to fire salutes, should pay for them, although the expenditure is incurred on behalf of civil Departments. In future, however, the cost of salutes fired for Ruling Princes and political officers, amounting to about Rs. 13,000 a year, will be charged to civil estimates, only Rs. 5,000 to be borne by Army estimates.

(d) The number of salutes and of persons entitled to them was considerably reduced in 1923.

CONTRIBUTORY PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

99. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) The number and names of Government Offices where a system of contributory Provident Fund for the subordinate staff exists and the percentage of Government contributions as compared to that contributed by the employees therein;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that an improvement over the present system of contributory Provident Fund for the Treasurer's establishment of the Currency Offices in India was under contemplation by Government and views thereon were asked for from the various currency associations.
- (c) The decision arrived at by Government in the matter.
- (d) If no decision has yet been arrived at, the cause of delay.
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Government have informed the various currency associations that they were going to consider the Provident Fund scheme along with the other currency questions through a separate committee appointed for the purpose.
- (f) Whether it is a fact that Government have now excluded the consideration of the contributory Provident Fund scheme from the scope of the proposed committee.
- (g) The reasons for this subsequent alteration on the part of Government?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Government are not in a position to state, without elaborate enquiry, the number and names of the offices in which a contributory Provident Fund system for subordinate staff exists.

This system is a characteristic condition of service of quasi-permanent personnel, for whom pensionary terms are unsuitable; and employees of both types are often found side by side in the same Department or office.

The normal rate of Government contribution to civil Provident Funds is one-sixteenth of pay, or in other words, 75 per cent. of the amount fixed for the Government servants own subscription.

(b) Yes.

(c) to (g). I shall answer together. In 1929 Government offered to introduce, from 1st April, 1930, a contributory Provident Fund of the normal civil type for employees in the Treasurer's Department of Currency Offices in place of the present Fund; but, on finding that the various Currency Associations demanded better terms, suspended its introduction till it reached

a decision of general application to its servants as a whole who are employed on contributory Provident Fund terms. Far from making any promise that the question of Provident Funds would be included in the terms of reference to the Committee appointed to consider the grievances of Currency staff, Government definitely informed the Currency Associations in October, 1930, that this question would be excluded. Government consider that there is no case for conceding better terms to Currency staff than are ultimately given to the generality of employees of civil Departments serving on contributory Provident Fund terms.

CONTRIBUTORY PROVIDENT FUND FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

100. *Sardar G. N. Mujumdar: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government have proposed certain schemes to take the place of the present pensionary benefits and have invited views of associations of central servants thereon?
- (b) The number and names of associations who have forwarded their views?
- (c) Which of the schemes is generally favoured by the associations?
- (d) Whether Government intend to abide by the majority of the views expressed?
- (e) The approximate period that will still elapse before any of the schemes is sanctioned and brought into force?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are not in a position to furnish the names of all the Associations whose views have been obtained, as many of them were consulted by Local Governments; but the total number exceeds 100.

(c) None of the three schemes put forward for consideration commanded general acceptance.

(d) The majority of Associations asked for the terms enjoyed by non-pensionable employees on State Railways—terms which Government have reason to believe would cost the taxpayer more than the existing pensionary system on account of the rise in interest levels since the introduction of the Railway Fund. Government cannot contemplate any further extension of these terms at the present juncture.

(e) I cannot make any definite promise, but I can assure the Honourable Member that I will do my best to deal with this question expeditiously.

SOLDERED COINS RECEIVED IN CURRENCY OFFICES.

101. *Sardar G. N. Mujumdar: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Total number of soldered coins received during the course of last two years from January, 1929, in each of the Currency Offices in India?
- (b) The number and names of Currency Offices in which soldered coins tendered by persons transacting business thereof are accepted?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that these coins are required to be examined by the Shroffs in the Currency Offices?

- (d) Whether it is a fact that the same coins are redirected in lot for examination to the Mint Offices?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that this examination and re-examination does result in the duplication of the staff and an additional expenditure upon Government revenue?
- (f) Whether in view of the fact that the examination in the Mint is conducted by experts, the examination in the Currency offices can advantageously be discontinued?
- (g) Whether it will not be possible to direct these traders who bring a lot of Rs. 100 and over of these soldered coins direct to the Mint?
- (h) If the reply to (g) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The information is being collected and will be sent to the Honourable Member later.

(b) and (c). There are no special arrangements for soldered coins tendered by persons transacting business thereof except that mentioned in (d) below. Soldered coins are received for examination from the public at all Treasuries and Currency Offices, and shroffs in Currency Offices are required to examine all coins tendered.

(d) No, except that as a special arrangement soldered coins received in lots of 10,000 or more are, on presentation at the Bombay Currency Office, redirected to the Mint for examination and issue of outturn certificates payable at the Currency Office.

(e), (f), (g) and (h). The function of the Mint is to take over coins withdrawn by Currency Offices and treasuries as uncurrent and not to examine tenders by the public for which exchange is required. There are administrative difficulties in reducing the limit of Rs. 10,000 mentioned in reply to clause (d) above to Rs. 100 as suggested in clause (g).

SOLDERED COINS RECEIVED IN CURRENCY OFFICES.

102. *Sardar G. N. Mujumdar: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether cases have occurred in which coins accepted by the currency shroffs have been declared fraudulently defaced (F. D.) by the Bombay Mint Offices?
- (b) Whether cases have also occurred in which coins of the same nature as in (a) which have been cut and refused by the currency shroffs have been declared to be good by the Mint Office on reference by the public?
- (c) Whether it is not possible and desirable to have the discontinuance of such differentiation in opinion in future?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but it does not necessarily follow that coins referred to in (a) and (b) are exactly of the same nature.

(c) This is the object aimed at, but occasional divergences of opinion in individual cases are inevitable.

LEAVE RESERVE IN THE BOMBAY CURRENCY OFFICE.

103. *Sardar G. N. Mujumdar: Will Government be pleased to state:
- (a) The percentage of leave reserves in the clerical establishment in the Currency Office in Bombay?
 - (b) Whether it is a fact that the percentage of leave reserves in the Bombay Post Offices is 18 per cent.?
 - (c) Whether it is a fact that the percentage of leave reserves in the Bombay Currency Office is hardly half that in the Bombay Post Offices?
 - (d) The reason why there is not a uniform percentage of leave reserves in these two offices under the same Government in the same city?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) to (c). In the Bombay Currency Office the percentage of leave reserve is 10, whereas in the Post Offices in Bombay it is 17 and in the administrative offices, *e.g.*, that of the Postmaster General, 10.

(d) The strength of the leave reserve is fixed with reference to the conditions prevailing in a particular office.

LEAVE RESERVE IN THE BOMBAY CURRENCY OFFICE.

104. *Sardar G. N. Mujumdar: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have at present under consideration the question of increase in the Currency establishment in Bombay on account of the heavy increase in the work of that Department, and whether they also propose to consider the question of increase in leave reserve simultaneously? Is it a fact that they have agreed to consider it as a result of representations from the Currency Association in Bombay some years back?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The question was considered in September last and the conclusion was reached that there had not been a sufficient increase in the volume of work to make it desirable to add to the strength of the permanent establishment in present circumstances.

ESTABLISHMENT IN THE BOMBAY CURRENCY OFFICE.

105. *Sardar G. N. Mujumdar: Will Government be pleased to state:
- (a) The number of the total permanent establishment of clerks and shroffs in the Bombay Currency Offices?
 - (b) The number of total temporary establishment of clerks and shroffs in the Bombay Currency Offices?
 - (c) Whether it is a fact that the permanent establishment in (a) above is quite insufficient to cope with the daily receipts of notes and coins in the Departments? If so, why such a big temporary establishment is maintained continually for years together?
 - (d) Whether they have considered the question of abolishing the temporary establishment altogether converting it into permanent establishment?
 - (e) If the reply to (d) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Treasurer's Department: Clerks 96, Shroffs 31.

General Department: Clerks 45.

These figures exclude Deputy and Assistant Treasurers, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents.

(b) The strength of the temporary establishment, excluding inferior servants, in the Bombay Currency Office on the 15th January, 1931, was:

Clerks 37; Shroffs 28.

(c) to (e). The work in the Currency Office varies from season to season and from day to day in the same season. There must be some elasticity in regard to the number of men to be employed to cope with the work from time to time, and as the work can be easily learned, the greatest economy is secured by engaging temporary hands as and when required.

PAY AND DUTIES OF HEAD SHROFFS IN THE CALCUTTA CURRENCY OFFICE.

106. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Shroffs and Head Shroffs in the Calcutta Currency Office?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the pay, duties and nature of responsibility of the Head Shroffs in the Calcutta Currency Office, and whether these Head Shroffs had to make good any losses in discharging their duties? If so, how much?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Shroffs 77, Head Shroffs 3.

(b) The pay of Head Shroffs is at present Rs. 80 per mensem, but a proposal has just been accepted by the Standing Finance Committee to raise their pay to Rs. 100 per mensem. The Head Shroffs are responsible for the proper working of the groups under them. They have to make good losses which can be attributed to their negligence. It has not been necessary in recent times to make any recoveries from them.

ISSUE OF INDIA TREASURY BILLS.

107. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India issue to the public, India Treasury Bills; and if so,

(i) the amount of face value for which they have been issued and are payable after the 31st December, 1931;

(ii) the amount of interest paid from 1st April to 31st December, 1930;

(iii) To what account is the interest charged?

(b) Are India Treasury Bills issued—

(i) to meet the financial requirements of the Government of India,
or

(ii) to stabilize the 1s. 6d. ratio of exchange?

(c) If they are issued for any of the above purposes, in what way the money realized is utilized?

(d) For what further length of time do the Government of India intend to continue the issue?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) (i). The face value of Treasury Bills outstanding on the 31st December, 1930, was Rs. 52 crores 40 lakhs.

(ii) The amount of discount on Treasury Bills from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1930, was about 1,78 lakhs.

(iii) The discount paid on Treasury Bills is debited to the head "19—Interest on Ordinary Debt".

(b) (i). The main object of issuing Treasury Bills is to meet the financial requirements of Government.

(ii) At the same time the handling of Treasury Bill policy may on occasion be closely connected with the Government's task as currency authority. If stability of the exchange value of Indian currency is to be maintained (whether at 1/6 or at any other level) the amount of currency in circulation must be regulated according to the actual requirements. If, for example, world prices for those commodities which India exports fall, then unless currency is suitably contracted, an inflationary position would exist, meaning that Indian prices would get out of parity with world prices; exports would be held up; and it would be impossible permanently to maintain stability of currency. The normal action of the currency authority in such cases is to draw surplus currency off the market, and by regulating interest rates to diminish the flow of capital from the country and stimulate the flow of capital into the country. The normal method by which the Government of India in its capacity as currency authority can achieve these objects is through its Treasury Bill policy.

(c) The money realised from the sale of Treasury Bills is kept in the Government balances if it is not required for immediate disbursement.

(d) This must depend entirely on the circumstances. I shall endeavour to give a forecast of our action for next year in my Budget speech.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES EMPLOYED IN THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, KARACHI.

108. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the total number of Appraisers working in the Customs House at Karachi, and how many of them belong to each of the following communities:

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Parsis,
- (3) Christians,
- (4) Muslims;

(ii) the total number of Examiners working in the Customs House at Karachi, and how many of them belong to each of the following communities:

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Parsis,
- (3) Christians,
- (4) Muslims;

(iii) the percentage of Muslim Appraisers and Examiners working in the Customs House at Karachi; and

(iv) how many Christian, Parsi, Hindu and Muslim Examiners were recruited from outside and how many were taken from the office within the last five years and what were their qualifications?

(b) Were the posts of Appraisers and Examiners advertised in the Press? If so, were any applications received from Muslim candidates?

(c) How many appointments were filled in through advertisement and how many otherwise?

(d) Were any chances for the posts of Examiners given to Muslim clerks in the office? If not, why not?

(e) How many Appraisers are there whose educational qualification is only departmental examination and no other University degree?

(f) Are Government prepared to ask the Collector of Customs, Karachi, to submit every year the list of Preventive Officers, Wharfingers, Assistant Wharfingers, Appraisers, Examiners, and clerks to be appointed hereafter, to the Central Board of Revenue, showing the number of Muslims and non-Muslims required?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) A statement showing the information asked for by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

(b) Only one vacancy was advertised recently in the Press when applications from four Muslim candidates were received out of a total of 51 applications.

(c) The above mentioned vacancy was the only one filled up after advertisement.

(d) No. None was found suitable.

(e) Nine, but most of them possess other special qualifications, such as an expert knowledge of machinery and piece-goods.

(f) It is not possible to forecast the number of vacancies likely to occur annually. Permanent appointments of Appraisers, Examiners and Preventive Officers are reported to the Central Board of Revenue as soon as they are filled. Annual returns showing all the appointments made in the previous year are also submitted to the Board.

I am adding to the information asked for by the Honourable Member a statement showing all appointments made in the Karachi Customs House during 1930. I am doing this because I regard it as proper to examine the matter as a whole and not merely for one isolated branch or grade of the service operating in a Custom House.

Statement showing the number of Appraisers and Examiners, etc., in the Karachi Customs House.

(i) Total number of Appraisers	21
Viz :—	
(1) Hindus	7
(2) Parsis	3
(3) Christians	10
(4) Muslims	1
(ii) Total number of Examiners	14
Viz :—	
(1) Hindus	9
(2) Parsis	1
(3) Christians	4
(4) Muslims	Nil
(iii) Appraisers 5 per cent, and Examiners	Nil.

(iv) During the last five years 4 Examiners were recruited from outside and two from the office as under :—

A Parsi graduate, a Christian under-graduate and two Hindu Matriculates were recruited from outside. Two of them had very considerable mercantile experience. The third had served as an analyst for over 7 years in the Local Government Laboratory at Keamari and was recruited so that he could help the Assistant Chemical Examiner at analysis when necessary. The fourth was selected because he was the son of a hardworking and devoted Government servant who died prematurely while still in service.

Two Hindus were promoted as Examiners, one a graduate and the other a matriculate.

Statement showing all appointments made in the Karachi Customs House during the year 1930.

Service or appointment.	Number.	How filled.					Remarks.	
		Hindus.	Muslims.	Europeans and Anglo Indians.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.		Other Communities.
Appraisers .	1	..			..	..	1	
Examiners .	1	1			..		..
Preventive Officers.	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Lower Division clerks.	8*	2	5	..	..	1	..	*Two of them have since resigned.
Total .	11	3	5	1	..	1	1	

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES EMPLOYED IN THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, KARACHI.

109. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the total number of Wharfingers working in the Customs House at Karachi, and how many of them belong to each of the following communities:
 - (1) Hindus,
 - (2) Parsis,
 - (3) Christians,
 - (4) Muslims?
- (ii) whether it is a fact that no local and rent allowances were given to Wharfingers when they were sanctioned for ministerial and Preventive Officers?
- (iii) how many times did the Collector of Customs send the scheme of the Wharfingers section to Government and how many times was it refused within the last 5 years?

(b) Is any scheme lying at present before the Government, and if so, what action do they intend to take?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact:

(i) that appointments of Preventive Officers are filled indirectly from outsiders?

(ii) that Wharfingers, who are of long service, and experienced in the line, are not given appointment of Preventive Officers; if not, why not?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact:

(i) that the whole Preventive Service from Assistant Collector to peon is provided with residential quarters; and

(ii) that the Wharfinger section is a part of the Preventive Service, and if so, is the Wharfinger section provided with residential quarters? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) (i). A statement is laid on the table.

(ii) In 1922 a local allowance for the ministerial establishment and a house rent allowance for some Preventive Officers, for whom it was not possible to provide quarters free of rent, were sanctioned. No local or house rent allowance was sanctioned for the Wharfinger establishment. The local allowance for the ministerial establishment and the house rent allowance for the Preventive establishment were both merged in pay in 1926, since which time the Preventive Officers have to pay rent for their quarters.

(iii) A scheme for the re-organisation of the Wharfinger establishment was submitted by the Collector of Customs in October, 1926, and was sanctioned in the following month. Another scheme was sent up by the Collector in October, 1929, but on account of financial stringency the Central Board of Revenue found itself unable to support it.

(b) No.

(c) (i). Yes, as a general rule.

(ii) The cases of specially deserving Wharfingers are taken into consideration for appointment to the Preventive Service; such promotions have been given in the past.

(d) (i). Quarters have been provided for the Assistant Collector in charge of the Preventive Service, Preventive Inspectors and Officers (see the reply to (a) (ii) above) and all the peons in the Preventive section.

(ii) As at present organised, the Wharfinger establishment is not regarded as a part of the Preventive Service proper. It has not been found necessary to provide quarters for Wharfingers.

Statement showing the total number of Wharfingers working in the Karachi Customs House.

10. Wharfingers and 16 Assistant Wharfingers as below:

Community.	Wharfingers.	Assistant Wharfingers.
Hindus	6	10
Parsis . . . . .	..	..
Christians	1	2
Muslims	2	3
Jews	1	1
	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 16

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES EMPLOYED IN THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, KARACHI.

110. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the total number of Superintendents working in the Custom House at Karachi, and how many of them belong to each of the following communities—
 - (1) Hindus,
 - (2) Parsis,
 - (3) Christians,
 - (4) Muslims;
- (ii) the total number of Deputy Superintendents working in the Custom House at Karachi and how many of them belong to each of the following communities—
 - (1) Hindus,
 - (2) Parsis,
 - (3) Christians,
 - (4) Muslims;
- (iii) the total number of clerks working in the Custom House at Karachi;
- (iv) how many of the clerks belong to each of the following communities and draw Rs. 125 and above p.m.—
 - (a) Hindus,
 - (b) Parsis,
 - (c) Christians,
 - (d) Muslims;
- (v) how many of them belong to each of the following communities and draw Rs. 45 to below 125 p. m.—
 - (a) Hindus,
 - (b) Parsis,
 - (c) Christians,
 - (d) Muslims?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: A statement containing the information asked for by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of Superintendents, etc., in the Karachi Custom House.

(i) Total number of Superintendents is 4, viz.:—

(1) Hindus	. . . . .	1
(2) Parsis	. . . . .	1
(3) Christians	. . . . .	2
(4) Muslims	. . . . .	nil.

(ii) Total number of Deputy Superintendents is 4, viz. :—

(1) Hindus	4
(2) Parsis	nil.
(3) Christians	nil.
(4) Muslims	nil.

(iii) Total number of clerks—136.

(iv) Number of clerks drawing a pay of Rs. 125 and above per month—

(1) Hindus	16
(2) Parsis	2
(3) Christians	3
(4) Muslims	1

(v) Number of clerks drawing a monthly pay of Rs. 45 and over but below Rs. 125 :—

(1) Hindus	75
(2) Parsis	4
(3) Christians	13
(4) Muslims	22

WITHHOLDING OF GRANTS FROM THE BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY.

111. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) What is the total amount of recurring and non-recurring annual grants paid to the Benares Hindu University and the Aligarh Muslim University by the Government of India and the United Provinces Government?

(b) When and how are these grants paid?

(c) Have the grants been paid to both the Universities for the current financial year?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the various comments in the papers that the Benares Hindu University has not received its grants this year; and that it is expected to withhold grants on account of political reasons? Will Government be pleased to state if there is any truth in these statements?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which it has been proposed to withhold its grants?

(f) Are Government aware that the withholding of the grants from the Hindu University at this time will cause a great blow to this long established institution?

(g) Do not Government propose to issue grants immediately?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The Government of India have sanctioned a recurring grant of Rs. 3 lakhs and a non-recurring grant of Rs. 15 lakhs to the Benares Hindu University and also to the Aligarh Muslim University. The Government of the United Provinces report that they have sanctioned for the Benares Hindu University a recurring grant of Rs. 98,882, and for the Aligarh Muslim University a recurring grant of Rs. 1,78,532 and a non-recurring grant of Rs. 20,000 for the year 1930-31.

(b) The recurring grants from Central revenues are payable annually in two equal instalments, the first in or after May, and the second in or after the following November. The non-recurring grants from Central revenues are spread over three years, *viz.*, Rs. 3 lakhs in 1929-30 and Rs. 6 lakhs in each of the years 1930-31 and 1931-32, in the case of the Benares Hindu University, and Rs. 3 lakhs in 1930-31 and Rs. 6 lakhs in each of the years 1931-32 and 1932-33 in the case of the Aligarh Muslim University. These grants are paid through the Government of the United Provinces. The Government of the United Provinces report that the recurring grants are paid quarterly in advance in the case of the secondary schools attached to the Universities, in one lump sum at the beginning of the year in the case of the Aligarh Muslim University Degree College and monthly for ten months in the case of the stipends at the Training College attached to the Benares Hindu University. The non-recurring grant is paid when the conditions specified in paragraph 354 of the United Provinces Educational Code are fulfilled.

(c) So far as grants from Central revenues are concerned, the first instalment of the recurring grant to the Aligarh Muslim University has been paid for the current financial year. The payment of the grants to the Benares Hindu University was deferred pending the receipt of a further report from the Government of the United Provinces regarding the financial and general administration of the University. It is reported that the grants from provincial revenues for the current financial year have been paid, with the exception of a portion of the recurring grant to the Benares Hindu University for the fourth quarter, for which a claim has not yet been received, and a portion of the grant to the Ceramics Department of that University.

(d), (e), (f) and (g). Government have seen the comments mentioned by the Honourable Member. I would refer him to the reply I have given to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 44 on this subject.

ISSUE OF RETURN TICKETS ON RAILWAYS.

112. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of Railways which do not issue return tickets?

(b) Is it a fact that the two great systems of Railways, *viz.*, Great Indian Peninsula and Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways connecting various commercial centres with Bombay do not issue return tickets? If so, why?

(c) Will Government state the reason why there should not be a uniform practice in this respect on all railways especially State-managed railways?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) There is considerable diversity in the practice adopted on the principal railways regarding the issue of return tickets and I am having a printed statement, showing what the position in this respect was in December, 1930, placed in the Library.

(b) Certain return tickets are issued on the Great Indian Peninsula and Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways.

(c) Owing to varying local conditions on different railways a uniform practice in this respect is not desirable.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, are Government aware that the East Indian Railway authorities have discontinued the practice of issuing eight-monthly return tickets from the 1st of January?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I believe that is so, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know the reason?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Because it did not pay the East Indian Railway to issue them.

Lala Hari Raj Swarup: Is it a fact that the North Western Railway also have discontinued the practice of issuing week-end return tickets?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I believe so, and for the same reason.

FORFEITURE OF SECURITY DEPOSITED BY THE *HINDUSTAN TIMES*.

113. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour** (on behalf of Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal):
(a) Are Government aware of the decision of a Special Bench of the Lahore High Court, presided over by the Chief Justice, in the *Hindustan Times* security forfeiture case, decided on the 19th December, 1930, under section 16 of the Press Ordinance II of 1930?

(b) Are Government aware that the High Court characterised the demand of security from the *Hindustan Times* Press on the 29th of April, 1930, two days after promulgation of the Ordinance by the Local Government of Delhi, as illegal?

(c) Are Government aware that most of the articles, on which the order for forfeiture of the security of the *Hindustan Times* Press and newspaper was based, have been held to be unobjectionable by the Special Bench of the High Court at Lahore?

(d) Are Government aware that the order of forfeiture has been held to be justified mainly on the basis of the report of a speech delivered by Mr. V. J. Patel, ex-Speaker of the Assembly, wherein he had advocated boycott of the Legislatures and of all candidates and voters and that a report of this speech was held to have contravened section 4 (1) clause (d) of the Ordinance as being likely to cause annoyance to some person or persons?

(e) In view of the above facts:

(i) will Government be pleased to inform the House as to the steps it has taken in view of the judgment aforesaid? and

(ii) are Government prepared to consider the question of refunding the security of the Press and the newspaper forfeited by order of the Local Government?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Yes.

(b) The learned Chief Justice held that the order in question requiring security appeared to proceed upon what was published before the promulgation of the Ordinance and that a requisition for security proceeding on a writing published before that date would be illegal.

(c) and (d). The learned Chief Justice observed that reasonable objection could not be taken to a considerable number of extracts on which the order of forfeiture was based, but he did not consider it was necessary

to examine them all as he had come to the decision that the report of the meeting referred to in part (d) of the question justified the order, and held that the application must therefore be dismissed.

(e) (i) and (ii). I am not sure what steps the Honourable Member has in mind. The Government of India see no reason for refunding the security which the High Court has held to have been justifiably forfeited.

HINDU OPINION ON BILLS RELATING TO HINDU LAW.

114. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar**: With reference to Sir Malcolm Hailey's answer to Babu J. N. Mukherjee's question No. 232, dated 10th March, 1923, regarding "Hindu opinion on Dr. Gour's and Mr. Seshagiri Iyer's Bills", will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether in cases where specific motions for circulation of Bills relating to Hindu Laws were adopted by the Assembly, as for instance, in the cases of—

- (1) The Hindu Co-Parcener's Liability Bill,
- (2) The Hindu Widow's right of Inheritance Bill,
- (3) The Hindu Religious and Charitable Trusts Bill,
- (4) The Children's Protection Bill, 1927, and
- (5) The Arya Marriage Validation Bill,

the opinions of Hindu Associations, the heads of Hindu religious institutions, and representative Hindus of the orthodox community were invited by the Government, and

(b) If so, in respect of which Bills?

(c) If not, why were not such opinions invited?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a), (b) and (c). When Bills are circulated for opinion by the direction of the Assembly, the Government of India do not obtain opinions on them direct but through the agency of the Local Governments and Administrations who are given full discretion to consult such officers and other persons as they think fit. In the case of the five Bills mentioned, this procedure was followed. Beyond the information which can be gathered from the opinions themselves which were printed and circulated to Members of the Assembly, the Government of India have no information as to what representative associations and heads of the Hindu religious institutions were consulted by the Local Governments in respect of each of the Bills.

RELIGIOUS OPINION ON BILLS AFFECTING RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS.

115. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar**: (a) Are Government prepared to issue instructions that in future, before any Bill affecting the religion or the socio-religious usages and customs of any community is introduced in the Assembly, the opinions of prominent representative members of that community who follow their ancient *Dharma*, the heads of *Mutts* and other religious institutions should be obtained by the Local Government to whom the Bills may be referred?

(b) Is it a fact that where opinions are invited by the Local Governments on Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly, they do not forward all the opinions collected but make a selection and send only those that they select?

(c) Do Government propose to issue instructions that in future all opinions obtained by them should be forwarded together with a full list of persons whose opinions were called for, irrespective of whether all of them responded to the invitation or not?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to Bills circulated for opinion in pursuance of a circulation motion made and adopted in the Legislative Assembly. If so, Bills so circulated are circulated with a letter enjoining Local Governments to furnish their own opinion and that of such selected officers and other persons as they think fit to consult. Government are however prepared to consider whether any useful purpose would be served by supplementing this general discretion with instructions on the lines indicated by the Honourable Member.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative. The persons and bodies who are consulted by Local Governments are selected with care so that the body of opinion received may be compact, representative and helpful. The replies of the Local Governments therefore indicate the main divisions of public opinion and their relative importance; and the opinions selected contain opinions representative of each division, and any isolated opinion which appears to be valuable.

(c) The instructions issued to Local Governments on the subject were the outcome of a conclusion which the Government of India see no reason to reconsider and in the interests of administrative convenience it is necessary that opinions should be subjected to a process of selection before being transmitted by Local Governments.

WITHHOLDING OF SANCTION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF BILLS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

116. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** Will Government be pleased to state how many Bills requiring the previous sanction of the Governor General, under section 67, clause 2 (b), Government of India Act, were proposed to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly, since the introduction of the reforms in 1921; and in how many cases were the proposals rejected?

Sir Lancelot Graham: The sanction in question was applied for in fifty and it was refused in five cases.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: Will Government be pleased to give the names of the Bills with regard to which sanction has been refused?

Sir Lancelot Graham: I should like to have notice of that question, Sir.

APPOINTMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE FOR BILLS RELATING TO HINDU AND MUHAMMADAN LAWS.

117. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what further steps, if any, were taken to consider the Resolution regarding the appointment of a Standing Committee for Bills relating to Hindu and Muhammadan laws subsequent to the 18th of August, 1926, when a similar Resolution was postponed till the following Session?

(b) If any steps have not been taken till now, have Government any intention to re-introduce the Resolution? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) and (b). As the Honourable Member is aware, Government have endeavoured to bring the matter before the House on more than one occasion, but the House has not been disposed to consider their proposals. They do not consider it desirable to proceed further in the matter until a decision is reached on the larger issues which came under the consideration of the Round Table Conference.

BILLS CIRCULATED FOR OPINION.

118. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** With reference to the Honourable the Home Member's answer to Mr. M. K. Acharya's starred question No. 656, dated 19th March, 1930, will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) which Bills they proposed to circulate for opinion and whether they included those proposed by Messrs. M. K. Acharya and K. V. Rangaswamy Iyengar?
- (b) whether such Bills were actually circulated and opinions obtained?
- (c) If so, will Government be pleased to supply the Members of this Assembly with copies of the same as early as possible?
- (d) If not, when they propose circulating them, and including in them the Bills now proposed to be introduced?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The Bills circulated were those of which notices had been received from non-official Members of both the Houses or which had been actually introduced before that answer was given. They included the Bills of which notices were received from Messrs. M. K. Acharya and K. V. Rangaswamy Iyengar and have been circulated by executive order.

Some opinions are still outstanding and Government are unable to make any statement at present.

REPORT OF THE AGE OF CONSENT COMMITTEE.

119. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) When they received the Report of the Age of Consent Committee?
- (b) Whether it was circulated for obtaining the opinions of the Local Governments and other bodies, as is the general practice whenever a Committee is appointed for the consideration of questions affecting the public welfare?
- (c) If so, will Government be pleased to communicate to the Honourable Members of this Assembly, as early as possible, the opinions received in pursuance thereof?
- (d) If not, why that course was not adopted in this particular case, and whether they will now do so before Dr. Gour's Bill to amend the Penal Code comes up for consideration?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) The Report of the Age of Consent Committee was received on the 3rd July, 1929.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The views of some of the Local Governments have not yet been received, and until they have been received and examined, Government will be unable to decide what further steps they should take.

GOVERNMENT POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE WITH RELIGION OR SOCIAL CUSTOMS.

120. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** (a) Has there recently been any change in the Government's policy as regards non-interference with religion or social customs closely inter-mixed with religion which was repeatedly declared as an article of faith with the British Government by their spokesmen from time to time?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reply given by the Honourable the Home Member, in August last, to an Orthodox Deputation, which protested against the "Child Marriage Restraint Bill" and reported in the newspapers at the time, that "It would not probably be possible for the Government to offer any longer unqualified resistance to innovations in social matters" as Government came in for violent criticism both in India and in England for their neutral attitude hitherto on social questions as holding reactionary views on social matters?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the above correctly represents their present attitude in regard to questions of the nature referred to in part (a) above?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (c). I think the Honourable Member will appreciate that it is impossible to give an adequate statement of policy in so complex a matter within the limits of a reply to a question.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the deputation which waited upon me in August 1929 when the Child Marriage Restraint Bill was under consideration. The general purport of my reply was that Government could not take an attitude of uncompromising hostility to measures which were influentially supported and merited serious consideration.

SELECTION OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

121. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the principles laid down for selecting Indian representatives to the Round Table Conference?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether, in pursuance of those principles, any representatives of the large body of ryotwari landholders in the country have been selected to the Conference, and if so, who are such representatives?

(c) If not, will Government be pleased to state why no such representatives were selected, notwithstanding the statement in their despatch on the Simon Committee's Report that, "We attach great importance to securing genuine and effective representation of rural interests"?

(d) Are Government aware that there is considerable feeling in the country that the interests of the vast majority of the agricultural population which consists mainly of Ryotwari Landholders have been neglected, and that their case has virtually been allowed to go by default?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that the delegates to the Round Table Conference were invited by His Majesty's Government. Their selection is therefore not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council. The number of delegates had necessarily to be limited, and in the majority of cases persons were invited who might be representative of as many interests as possible and the delegates, who might be held more particularly to represent one interest, represent in many cases other interests also.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: Will Government be pleased to state how they came to the conclusion that certain Members of the Round Table Conference represented the rural interests?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I think I have already explained, Sir, that the selection was not made by the Governor General in Council nor on his recommendation.

SELECTION OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

122. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** (a) Are Government aware that the right of the Liberal Party or the Hindu Mahasabha to represent the Hindu Community has been specially repudiated at various Provincial and All-India Conferences?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why a comparatively high proportion of representation was allotted to both those Parties, while larger interests such as that of the Ryotwari Landholders and the great Orthodox Community were allowed to go unrepresented?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) As regards the first part, I think this is largely a matter of opinion: as regards the second, Government have no specific information.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have just given to a previous question by him.

SELECTION OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

123. ***Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar:** (a) Are Government aware that, since the publication of their intention to call a Round Table Conference, requests were made from all parts of the country that an adequate number of representatives of the followers of the *Sanatana Dharma* should be invited to that Conference?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether such representatives were invited or nominated to that Conference?

(c) If so, who are such representatives?

(d) If not, will Government be pleased to state why no such representatives were selected?

(e) Are Government aware that there is considerable disappointment in the country at their omission to select representatives of the *Sanatana Dharma* and a general belief that Government consider that their interests are negligible and may be disregarded with impunity?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Government received one or two representations of that nature.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have given to a previous question by him regarding the selection of delegates to the Round Table Conference. I have nothing to add to that.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: May I beg to enquire whether the Round Table Conference was a religious conference? (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: That also, Sir, I think, is a matter of opinion.

EXPORT OF BONES FROM INDIA.

124. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that bones of animals, raw as well as crushed, are allowed to be shipped to foreign countries? If so,—

(i) what is the total quantity produced every year? If possible give figures of last three official years;

(ii) what total quantity was shipped during the official year 1929-30; and

(iii) what is the total value of the quantity so shipped?

(b) Are Government aware that bones if adequately utilized as manure add to the natural strength of land, make the land more fertile and enable the land to give excellent results of product? If so,—

(i) why are they allowed to be exported to foreign countries instead of being retained in India; and

(ii) do Government intend to take steps to put a stop to the export?

(c) Have Government taken advice of the Agricultural Research Committee in connection with the article in question, and if so,—

(i) what is the maximum quantity according to them that can be consumed in India if so desired;

(ii) have they expressed their opinion that exports should be restricted; and

(iii) if not, do Government intend to take their advice with regard to the restriction of exports?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(i) No statistics of the annual production of bones exist, and estimates are particularly difficult to make as there are no statistics of the number of animals of different species which die annually. But it has been calculated that the annual production of bones is not less than 274,000 tons.

(ii) and (iii) The exports of crushed bones in 1929-30 amounted to 73,405 tons, valued at Rs. 75,27,472. Those of uncrushed bones amounted to 118 tons, valued at Rs. 12,158, and of bone meal 36,118 tons, valued at Rs. 32,81,790.

(b) On certain soils and for certain crops, bone meal, *i.e.*, finely crushed bones, is a useful manure. Uncrushed bones decompose very slowly and their manurial value is negligible. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, after an exhaustive examination of the question, came to the conclusion that no case could be made out for prohibition of the export of bones or bone meal. The Government of India have accepted this view.

(c) The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has appointed a Committee to investigate the better utilisation of indigenous manurial resources, including bones and bone products. That Committee has not yet reported.

PRESSES REQUIRED TO DEPOSIT SECURITIES.

125. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Names of Presses to whom notices were issued under the two Press Ordinances recently promulgated by His Excellency the Viceroy, up to the 31st December 1930?
- (b) Whether any of them were required to lay cash deposits with the Government and if so,—
 - (i) who they were and what amounts were each of them asked to deposit; and
 - (ii) what parts of each of such deposits have so far been forfeited to Government?

The Honourable Sir James Crear: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: In view of the importance of this question, may I request that a copy of the information may be laid on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir James Crear: I will consider that when the information is in my possession.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

126. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing total income and actual expenditure incurred on administration in North West Frontier Province during the financial year 1929-30, and separate figures of Land Revenue, Income-tax, Excise, Stamp, Forest, and other Civil Departments?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: The figures required by the Honourable Member will be published in the Book of Detailed Estimates and Demands for Grants for 1931-32 which will be presented to the Legislative Assembly with the Budget.

REPRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON
THE BOARD OF THE TATA STEEL AND IRON COMPANY.

127. ***Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how much representation is had by the Government, and how much by the Legislative Assembly, on the Board of Control of the Tata Steel and Iron Company, Jamshedpur, which receives protection?

(b) Are Government aware that Messrs. Herman and Mohatta of Karachi, who are agents of both the Tata Steel and Iron Company (Indian Steel Merchants) and Messrs. Dorman and Co. (British Steel Merchants), hold in store to-day hardly any quantity of Tatas' Steel as compared to that of Dormans'? Can it be made a condition of their agency of the Tata Steel and Iron Company that they shall not deal in the Steel manufactured by other companies? Is a fuller representation of the Government and the Assembly on the Directorate of the Tata Steel and Iron Company for purposes of increased production possible?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) None.

(b) Government have no information regarding the stocks of steel held by the firm in question. In view of the answer which I have given to part (a) the remainder of the question does not arise.

REPRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ON THE INDIAN CABLE COMPANY, JAMSHEDPUR.

128. ***Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what protection is afforded to the Indian Cable Company, Jamshedpur;
- (b) what representation Government and the Assembly have on the Directorate of the Company;
- (c) what profit the Company is earning; and
- (d) how much percentage the Company is spending on Indian labour, and on Indian raw products?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (a) None by means of protective duties, but the Company are given special assistance by remission of the import duty on electrolytic copper rod known as "Black rod", copper weld rod and rough rolled aluminium rod imported by them *via* the port of Calcutta.

(b) None.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to page 31 of the Report of the Indian Tariff Board on "The question of Tariff Equality in respect of the Manufacture of Electric Wires and Cables, 1928", published on the 1st March, 1929, which gives the information desired for the five years ending 1927-28. The Government have no later information.

(d) The Government have no information.

PURCHASE OF "INDIA" CEILING FANS BY GOVERNMENT.

129. ***Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Will Government be pleased to state how many electric ceiling fans known as "India", made in Calcutta, do they purchase per year, how many of the British make, and how many of the Continental? Are the Government aware that the manufacture of "India"

fans is a purely Indian industry? Will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to purchase hereafter more of "India" fans, to stimulate their production? Are Government aware that the Government of India Test House, Alipore, have given the "India" fans a high test certificate that their specifications are good, and that they consume 48 watts as against 80 to 100 watts consumed by the second best?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The number of electric ceiling fans purchased by Government Departments varies from year to year. Figures of the total yearly purchases of electric ceiling fans by all Departments of the Central Government are not available, but the following figures of purchase of continuous current ceiling fans by the Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department, since 1928 will no doubt give the Honourable Member the information he requires.

	1st April 1928 to 31st March 1929.	1st April 1929 to 31st March 1930.	1st April 1930 to 30th Novem- ber 1930.
India Fans	548	332	53
British Fans	3,422	4,436	1,414
Continental Fans.	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

(b) The Government are aware that the India Fan is manufactured in India from material partly produced in India and partly imported from abroad.

(c) The purchase of electric fans in common with other stores will continue as heretofore to be made in conformity with the rules for supply of articles for the public service, but I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that the Indian Stores Department has given every possible encouragement to the manufacturers of the India Fan. The fan has been included in the Department's rate contracts for electric ceiling fans notwithstanding the fact that fans of greater efficiency and of better quality can be obtained at more favourable prices. The Department also addressed all indenting Departments bringing the India Fan to their notice and recommending that trial orders should be placed for this make of fan. The technical officers of the Department have from time to time visited the works where the India fans are made and have discussed with the manufacturers and their agents various points connected with the design and manufacture of the fans and have pointed out the directions in which improvements were necessary.

(d) The Government are advised that the efficiency and service value of electric ceiling fans cannot be judged on a comparison of watts consumed alone. Many other factors such as quantity of air delivered per watt consumed, low maintenance cost, etc., have to be taken into consideration. The Government are aware that in 1928 the Superintendent, Government Test House, tested two types of India fans, The watts consumed by one type were approximately as stated by the Honourable Member, but the fan failed to satisfy the standard required in other respects.

More recent tests of the India fan carried out by the Superintendent, Government Test House, show that, although the energy consumption of the India fan of the type and size most in demand by Government Departments is lower than that of some other makes, the service value of the India fan, *e.g.*, cubic feet of air delivered per minute per watt, is not as high as that of the other makes.

PURCHASE OF BELGIAN STEEL PIPES.

130. ***Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Are Government aware that the Belgian mild steel pipes, "L" brand, are cheaper than the mild steel pipes of the Stuart and Lloyd Co. by 10 to 15 *per cent*? Will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to purchase hereafter the "L" brand pipes and not the Stuart Lloyd's?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: Government have no information regarding the price of Belgian mild steel pipes of the brand mentioned by the Honourable Member.

Government make substantial purchases of mild steel pipes of the brand stated, but these are not of Belgian manufacture.

Government are not prepared to undertake to confine their purchases of mild steel pipes to any particular make or brand, but will continue to make their purchases of such articles in conformity with the rules for the supply of articles required for the public service. Tenders for pipes of the brand stated receive, and will continue to receive, the same consideration as tenders for similar pipes by other manufacturers.

PURCHASE BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIAN TEXTILES.

131. ***Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Will Government be pleased to state if they are purchasing now only Indian textiles, both cotton and woollen, and none other?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: No, but cotton and woollen textiles of Indian manufacture are invariably purchased when such purchases are justified by considerations of economy and efficiency. During the past four years a very high percentage of the value of contracts for textile supplies placed in India by the Chief Controller of Stores has been for cotton and woollen textiles produced in India. The percentage for cotton textile of Indian manufacture amounted to 96·7 per cent. and for woollen textiles of Indian manufacture to 97 per cent. The Honourable Member will find further details in Appendix IV of the Administration Report of the Indian Stores Department for the year 1929-30, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

PROCEEDINGS AND COST OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

132. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they were consulted before the Round Table Conference decided to hold the proceedings *in camera*? If so, what view did they express?

(b) Have Government received full proceedings of the Round Table Conference to date and will they be pleased to lay them on the table of this House or in the Library of the House?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total expenditure so far incurred in connection with the Round Table Conference by the Government of India and how much has been contributed by the British exchequer?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The procedure of the Conference was settled by the Conference itself without consultation with the Government of India.

(b) It is for the Conference to maintain its records and to decide when and how its proceedings shall be made public. It has not yet communicated its full proceedings to Government for publication.

(c) The expenditure incurred in India by the Government of India amounts approximately to Rs. 1,96,796, but no information is at present available as to the expenditure incurred in England. As regards the contribution by the British exchequer I would refer the Honourable Member to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee dated the 19th June, 1930, in which the distribution of expenditure between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India was explained. The arrangement proposed was generally accepted by His Majesty's Government, but no information is at present available in regard to the expenditure incurred by His Majesty's Government.

FUTURE PROCEDURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS.

133. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Round Table Conference is to be resummoned in India or in England after the termination of its present sessions?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they adhere to the proposal that, after the constitutional proposals are submitted to Parliament as a result of the R. T. C. discussions, they will be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee which will discuss the proposals with a Parliamentary delegation from India; and whether, when such a delegation is sent, those who were members of the Round Table Conference would be entitled to be included in such a delegation?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement made by the Prime Minister on the 19th January, 1931. Government have not yet been informed of any decision of His Majesty's Government.

(b) It is evident from the Prime Minister's statement that the whole question of future procedure will receive careful consideration from His Majesty's Government, but I am afraid I cannot say more at present.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE INDIAN BROADCASTING COMPANY.

134. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the financial position of the Broadcasting Company since it has been taken over by Government stating profit or loss shown by the undertaking during the period of State ownership?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place on the table of the House proceedings of the Broadcasting Board since it has been constituted?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Two statements showing the income and expenditure—

- (i) of the Calcutta and the Bombay Stations of the Indian State Broadcasting Service, and
- (ii) of the two publications, *Indian Radio Times* and *Betar Jagat* published in Bombay and Calcutta, respectively, for the period from 1st April to 30th September, 1930, are placed on the table.

(b) Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by placing indiscriminately on the table of the House the proceedings of Advisory Committees. If the Honourable Member, however, desires information on any specific point, endeavours will be made to supply it to him.

Income and Expenditure Account of the Indian State Broad Casting Service Stations, Bombay and Calcutta, for the period from the 1st April to the 30th September 1930.

Particulars of Expenditure.	Calcutta Station.		Bombay Station.		Total.		Particulars of Income.	Total.	
	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.		Rs.	a. p.
Salaries and Wages	23,238	13 0	19,331	13 0	42,570	10 0	By Microphone Advertisement (Calcutta).	768	0 0
Programmes—Indian and European	18,610	15 0	..	..	18,610	15 0	By Rent (portion of office building sublet), Calcutta.	1,950	0 0
Payments to Artists, Reuters and the Performing Right Society, London.	..	..	26,462	0 4	26,462	0 4	By Miscellaneous receipts (Bombay).	..	..
Rent, Rates and Taxes	7,000	2 0	9,298	3 0	16,298	5 0	By Recoveries effected:—	..	..
Cossipur Studio and Carstin Place—Power and Lighting.	2,732	1 6	..	..	2,732	1 6	Customs and other Miscellaneous receipts adjusted in the books of the Accountant General, Bombay.	15,306	13 9
Electric Charges . . . . .	..	..	3,476	11 11	3,476	11 11	By Customs receipts adjusted in the books of the Accountant General, Madras.	563	12 0
Telephone Charges	560	4 6	..	..	560	4 6	By Customs receipts adjusted in the books of the Accountant General, Burma.	1,208	15 0
Maintenance of Plant	1,573	2 6	3,909	9 11	5,482	12 5	By License fees adjusted in the books of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, 80 per cent. of Rs. 36,880.	29,504	0 0
Travelling Allowance and Honoraria.	392	9 0	1,322	15 0	1,715	8 0	By net loss on the working of the Service.	75,936	7 7
Miscellaneous Expenses	571	7 0	3,130	2 11	3,701	9 11			
Postage and Telegrams	304	10 0	..	..	304	10 0			
Printing and Stationery	370	14 0	..	..	370	14 0			
Advertising and Publications	382	5 0	..	..	382	5 0			
Loss on disposal of Motor Bus . . . . .	..	..	2,772	8 0	2,772	8 0			
	55,737	4 3	69,674	0 1	1,25,411	4 4			

Income and Expenditure Account of the Calcutta and Bombay Radio Publications for the period from the 1st April 1930 to the 30th September 1930.

Particulars of Expenditure.	Calcutta Radio Publication (Beta Jagat).	Bombay Radio Publication.	Total.	Particulars of Income.	Calcutta Radio Publications (Beta Jagat).	Bombay Radio Publication.	Total.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
To Salaries, Printing and Postage.	1,649 11 3	--	1,649 11 3	By Subscription, Sales, etc.	--	1,679 6 0	1,679 6 0
To Salaries, Wages, etc.	..	2,605 4 0	2,605 4 0	By Subscription	162 1 0	..	162 1
To Printing charges	..	4,395 5 6	4,395 5 6	By Cash Sales.	707 15 0	..	707 15 0
To Contingent expenses.	..	862 10 0	862 10 0	By Advertisements.	2,098 0 0	6,706 12 0	8,804 12 0
To Commission on Sales.	..	130 0 0	130 0 0				
To net excess of Income over Expenditure.	1,318 4 9	392 14 6	1,711 3 3				
	2,968 0 0	8,386 2 0	11,354 2 0		2,968 0 0	8,386 2 0	11,354 2 0

PROMULGATION OF NEW ORDINANCES DEALING WITH THE PRESS AND UNLAWFUL INSTIGATION.

135. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** Will Government be pleased to place on the table of the House papers in connection with the promulgation of the new Ordinances dealing with the Press and Unlawful Instigation, particularly in connection with the statement in Government weekly review of the situation immediately preceding their promulgation that the tone of the press had deteriorated?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: As the papers relating to the promulgation of the Ordinances are confidential, I regret that I am not able to comply with the request of the Honourable Member.

CASES OF FORFEITURE OF SECURITY UNDER THE PRESS ORDINANCES.

136. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the cases of forfeiture of security under Press Ordinances during the year 1930-31 stating the reasons for such a forfeiture?

(b) Will Government please state in how many cases they have taken action under the Press Ordinance enacted in December last?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

INCOME FROM CUSTOMS.

137. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) what was the budget estimate of the total income by way of customs duty during the nine months 1st April 1930 to 31st December 1930;

(b) what was the actual total income by way of customs duty during the nine months 1st April 1930 to 31st December 1930;

(c) what was the actual income by way of customs duty on sugar alone during the nine months 1st April 1930 to 31st December 1930; and

(d) what is the budget estimate of income by way of customs duty on sugar alone during the official year 1931-32?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The budget estimates are not prepared by months but for the complete financial year. The budget estimate of gross Customs revenue for the financial year 1930-31 was Rs. 55.49 crores.

(b) The gross Customs revenue realised in the first nine months of the current year was Rs. 34.40 crores.

(c) The corresponding figure for sugar alone was Rs. 7.81 crores, exclusive of the amount realised under this head through land customs, which is not separately recorded in the published statistics.

(d) For this information, I must ask the Honourable Member to wait until I introduce my Budget.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

138. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken so far to improve the sugar industry in India, and if so,—
- (i) what they are;
 - (ii) what amount has been spent out of the sum of Rs. 10,00,000 which the Government promised last year to spend; and
 - (iii) in what manner has the amount already spent been distributed and what purposes have been served thereby; and
- (b) whether any proposals have been received by Government for the improvement of the sugar industry, and if so,—
- (i) what they were; and
 - (ii) which of them have been carried out and which not?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Oh! yes. The Government of India have for many years maintained a sugar-cane breeding station at Coimbatore, the seedling canes from which are now grown on over half a million acres. Since its creation, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has devoted special attention to the problems of the sugar industry. It has already taken action in the following directions:

- (i) The provision of a Sugar Technologist, whose services are available to advise Indian sugar factory proprietors and intending factory owners on technical matters;
- (ii) Better provision for the early testing of new varieties of sugar-cane in different parts of the sugar-cane tracts, and better facilities for their multiplication for distribution;
- (iii) Provision for experiments in four provinces on improved sugar-cane mills suited to village conditions; and
- (iv) Provision for more research into the pests and diseases of cane.

Other matters of practical importance to the sugar-cane grower are under examination by the Sugar Committee it has appointed.

(ii) The whole amount has been paid to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which has already allocated Rs. 7,36,293 to various sugar research schemes, and has under examination schemes, the estimated cost of which amounts to Rs. 6,33,188.

(iii) A statement of the schemes which have been sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is laid on the table.

(b) (i) and (ii). The information I have given in reply to the first part of the Honourable Member's question covers this part also. I may, how-

ever, add that, at the instance of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the question of the protection of the Indian Sugar Industry has been referred to the Tariff Board, whose Report is awaited.

List of Sugar Schemes which have been sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

- (1) Special work on seedling canes at the Shahjahanpur Research Station.
- (2) Experiments in devising a satisfactory small power sugarcane crushing mill in the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, and the Punjab.
- (3) Sugarcane Research Station in Bihar and appointment of a Sugarcane Specialist.
- (4) Establishment of a sub-station of Coimbatore at Karnal for work on seedling canes.
- (5) Research on Mosaic and other diseases at Pusa.
- (6) Provision of a miniature sugar factory for experimental work and for training sugar technologists at the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore.
- (7) Testing of Khan Bahadur S. M. Hadi's open pan process of sugar manufacture.
- (8) Work on cane crushing and gur boiling plants in Bengal.
- (9) Appointment of Sugar Technologist.

OPERATION OF THE FOREIGNERS' ACT.

139. *Mr. S. G. Jog: Will Government be pleased to state how many times, since its passing, the Foreigners' Act was brought into operation and against whom?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I regret that I am not in possession of the information required by the Honourable Member. Under section 3 of the Act the Government of India and the Local Governments have concurrent powers and I have no information of the action which Local Governments have taken. Between 1918 and 1928 the number of persons against whom action was taken by the Government of India, or with their concurrence, was 17. I hope this information will suffice for the purposes of the Honourable Member.

Mr. S. G. Jog: In view of the new circumstances obtaining now, will Government take steps to alter or amend the old law so as to bring it into conformity with the changed ideas?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: These are aspects of the question which might well be considered in the contingency referred to by the Honourable Member when it arises.

THUMB IMPRESSIONS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

140. *Mr. S. G. Jog: (a) Is it a fact that in some cases thumb-impressions of political convicts were obtained by physical violence in some places by the police or jail authorities?

(b) Is it also true that in some cases such political convicts were tried and sentenced for refusing to give their thumb-impressions? If so, will Government state how many, and in what provinces, such cases came to their knowledge?

(c) Is it a fact that the thumb-impressions of Mr. M. R. Abhyankar, Barrister-at-Law, the ex-M.L.A., now undergoing sentence in the Central Provinces, were obtained by subjecting him to rough and torturing

handling at the hands of some sergeants and others, who, it is alleged, went to the length of sitting on his chest and gagging him, in order that his thumb-impressions might be obtained?

(d) Are Government aware of the storm of disgust and the torrent of criticism this act has aroused?

(e) If yes, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

(f) Will Government take steps to abandon this barbarous system of taking thumb-impressions by force in the case of political prisoners whose identity is easy to establish and who are unwilling to give thumb-impressions on grounds of sentiment?

(g) Are the existing jail rules so cruelly rigid as not to leave any discretion to the authorities in this matter? If so, will Government take steps to amend them so as to obliterate the element of physical force?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). I have no information of any such cases. except the one to which the Honourable Member specifically refers.

(c) I have ascertained from the Local Government that Mr. Abhyankar, in spite of being informed of the provisions of the law, stated that he would not willingly consent to his finger impressions being taken and clenched his fist by way of formal protest. Enough force was then used to open his fist but it is not a fact that any struggle took place or that he sustained injuries. His refusal to allow his finger impressions to be taken was merely a formal protest on his part.

(d) and (e). I understand that distorted accounts of this incident appeared in the local Press and gave rise at the time to protest. The Government of India have not taken any action in the matter.

(f) and (g). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Identification of Prisoners Act (Act XXXIII of 1920) authorising the taking of impressions. Rules for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act are made by Local Governments under the powers conferred by section 8. The Honourable Member will no doubt realise the practical difficulties in the way of making exceptions on the grounds he suggests.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is the principle of identification by thumb impression followed in England and other countries?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: Certainly.

Mr. K. Ahmed: In England also?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Did they also get thumb impressions from convicts in England during the suffragist movement in 1908 and were they hit hard by the police and thereby their thumb impressions extorted? Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly give his reply?

(No reply was given.)

RECRUITMENT TO THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

141. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Will Government please state the present policy of recruitment in the clerical establishment of the Postal and Railway Mail Service Department on a communal basis? Have there been any special orders for recruitment from a particular community?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of new appointments in the clerical establishment of the Central Provinces and Berar of the Central Circle, Postal and Railway Mail Service Department?

(c) With reference to part (b) above, will Government please state the percentage of appointments given to (1) Muslims and (2) Non-Muslims?

(d) Is it a fact that the Postmaster General, Nagpur, has issued private letters to heads of Muhammadan institutions to recommend Muslim applicants for employment in this Department?

(e) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the caste of the Postmaster General, Central Circle, Nagpur?

(f) Is it a fact that the Provincial Union many times complained about this communal spirit in the Circle in the Department? If so, will Government be pleased to state the action taken?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The policy is to prevent the preponderance of any one class or community in the service by reserving one-third of all permanent vacancies for the redress of communal inequalities. In considering the claims of minority communities, the preponderant position among such communities occupied by Muslims is taken into account.

(b), (c), (d) and (f). Information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

(e) Does not arise at this stage.

MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS APPOINTED AS SORTERS IN THE F DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL POSTAL CIRCLE, NAGPUR.

142. ***Mr. Goswami M. E. Puri:** (a) During the year 1930, how many (1) Muslims and (2) Non-Muslims applied for the post of sorters in the F Division of the Central Circle, Nagpur?

(b) How many (1) Muslims and (2) Non-Muslims were appointed?

(c) Is it a fact that amongst the rejected Non-Muslims there were many with higher educational qualifications than the appointed Muslims?

(d) Will Government please state the reasons for rejecting such Non-Muslims?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) (1) 40.

(2) 258.

(b) (1) 10.

(2) 17.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

REDUCTIONS IN CURRENCY TO STABILISE EXCHANGE.

143. ***Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reductions that have taken place in currency during the last five years?

(b) Will Government also state the steps it has taken from time to time to keep the exchange stable at 1s. 6d.?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Between 31st December, 1925, and 31st December, 1930, the reduction in the amount of currency notes in circulation was 30,42 lakhs. It is impossible to estimate exactly what reduction took place in the amount of silver rupees in actual circulation.

(b) A complete answer to this question would necessitate a very long explanation of the action taken by Government in their capacity as currency authority. The fall in Indian prices, which has corresponded approximately to the fall in world prices, has in fact involved some corresponding reduction of redundant currency.

REDUCTION OF RAILWAY FREIGHT ON PUNJAB WHEAT SENT TO CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY.

144. *Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar: Are Government aware that Australia can place its wheat at Bombay and Calcutta at a cheaper freight rate than Punjab wheat? What action do Government propose to take to help Punjab wheat to have access to Calcutta and Bombay markets by reduction of the railway freight?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Present sea freights for wheat from Australia ports to Bombay are lower than the combined railway and sea freights from the Punjab to Bombay, and present sea freights for wheat from Australian ports to Calcutta are lower than the railway freight from the Punjab to Calcutta. This comparison does not of course take into account railway freight in Australia, which is, necessarily one of the elements of cost in placing Australian wheat on the Indian market. Action has already been taken, as explained in the communiqué of the 17th November last, a copy of which I lay on the table, to reduce substantially the rates for wheat to Karachi, and this has resulted in wheat from the Punjab moving *via* Karachi to Bombay. The question of reducing the rates for wheat from the Punjab to Calcutta has been very carefully examined, and I expect a decision to be reached in the course of the next few days.

Communiqué dated 17th November, 1930.

The existence in India of a large surplus of wheat, estimated at not less than a million tons, which even at the low prices at present prevailing is unable to find a market either within or outside India, has been engaging the anxious consideration of the Government of India; and neither they nor the Railway Board have failed to realise the serious effect on railway earnings of the loss of the traffic which in more normal conditions might reasonably be expected in this commodity. It seems possible that, if movement by rail to Karachi is substantially cheapened during the period before the large wheat crops anticipated in Australia and the Argentine come on the market early next year, some portion at any rate of the surplus Indian crop may be absorbed by export; and the North Western and East Indian Railway administrations have therefore, decided, with the approval of the Government of India and the Railway Board that the following reductions should be brought into force immediately, and remain in force until the 28th February, 1931:

On the North Western Railway.—In place of the present C/K Schedule, the C/R Schedule will apply to traffic booked to Karachi in full wagon loads for distances over that railway of not less than 600 miles. The differential rule as regards distance will apply for distances less than 600 miles.

On the East Indian Railway.—In place of the existing C/B and C/M Schedules, the C/Q Schedule will apply to traffic booked to Karachi in full wagon loads, except traffic originating at stations on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, the Bengal and North Western Railway, and the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

As an illustration of the effect of this reduction, the freight per maund from Lyallpur to Karachi will be 6 annas 10 pies, instead of 11 annas 8 pies at present charged.

The results of this action, and the future position of the wheat market in India will be closely watched by the Government of India.

PROSPECTS OF COMMERCIAL PROBATIONERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

145. *Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar: (a) Are Government aware of the fact that on the North Western Railway in 1918 ten young graduates were taken as commercial probationers, of whom only three after two years' training and confirmation stuck to their jobs, viz., one Muslim on the Multan Division, one Hindu on the Ferozepur Division and a Sikh on the Quetta Division as Claims Tracers, and the balance quitted the service for want of future bright prospects?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that out of the above ten probationers one European resigned the service and rejoined as a guard and is now working as an Assistant Station Master on the Lahore Division drawing Rs. 320 *per mensem* whereas the above three have been reverted to Rs. 140 only (maximum) for the last seven years?

(c) Is it a fact that there are at present four vacancies in the cadre of Junior Claims Inspectors but, in spite of repeated requests and representations from the above Claims Tracers, no action has so far been taken to promote them to these posts even though they have qualified themselves in Assistant Station Master's Coaching and Goods duties?

(d) Is it a fact that the Claims Tracer attached to the Ferozepur Division was selected as an Assistant Staff Warden on Rs. 200 *per mensem*, but was reverted after a month or so without assigning any reasons for the reversion and a Muslim claims clerk, who is not even a Matric and was drawing Rs. 80 only, was promoted in his place? Will Government please state reasons for the above?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). I am obtaining information from the Agent of the North Western Railway, and will communicate with the Honourable Member when it is received.

(c) There are three vacancies of Junior Claims Inspectors but the Agent of the North Western Railway does not propose to fill them for the present.

(d) The Claims Tracer attached to the Ferozepore Division was tried as Assistant Staff Warden but was reverted as he did not prove fit for the duties of the post. The Muslim clerk selected to replace him is considered to possess special aptitude for the work of the post.

NUMBERS OF HINDUS, MUSLIMS AND SIKHS APPOINTED TO CERTAIN POSTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

146. *Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar: Will Government please lay on the table the actual figures showing the number of men belonging to the undermentioned communities taken on in the different categories of (a) Traffic Inspectors (Transportation); (b) Traffic Inspectors (Claims); (c) Commercial Superintendents; (d) Claims Inspectors; and (e) Commercial Supervisors on the North Western Railway:

- (i) Hindus,
- (ii) Muslims,
- (iii) Sikhs?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government regret that they are not prepared to supplement with figures for particular classes of posts the information in regard to communal representation in railway services given in the annual Administration Report on Indian Railways.

DISCONTENT AMONGST CLAIMS INSPECTORS AND CLAIMS TRACERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

147. ***Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar:** Are Government aware of the fact that, as a result of stagnation extending in most cases over a period of 7 years, much discontent is at present prevailing amongst Claims Inspectors and Claims Tracers on the North Western Railway? If so, do Government propose to take early steps to eradicate this discontent?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative; as regards the second part, Government propose to draw the attention of the Agent of the North Western Railway to the question.

TREATMENT OF SOLDIERS AFFECTED WITH PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

148. ***Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the action which is taken when a soldier is found getting consumption of the lungs in the Indian Army and in the British Army in Britain respectively?

(b) Is it not a fact that in the United Kingdom the soldiers suffering from consumption of the lungs are at once sent to special hospitals for regular treatment while in India they are at once boarded out by the Medical Board and sent to their homes without any treatment whatsoever and discharged from the Army?

(c) What action do Government propose to take with a view to provide adequate treatment to these unfortunate people before they are discharged?

Mr. G. M. Young: I propose to reply to this question as a whole.

The action taken is substantially the same in both countries. Suspected cases of tuberculosis are promptly segregated in hospitals. As soon as the disease is definitely diagnosed, the soldier is discharged, if he is fit to proceed home. If not, he is retained and treated in hospital. I am informed that the only difference is that, in some of the larger military hospitals in the United Kingdom, special accommodation is permanently reserved for this purpose, and designated a tuberculosis centre.

The care of tubercular patients, after discharge is, in both countries, the responsibility of the civil medical authorities. In the United Kingdom when a soldier suffering from tuberculosis is discharged, the Army authorities inform the Medical officer of Health concerned, while in India the information is sent to the Red Cross Society, which arranges, through its provincial branches, for the after-care and treatment of such cases.

†149.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

150. ***Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to inform the Assembly as to how many prosecutions have been made under the Child Marriage Restraint Act (Sarda Act) since its enforcement?

† The question was withdrawn, as the Honourable Member (Mr. N. M. Dumasia) had not yet taken the oath.

(b) How many of these prosecutions were in respect of Muhammadan children and how many in respect of Hindu children?

(c) What were the results of the prosecutions, and what was the punishment, if any, in each case?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: The information required is being obtained from the local Governments, and will be supplied to the Honourable Member when it is received.

CLASSIFICATION FOR THE CENSUS OF NON-CASTE HINDUS.

151. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will Government state whether they are aware of the fact that a large body of Hindus now regard caste as an anachronism and that while still continuing within the fold of the Hindu system, they have ceased to believe in caste?

(b) If so, how will Government obtain a count of such persons at the next census?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) Yes.

(b) They may return themselves as not belonging to a caste and will be so recorded.

REDUCTION OF RAILWAY FARES.

152. ***Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar:** Will Government be pleased to state if they intend reducing the railway fares particularly, in view of the general fall in the prices of all the commodities in India? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Railways do not at present propose to reduce their passenger fares. The question whether goods rates could be readjusted so as to permit a reduction in the freight to the ports on agricultural products affected by the fall in world prices has recently been under close examination by the Railway Board.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANTS AND CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

153. ***Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar:** (a) Is it a fact that when the Railway Board sent the names of some of their clerks to the Public Service Commission for admission to sit in the last qualifying examination, the Public Service Commission refused to allow any of their (Railway Board) men on the ground that the Railway Board did not recruit its staff through that agency?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board then gave an undertaking of making all future appointments in their own and attached offices through the Public Service Commission and on that undertaking alone the Public Service Commission allowed the Railway Board men to sit at their last qualifying examination?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the number and names of men appointed through the Public Service Commission and directly since that time?

(d) What is the number of assistants and clerks recruited directly and how many of them are Hindus, Muhammadans, and Sikhs, respectively?

(e) Is it also a fact that some of the temporary and officiating clerks, who were otherwise considered fit for permanent appointment in any of the grades, were exempted from appearing in that qualifying examination?

(f) If the reply to part (e) is in the affirmative, how many of them were later on confirmed and how many of them were turned out? What were the reasons for doing so?

(g) What are the special grounds for again reverting to the independent system of recruitment in the Railway Board?

(h) Why has no Sikh so far been recruited and then confirmed in the Railway Board since 1929?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The Public Service Commission at first refused to accept the names on the ground that they had not hitherto recruited for the Railway Board, but when it was explained to them that an undertaking had been given in the Assembly on the 26th February, 1929, that appointments of a purely clerical nature would in future be filled through them, they agreed to admit clerks in the Railway Board's Office, who possessed the requisite educational qualifications, as candidates for the qualifying examination.

(b) No, the only undertaking given was one made by me on the 26th of February, 1929, during the course of the discussion on the Railway Budget, in reply to a question then put to me by Mr. Das. I drew a distinction between appointments in the technical branches (including the Finance Branch) which were mainly filled from men already in railway service, or in the Accounts or Audit services, and the appointments of a purely clerical nature, and the undertaking related only to the latter.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No recruitment to fill permanent vacancies has taken place since that date.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) There is no proposal to revert to what the Honourable Member describes as the independent system of recruitment in the Railway Board. Vacancies in each class will be filled either by promotion from one class to another, or through the Public Service Commission, or by transfers from Railway or Accounts and Audit Offices.

(h) As I have explained, no permanent appointments have been made since the date of the undertaking.

APPOINTMENT OF A SIKH JUDGE IN THE LAHORE HIGH COURT.

154. ***Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no Sikh Judge in the Lahore High Court?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling amongst the Sikhs of the Punjab on account of there being not even a single Sikh Judge on the Bench of the Punjab High Court?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the claims of Sikhs when the next vacancy occurs on the Bench of the High Court of the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to a similar question asked by Sardar Kartar Singh on the 11th September, 1928.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF A MINORITY COMMUNITY ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

155. *Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar: (a) In view of the reply given by Government to starred question No. 410, dated the 11th September, 1928, will Government please state if they intend to appoint a Sikh or a man from some other minority community as a member of the Public Service Commission after the termination of the period of the present member who safeguards the interests of all the minority communities?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, what are the reasons for depriving the Sikh or other minority communities from at least having their share even by rotation?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) The Honourable Member appears to be under a misapprehension in regard to the constitution and functions of the Public Service Commission. I would explain that there is no question of individual members protecting the interests of particular communities. The Public Service Commission as a body view with complete impartiality all questions that come before them.

I regret that I am not in a position to give the Honourable Member any information in regard to future appointments to vacancies which may occur on the Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF SIKH STENOGRAPHERS IN THE SECRETARIAT.

156. *Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar: (a) With reference to the reply given by Government to starred question No. 409, dated the 11th September, 1928, will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikh stenographers and reporters appointed in the Secretariat since that date?

(b) Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission have recently held an examination for this service?

(c) If so, do Government intend taking a sufficient number of Sikhs for appointment as stenographers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) Two Sikhs have been appointed permanently as stenographers since the date mentioned.

(b) Yes.

(c) The claims of duly qualified Sikhs for appointment to vacancies when they occur will receive full consideration consistently with the satisfaction of the legitimate claims of other communities.

APPOINTMENT OF A SIKH AS CARETAKER OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN SIMLA.

157. *Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar: (a) Is it a fact that there are four caretakers of the Government of India buildings in Simla?

(b) Is it a fact that there have been three Anglo-Indians and Europeans out of these four caretakers?

(c) Is it also a fact that one of the Anglo-Indians has recently retired and that the vacancy is going to be filled up shortly by another Anglo-Indian?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, why are Government going to recruit particularly an Anglo-Indian in this vacancy when two of the appointments are already held by that community?

(e) Is it not a fact that there are some suitable retired military executive and other officers belonging to the Sikh and other minority communities as applicants, and if so, are Government prepared to appoint a Sikh in this vacancy in order to give other minority communities their share in this service? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As to the second part, the question whether the vacancy should be filled, and if so how, is under consideration.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) A number of applications have been received and the claims of Sikh applicants will be carefully considered along with others.

SYSTEM FOR TENDERING FOR THE SUPPLY OF PAINT AND VARNISH FOR THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

158. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria:** (a) Is it a fact that the contracts for the purchase of Indian paint and varnishes up to the financial year 1930-31 used to be made by the Indian Stores Department under the system of running contract?

(b) Is it a fact that the system of running contracts has been changed to the rate contract by the Indian Stores Department for the purpose of the Indian paint and varnishes?

(c) Are Government aware that the system of the rate contract is standing in the way of the further development of the Indian paint and varnish manufactures, and if not, do Government propose to inquire into the matter?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) No. For the years 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30, a form of contract had been in use, which, although referred to in the Conditions of Contract as a Running Contract, was in actual fact a Rate Contract, inasmuch as no quantities were specified either in the invitations to tender or in the schedule to the contracts.

(b) As already explained, the Rate Contract form was used up to 1930. For the period 1930-31 a form of Running Contract was introduced. Owing, however, to the difficulty in securing accurate forecasts of quantities likely to be required, it was found to be necessary to revert to the Rate Contract system for the period 1931-32.

(c) Government are not aware that the system of Rate Contracts, as distinct from the system of Running Contracts, adversely affects the development of the Indian paint and varnish manufactures. They do not propose to enquire into the matter, but any representations or suggestions received from manufacturing interests concerned will receive their very careful consideration.

SYSTEM FOR TENDERING FOR THE SUPPLY OF PAINT AND VARNISH FOR THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

159. ***Mr. Nabakumar Sing Dudhoria:** (a) Is it a fact that a deputation representing all the principal paint and varnish manufacturers in India waited on Mr. J. S. Pithkeathly, the Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department, on the 30th October, 1930, at Calcutta in connection with the paint and varnish tender No. M.-13 for 1931-32?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that the deputation strongly objected to the introduction of the rate contract system on the ground that it will turn the paint industry in India into a speculative concern, and a copy of their various grievances was handed over to Mr. J. S. Pithkeathly?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department, was not prepared to recognise the deputation unless the remaining one or two manufacturers joined them?

(d) If the replies to parts (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to abolish the newly adopted rate contract system, and if not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) A deputation of three gentlemen representing the principal paint and varnish manufacturers in India waited on the Chief Controller of Stores on the 29th October, 1930.

(b) The deputation raised certain objections to the conditions of contract issued in connection with the Indian Stores Department's Invitation to tender. At the request of the Chief Controller of Stores a statement was prepared and submitted to him by the spokesman of the deputation. This statement set forth the difficulties anticipated by the members of the deputation in dealing with the annual paint and varnish tenders for 1931-32, and also the modifications and amendments which the deputation considered should be made in the contract conditions.

(c) The answer is in the negative. The deputation was accorded a long hearing, and all the points referred to in the statement submitted by the spokesman were discussed at length. The Chief Controller of Stores explained the objects of various conditions of contract and the practical difficulties in the way of accepting some of the amendments put forward in the statement.

He also told the members of the deputation that tenderers were at liberty to put forward with their tenders any modifications of the conditions of contract they might consider to be necessary, and that their tenders would receive consideration.

In order to remove, as far as possible, one of the chief difficulties brought to notice he agreed to furnish to the successful tenderer rough estimates (without guarantee) based on the most accurate information available, of the quantities likely to be required during the currency of the contract.

After a prolonged discussion it was decided to adjourn the meeting in order that the members of the deputation might discuss the matter among themselves. The Chief Controller of Stores suggested that, after the matter had been further discussed between the members of the deputation, they should meet him again. In order to facilitate this, he arranged a tentative date and time for a further meeting and postponed his departure.

from Calcutta. The spokesman of the deputation informed the Chief Controller of Stores by telephone before the date fixed for the second meeting that owing to the lack of unanimity amongst the representatives of paint manufacturers, he regretted that he did not consider that any useful purpose would be served by meeting him again.

(d) The answer is in the negative. I think the Honourable Member will see from the answer given to part (c) that the Chief Controller of Stores has shown his readiness to consider sympathetically any representations from, and to co-operate with, as far as may be practicable, any parties interested in the manufacture of paints and varnishes in India.

NUMBER OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN INDIA AND BURMA.

160. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the number of combined offices in India and Burma;
- (ii) the number of signallers employed in these offices;
- (iii) the number of telegrams booked and delivered through these offices;
- (iv) the number of departmental telegraph offices;
- (v) the number of telegraphists and Telegraph Masters employed in these offices;
- (vi) the total income of the Department during the year 1929-30;
- (vii) the credit given to the Postal Department as share of combined office revenue; and
- (viii) on what basis such credit is given to the Postal Department?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The figures corrected up to the 31st March, 1930, are as follows:

- (i) 4,221.
- (ii) 4,732 including 3,887 part time signallers.
- (iii) Booked—12,064,532. } These figures do not include service
Delivered—9,862,619. } messages.
- (iv) 108.
- (v) 2,818 and 321 respectively.
- (vi) Rs. 11,29,50,000.
- (vii) No credit is given to the Postal Branch for telegraph revenue collected by combined offices but a credit is given to it for the telegraph share of the cost of working such offices. The amount for 1929-30 was Rs. 31,48,000.
- (viii) The credit is based on the number of operations in combined offices.

PENSIONARY LIABILITY OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

161. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government Actuary has finished his calculation as to what amount is actually to be paid by the Postal Department to the general revenue for pensionary liability?

(b) Is it a fact that the pensionary liability has been increased from Rs. 44,99,000 to Rs. 46,12,000 in the year 1930-31?

(c) If so, what is the basis of the calculation?

(d) Have Government considered the proposal to pay the postal pensioners through the post office like military pensioners?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The Government Actuary has evolved a formula for the determination of the pensionary liability of the Posts and Telegraphs Department which has been provisionally accepted by the Government of India pending further examination of the question.

(b) The pensionary liability of the postal branch of the Department was raised from Rs. 44,09,000 (and not Rs. 44,99,000 as stated by the Honourable Member) in 1929-30 to Rs. 46,12,000 in 1930-31.

(c) The above increase was considered necessary in order to allow for the increase in permanent pensionable establishment during 1929-30 and 1930-31. The Government Actuary's formula makes the pensionary liability directly proportionate to the total pay and leave salary of such establishment.

(d) Military pensioners are paid through the agency of the Post Office only in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Provinces. The proposal to pay the pensions of postal pensioners through the Post Office was considered by Government more than once. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited (1) to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra to part (b) of Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's starred question No. 534 on the 2nd February, 1925, and (2) to item 35 of part I of the statement laid on the table of this House by Mr. A. G. Clow on the 4th March, 1926.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HEADQUARTERS OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

61. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the headquarters of K-1 In and K-1 Out sections in the Railway Mail Service K Division?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of sorters in the above sections?

(c) What is the scale of pay of these sorters?

(d) Are Government aware that previously the headquarters of these two sections were at Rohri and Sukkur, respectively?

(e) Is it a fact or not that the Provincial Postal Union of Karachi and the sorters themselves have appealed against the retention of their headquarters at Karachi?

(f) Are Government aware that each of these sorters has to perform eighteen hours' continuous duty?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state what extra expenditure was incurred by transferring the headquarters of these two sections from Rohri and Sukkur to Karachi in the shape of travelling allowances and higher scale of pay to the staff?

(h) Are Government aware that the scale of pay at Karachi is higher than that of Rohri and Sukkur?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Karachi.

(b) 21 sorters.

(c) Rs. 50—5—150.

(d) No.

(e) Yes.

(f) The suggestion that the period of duty is 18 hours is incorrect.

(g) The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

(h) Yes.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS IN CERTAIN OFFICES.

62. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to three letters headed "Supersession in Offices" in the *Advance* of the 17th October, 1930, "School of Mines" in the *Advance* of the 19th October, 1930, and "Geological Survey of India" in the *Advance* of the 22nd October, 1930, and also a letter to the same effect in the *Liberty* in October? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the facts stated in the letters are correct? Will Government be pleased to state what steps if any, have been taken:

(i) to appoint an Indian officer as Palæontologist;

(ii) to give an opportunity to an Indian officer for delivering popular lectures in the Indian Museum;

(iii) to appoint an Indian officer as curator;

(iv) to promote deserving Sub-Assistant Superintendents to the grade of Assistant Superintendents in the Geological Survey Department; and

(v) to appoint students of the Dhanbad School of Mines to the Geological Survey of India Department?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: The letters referred to had not come to the notice of the Government of India before this question was asked. The statements made therein are, however, not based on a correct appreciation of the facts.

(i) The present incumbent of the post is an Indian.

(ii) The choice of persons to deliver lectures is in the hands of the Trustees of the Indian Museum. Popular lectures on Art and other subjects have been delivered in the past by Indians.

(iii) The qualifications required for the post of the Curator in the Geological Museum and Laboratory are that the officer should be a specialist in mineralogy and petrology and should show more than the ordinary ability required for purely survey work. An Indian possessing these qualifications acted as Curator in 1927.

(iv) Not less than 25 per cent. of vacancies in the grade of Assistant Superintendent in the Geological Survey of India are required to be filled by promotion from among Sub-Assistants, provided that candidates are found to be fit for such promotion.

(v) Recruitment to the superior gazetted posts in the Geological Survey of India is made through the Public Service Commission, who invite applications by advertisement in the principal newspapers in India. Students

of the School of Mines desiring to obtain one of the posts should submit their applications in accordance with the instructions in the advertisement.

PUBLICATION IN THE VERNACULAR OF TRANSLATIONS OF RESEARCHES CARRIED ON BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

63. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to a series of articles in the *Advance* of the 28th August, 1930, *Bengalee* of the 29th August, 1930, and *Behar Herald* of the 6th September, 1930, urging Government to publish translations in the vernaculars of researches carried on in the different Departments of the Government? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken in the matter?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The Government have now seen the articles mentioned by the Honourable Member. The desirability of giving the practical results of research work as wide publicity as possible through the medium of the vernaculars is fully realised by Departments such as the Agricultural and Public Health Departments, which carry on research work, the results of which are of special interest and importance to the general public. I would refer the Honourable Member for evidence of this to Chapter VI of the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, in which he will find a full description of what the Agricultural Departments are doing in the direction suggested in the articles to which he refers. As a recent example, it may be added that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has lately broadcast among the public Hindi and Urdu editions of a pamphlet on Locust Control Methods recommended by its Locust Committee. The Council hopes shortly to bring out editions in other vernaculars also.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES.

64. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Will Government please give the numbers of the persons in each of the different provinces who have been arrested and sent to prison between 6th April and 31st December, 1930:

- (a) for breach of the existing laws under the civil disobedience campaign; and
- (b) for breach of each one of the nine Ordinances issued since April last?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have given to Sardar Sant Singh's question No. 12, dated the 26th January, 1931. These figures relate to imprisonment for offences under both (a) and (b). The separate figures asked for in (b) are being collected.

GRANT OF AN AMNESTY TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.

65. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Do Government propose to grant a general amnesty to all political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement issued by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 25th January.

AMENDMENT OF THE SARDA ACT.

66. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** With reference to Government's reply to Mr. M. K. Acharya's starred questions No. 656, dated the 19th March and No. 293, dated the 18th July, 1930, will Government be pleased to state what replies they have received from the different Local Governments regarding the amendment of the Sarda Act exempting the purely religious part of Indian marriage from the scope of the Act?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: Some replies regarding the Bills that have been circulated have been received, while a few are still outstanding. Until all the replies have been received and examined, Government are not in a position to make any statement.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF FOREIGN PIECE-GOODS IMPORTED.

67. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Will Government be pleased to supply the House with the information regarding the quantity and value of import of foreign piece-goods in each month from April to December, 1930, as compared with the same in the previous year?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The Honourable Member is referred to the Monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India, copies of which are in the Library. Figures for December, 1930, are not yet available.

FALL IN THE PRICE OF GRAINS.

68. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) Are Government aware of the great alarm caused by the continuous fall in price of rice among the paddy growers in the country and generally of all the grains?

(b) Do Government propose to take any steps to increase the exports of Indian grains?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) Steps are being taken to encourage the export of rice by propaganda among European consumers, in which the High Commissioner has obtained the valuable co-operation of the Empire Marketing Board. With the assistance of the latter body, an officer of the Burma Agricultural Department has recently made a study of the types of rice most in demand and of the methods of preparation employed by competing countries. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, in consultation with the High Commissioner, is keeping in touch with market developments. Government are considering whether further measures can be adopted to encourage export of surplus food grains, but the present position is one of great difficulty owing to the accumulation of large stocks of cereals in the world generally and to world-production in excess of effective demand.

LOSS OF REVENUE DUE TO FALL IN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

69. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) What are the losses to Indian revenue by the fall in imports of foreign articles into India during the last nine months?

(b) What are the losses to India by the fall in exports of Indian raw materials to foreign countries during the period from April to December, 1930?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: It is not possible for me to give precise figures of the kind required by the Honourable Member, and I am afraid I must leave him to draw his own conclusions from the published statistics.

OVERCROWDING OF THIRD CLASS RAILWAY CARRIAGES AND INTRODUCTION OF FANS IN INTERMEDIATE CLASS CARRIAGES.

70. Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai: (a) Are Government aware that there is still a good deal of overcrowding in third class carriages on all lines especially on the East Indian Railway?

(b) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the Railway authorities concerned that the number of passengers actually seated in a compartment should not exceed the maximum number of passengers allowed to be seated and increase additional carriages to meet overcrowding?

(c) Is there any proposal of introducing fans in intermediate class carriages during the summer season?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member in this connection to my reply in Delhi to parts (b), (c) and (f) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's question No. 138 on the 21st January, 1930. From a census of passengers in trains taken on the East Indian Railway in June, 1930, it did not appear that overcrowding was occurring to any considerable extent in third class carriages on that system.

(b) Government are aware that Railway Administrations are giving constant attention to the question of overcrowding, and do not consider that the issue of instructions is called for at this stage.

(c) Government do not propose to introduce fans in intermediate class carriages, at any rate at present.

FALL IN EARNINGS OF RAILWAYS DUE TO DECREASE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

71. Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai: Has there been any fall in the earnings of Railways by the decrease of imports and exports?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The reply is in the affirmative.

IMPROVEMENT OF THIRD CLASS RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS.

72. Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai: With reference to the reply given by the Government to Mr. Nehal Singh's unstarred question No. 102, dated the 14th July, 1930, regarding the earnings from different classes of passengers of the East Indian Railway, will Government be pleased to state what steps do they propose to take to improve the condition of third class compartments from which more than 90 per cent. of the earnings are derived?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Action has already been taken by the Railway Board to improve the condition of third class compartments in passenger carriages. New designs have been prepared by a Committee appointed by the Railway Board, and a number of carriages have already been built to these designs. Recommendations made by Advisory Committees receive consideration of Railway Administrations and of the Railway Board. All designs of new vehicles prepared by Railways are examined by the Railway Board and

improvements are from time to time incorporated in existing designs where this can be done without materially increasing the cost of vehicles or reducing their carrying capacity.

DELIVERY OF LETTERS BY POSTMEN TO UNTOUCHABLES IN BENGAL.

73. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Will Government be pleased to state with reference to the reply given to Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 171, dated the 16th July, 1930, whether they have enquired as to the source from which the authors of the Simon Report got the information of the refusal of postmen in Bengal to deliver letters to untouchables?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: The reply is in the negative.

SELECTION OF DELEGATES FOR THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

74. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the general principles which were adopted in making selection of delegates to the Round Table Conference?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the selection was made on the basis of different political parties in India and England, and if so, whether the strength of representation to each party was allotted according to its weightage and importance?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the names of delegates attending the Round Table Conference by grouping them according to the religion to which they belong and the names of those who were invited but could not accept the invitation with the reasons, if any, mentioned by them?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether representatives of the Indian National Congress, Independent Labour Party of England, and the Jains were invited to the Conference? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a), (b) and (d). The delegates from British India were invited by His Majesty's Government. Their selection is therefore not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council. The Honourable Member will no doubt realise that the number of delegates had necessarily to be limited, and in the majority of cases persons were invited who might be representative of as many interests as possible, and the delegates who might be held more particularly to represent one interest, represent in many cases other interests also.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the list of delegates from British India which I laid on the table in reply to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question. I am not in a position to give any other information.

POLICY OF ASSAULTS AND LATHI CHARGES.

75. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the assaults and *lathi* charges that are being made by the police on the public in the different places of India at the present moment are in pursuance of a definite policy enunciated by the Central Government?

(b) If the answer be in the negative, whether an enquiry as to the justification of the assaults is made by Government in each case?

(c) Under what provision of the law are these assaults made?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is no doubt referring to the dispersal of unlawful assemblies by the police. The law is quite clear as regards the circumstances in which an assembly becomes unlawful and may be dispersed by the use of force. The Government of India have issued no instructions in this matter.

(c) Does not arise.

NEED OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT SULTANGUNJ STATION.

76. Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai: (a) Are Government aware that passengers at Sultangunj Station on the East Indian Railway feel much inconvenience on account of the absence of an overbridge in crossing from one platform to the other especially when a long goods train is standing at the station?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, is there any proposal for making an overbridge?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have received no complaints on this score; but, if there is inconvenience to passengers, the matter might suitably be taken up by the Calcutta Advisory Committee of the East Indian Railway.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY LINE FROM SULTANGUNJ TO DEOGHAR.

77. Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai: (a) Is there any proposal for opening a new railway line from Sultangunj to Deoghar in view of both these places being famous for pilgrimage?

(b) If the answer be in affirmative, what will be the estimated cost of undertaking the scheme?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Sultangunj and Deoghar are already served by the East Indian Railway and an adequate service exists between these two stations *via* Kiul and Jasidih.

There is no proposal before the Government of India to provide any alternative connection.

PROVISION OF A WAITING ROOM FOR THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS AT BHAGALPUR JUNCTION STATION.

78. Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai: (a) Is it a fact that there is no waiting room for third class passengers except a passage which is used as such in Bhagalpur junction which is the most important station between Howrah and Patna, on the loop line on the East Indian Railway?

(b) If so, is there any proposal for building a waiting room?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) There is a third class waiting shed, measuring 96 feet by 60 feet at Bhagalpur Station, in which the East Indian Railway and Bengal and North Western Railway third class booking offices are situated.

A six-seated latrine and a drinking water tap are also provided. The passage referred to by the Honourable Member is presumably the covered alleyway leading from this shed to the down platform at the station, which is provided as an extra convenience for passengers.

(b) There is no proposal to provide any further waiting accommodation for third class passengers at Bhagalpur as the existing facilities are considered sufficient.

FALL IN THE PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

79. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the general fall in prices of all commodities in India?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make any retrenchment by making reduction in the salary of its employees from the highest officials to the lowest menials?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) and (b). I propose to deal fully in my Budget speech with the situation created by the general fall in prices.

INCONVENIENT TIMES FOR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

80. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) Have any complaints been received that the new East Indian Railway time-table of arrival and departure of trains is not convenient to any class of the public?

(b) Is it a fact that the 47 Up and 48 Down Express do not touch at Nathnagar station while they touch at Abhaypur, Kajra, Dharhara and Sabour stations?

(c) What department of the Railway prepare the time table?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No.

(b) 47 and 48 Down trains, which are not Express trains, halt at Nathnagar Station. Nos. 41 Up and 42 Down Express trains, to which the Honourable Member probably intended to refer, do not halt at Nathnagar. I will have a copy of this question sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for his consideration of this point.

(c) The Operating Department.

NUMBER OF PERSONS INJURED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

81. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of persons injured in the present civil disobedience movement in all the provinces of India from April to December, 1930?

(b) How many of them were permanently disabled and how many killed?

(c) Is it a fact that compensation will be awarded for the maintenance of the families of those who were non-combatants?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to Sardar Sant Singh's unstarred question No. 14, dated the 26th January, 1931, which gives the information in the possession of the Government of India.

(c) No question of compensation arises.

POLICE INJURED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

82. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** (a) How many Indian and European policemen have been injured in the present civil disobedience movement and how many of them were permanently disabled or killed?

(b) Is there any proposal for granting suitable pension to those who have been permanently disabled and compensation for maintenance of the families of those who have been killed?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). The information asked for is being obtained from local Governments and will be supplied to the Honourable Member when received.

BOMBS THROWN IN INDIA IN 1930.

83. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Will Government be pleased to state the total number of bombs thrown in connection with the anarchist movement in India in the year 1930 in each province? How many casualties have happened and in how many cases were arrests made and wrong-doers detected?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: A statement is attached giving the number of the more important cases connected with the anarchist movement in which bombs were used, the casualties caused and the cases in which arrests were made and wrong-doers detected. The Honourable Member will understand that this list is not exhaustive.

Statement giving the number of the more important cases connected with the anarchist movement in which bombs were used; the number of casualties; and the number of cases in which arrests were made and the wrong-doers detected, in various provinces in India during the year 1930.

Province.	Number of cases in which bombs were used.	Number of casualties.	Number of cases in which arrests were made and wrong-doers detected.
1. Bengal	10	17	5
2. Bombay and Sind	3	2	1
3. Delhi	1	2	Nil.
4. N. W. F. Province	3	Nil.	Nil.
5. Punjab	19	32	10
6. United Provinces	2	1	1
Total	38	54	17

EFFECT OF BOYCOTT OF THE LAW COURTS ON THE STAMP DUTIES.

84. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Will Government be pleased to state the effect of boycott of law courts on the stamp duties of the Government by comparing the figures of the present year with those of the last year? Has there been any decline of cases?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: The information asked for is not available. The matter is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council.

REDUCTION OF RAILWAY FARES.

85. **Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai:** Is it a fact that railway fares are going to be reduced in view of the general fall in the prices of all commodities in India?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Railways do not at present propose to reduce their passenger fares. The question whether goods rates could be re-adjusted so as to permit a reduction in the freight to the ports on agricultural products affected by the fall in world prices has recently been under close examination by the Railway Board.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WATCH AND WARD SYSTEM ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

86. **Lt. Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that Government have tried the Watch and Ward system in several divisions of the North Western Railway?

(b) What is the result of this experiment?

(c) Have Government made this system permanent in two divisions of the North Western Railway?

(d) If the results of the experiment are useful, have Government considered the advisability of permanently introducing it in all the other divisions of the North Western Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) The experiment has proved a success.

(c) It has been made permanent on the Delhi division.

(d) The consideration of the extension to other divisions has been postponed for financial reasons.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE CENTRAL PUBLICITY BUREAU OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

87. **Mr. Bhuput Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state what amounts have been spent, during 1929-30, by the Central Publicity Bureau of the Government of India, Railway Board:

(a) abroad;

(b) in India; and

(c) with regard to either case—

(1) what amounts have been spent on printing and publication generally;

(2) what amounts have been actually paid to each press individually, abroad or in India, specifying—

(i) the title and description of each publication, be it a brochure, pamphlet, tourists' guide, magazine, timetable, folder, handbill, poster, etc.;

(ii) name and description of the author, artist, etc.;

(iii) royalty or remuneration paid to the author, editor, artist, etc.;

(iv) name and address of the printer in India or abroad;

- (v) the amounts actually paid for the production of each publication to the printer, specifying printing, paper, etc.; illustrations; photographs; maps; blocks; other heads to be specified; and;
- (d) the amounts that have not been spent on printing and publications to be specified under various main heads?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Rs. 2,47,370.

(b) A net amount of Rs. 5,62,987, i.e., Rs. 7,98,582 less receipts of Rs. 2,35,595.

(c) (1) Rs. 2,51,114.

(c) (2) and (d). The information is not available and Government regret that they cannot undertake the labour and expense of attempting to compile it.

**EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS ON
•PRINTING AND PUBLICATIONS.**

88. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state what amounts have been spent, during 1929-30, on printing, publications, etc., by various Railways in India—State or Company-owned, individually:-

(a) abroad;

(b) in India; and

(c) with regard to either case—

(1) what amounts have been spent on printing and publications generally;

(2) what amounts have been actually paid to each press individually, abroad or in India, specifying—

(i) the title and description of each publication, be it a brochure, pamphlet, tourists' guide, magazine, timetable, folder, handbill, poster, etc.;

(ii) name and description of the author, artist, etc.;

(iii) royalty or remuneration paid to the author, editor, artist, etc., for each item, separately;

(iv) name and address of the printer of each item, in India or abroad;

(v) the amount actually paid to each printer in India or abroad for the production of each publication, specifying printing, paper, etc.; illustrations; photographs; maps; blocks; other heads, to be specified; and

(d) the amounts that have not been spent on printing and publications by the Publicity Departments of various Railway Administrations—State or Company-owned—during 1928-29 and 1929-30, to be specified under different main heads?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The information is not available, and it would take an immense amount of time and labour to compile it, even, indeed, if it is procurable at all. Government regret that they cannot undertake therefore to supply it.

**DRAWINGS AND POSTERS PRODUCED BY MISSES NEWSOME AND NIXON
FOR THE RAILWAYS.**

89. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state with regard to the drawings of posters that two European lady artists, Miss D. Newsome and Miss K. Nixon, exhibited, during the early weeks of December, 1930, at the show window of the American Express Company, Government Place East, Calcutta,—

- (a) whether the drawings referred to were produced by the artists concerned at the express order of the Railway Board and/or of different Railway Administrations;
- (b) whether the said artists prepared the pictures at their own initiative, and then the pictures being found suitable were purchased by the Railway Board and/or different Railway Administrations;
- (c) what prices were paid for these pictures, individually, and/or other pictures, for posters, book-covers, inner illustrations, by the said two lady-artists, during the years 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29, 1929-30, including the pictures exhibited as referred to above mentioning the title or description of each picture and the amount paid for each picture by the Railway Board and/or different Railway Administrations;
- (d) whether it is a fact that in addition to the remuneration paid for the design, one of the lady-artists was given free first class railway tickets or passes by a certain Railway Administration to a hill-station in India to enable her to draw a poster of a certain place in the neighbourhood of the hill-station in question; and also whether hotel charges for her stay in that hill station were also paid by the same Railway Administration; and all these in addition to the remuneration she received for the design or designs;
- (e) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, how many pictures were offered by them in all, and out of them how many have been selected; also what officer or officers made the selections and ultimately determined the prices;
- (f) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether any other artist, European or Indian, in India or abroad, was similarly commissioned by the Railway Board and/or different Railway Administrations during 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29, and 1929-30, mentioning—
 - (1) the title or description of each picture;
 - (2) the name and description of artist,
 - (3) amount paid for each picture by the Railway Board and/or different Railway Administrations?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I have been informed that this was a private exhibition arranged by the two artists mentioned, but have no information as to the posters shown in it, except that the Chief Publicity Officer was asked to agree to the drawings of two posters, which he had ordered from these artists, being shown at the exhibition. I am obtaining from him and will communicate to the Honourable Member the information with regard to these two posters for which he asks in his question so far as it is procurable.

COST OF POSTERS OF MULLICK GHAT AND THE KALIGHAT TEMPLE.

90. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** (a) With reference to the Council of State Debates, Vol. I, No. 12, pages 243-244, question No. 92(a) (i), dated the 18th March, 1930, will Government please state, if the Eastern Bengal Railway's share of the cost for design of the "Mullick Ghat" (Calcutta Corporation's Pumping Station) poster was Rs. 225 (Two hundred and twenty-five), and what the share was of other Railway or Railways?

(b) With further reference to the item of Council of State Debates referred to in (a) above, what the share was of other Railway or Railways (to be specified) of the cost relating to printing, freight and customs?

(c) In view of the fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway had a poster of the "Kalighat" printed about 1926 or 1927, what the necessity was of having another design of the same temple by the European lady artists? Was the cost of this very much more than the cost of the former poster?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The information asked for is being obtained and will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

REPRODUCTION OF POSTERS DESIGNED BY MISSES NEWSOME AND NIXON.

91. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to obtain reproductions of posters designed by Miss D. Newsome and Miss K. Nixon, for the Central Publicity Bureau of the Government of India Railway Board and other Railway Administrations from abroad? If so, why?

(b) With reference to the reply to question No. 92 (b), dated the 18th March, 1930, in the Council of State, asked by the Honourable Mr. Surput Singh with regard to the reproduction of "Mullick Ghat" (the Calcutta Corporation's Pumping Station) poster by a firm abroad that having secured "first class" designs it was considered necessary to have them printed in the United Kingdom by a special process in order to make a comparison with the work produced in India, will Government please state what has been the result of the investigation?

(c) With reference to the latter part of the answer referred to above that at the time the order for the printing of the "Mullick Ghat" (Calcutta Corporation's Pumping Station) poster was placed abroad, the only firm in India known to be able to produce posters by the particular process was the Times of India Press, Bombay, will Government please state whether this statement was based on the inspection by any responsible officer of Government, or was the outcome of somebody's guess?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative whether Government will be prepared to try any press in India with the work of reproduction of posters designed by Misses Newsome and Nixon?

(e) Will Government state whether they are prepared to consider the question of issuing instructions to the Central Publicity Bureau of the Government of India Railway Board and the Publicity Departments of various Railway Administrations—State or Company-owned—to henceforward give preference to presses in India in the matter of the reproduction of posters?

(f) Will Government please state whether they will be pleased to place on the Library table for the information of the House the originals as well as the reproduction thereof made abroad of the posters designed by Misses Newsome and Nixon for the Central Publicity Bureau of the Government of India Railway Board and/or different Railway Administrations—State or Company-owned?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I have called for this information, but it has not yet arrived. On its receipt, I will communicate it to the Honourable Member.

DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITMENT FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

92. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a statement made some time back in London by Sir George Barrow relating to difficulties in the recruitment for the Indian Army?
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that some units of the Bengal regiment shot down three of their men in Mesopotamia during the last Great War;
- (c) the names of the persons so shot down and the reference to the despatch which contained a description of that affair; and
- (d) the name of the General who sent out that despatch?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Government have seen Sir George Barrow's lecture on "The Army in India and Constitutional Reform" to which the Honourable Member presumably refers.

(b) Three Indian officers of the 49th Bengal were shot by two soldiers of the same unit, in Iraq, on the night of June 8th/9th, 1918.

(c) and (d). Subadar A. K. Mitter died of wounds and temporary Subadar Major S. N. Basu and Jemadar R. L. Mukerjee were dangerously wounded. The occurrence was not reported by despatch but by telegram in the normal manner from the 3rd Echelon, Basra, fuller details being supplied later in a telegram to the Commander-in-Chief in India by General Sir William Marshall, the Commander-in-Chief in Iraq.

NUMBER OF PERSONS DETAINED UNDER THE BENGAL ORDINANCE AND BENGAL REGULATION.

93. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons detained in the province of Bengal under the Bengal Ordinance at the present moment; and
- (b) the number that is being, at present, detained under the Bengal Regulation in the same province?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) The number of persons detained in Bengal under the Bengal Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, No. VI of 1930, which replaced Ordinance No. 1 of 1930, is 395.

(b) One.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S RECENT STERLING LOAN.

94. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the project of the loan of twenty millions pounds sterling was placed before the Indian Legislature before it was floated in the London market; and
- (b) whether the project of the loan was in the contemplation of the Government of India in July last?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's starred question No. 13 on the 26th January, 1931. No loan of £20 million was floated in 1930.

PRIVATE BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

95. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private Bills that were introduced in the Legislative Assembly during the ten years of the Reforms;
- (b) the number of such Bills that were ultimately passed by the Assembly; and
- (c) the number of such Bills that were passed by both the Assembly and the Council of State?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The information asked for is as given below:

- (a) 118.
- (b) 27.
- (c) 19.

CLASSIFICATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

96. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the facts about the classification and treatment of political prisoners which have been brought to the notice of the public by Pandit Nilakantha Das recently released from Hazaribagh jail; and
- (b) who is the final deciding authority for classification of political prisoners in Bihar and Orissa?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) No. The only reference which the Government of India have seen in the Press is a note in the issue of *Liberty* of Calcutta of the 25th December last, to the effect that Pandit Nilakantha Das had no complaint about his treatment in jail.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to a communiqué issued on the 19th February, 1930.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN EMPLOYEES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

97. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount that was spent on the education (primary and secondary) of children of Indian employees in the railway colony at Khagaul (Dinapur) on the East Indian Railway system in 1930-31;

- (b) the total amount spent by East Indian Railway on the education of children of their Indian employees in 1929-30; and
- (c) the total amount spent on the education of children of their European and Anglo-Indian employees during the same period?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The estimated expenditure is Rs. 4,700.

(b) Rs. 67,367.

(c) Rs. 3,03,871.

PRESSES EMPLOYED FOR RAILWAY PRINTING.

98. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the press or presses or firms which did the printing of:
 - (i) the *Indian State Railways Magazine*;
 - (ii) All-India Railway Time Table;
 - (iii) the posters advertising the *Indian State Railways Magazine*;
 - (iv) the posters advertising the All-India Railway Time Table;
- (b) the amounts paid to each press or firm for the various kinds of jobs therefor?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) (i) The Times of India Press. (iii) There are no posters advertising the *Indian State Railways Magazine*. Information is being obtained regarding items (ii) and (iv) of part (a) of the Honourable Member's question and I will communicate with him later.

(b) Rs. 1,12,861 was paid for the work done by the Times of India Press in connection with the *Indian State Railways Magazine* of 1929-30.

Information on this point in connection with the All-India Railway Time Table is being obtained and I will communicate it to the Honourable Member.

COST OF PUBLICATION OF THE *INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS MAGAZINE*.

99. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount spent during 1929-30 on the monthly publication of the Government of India Railway Board Magazine, called the *Indian State Railways Magazine*, specifying the actual amounts spent on:
 - (i) printing, paper, etc.,
 - (ii) blocks,
 - (iii) royalties to contributors for (a) articles, (b) photographs (c) illustrations, (d) printing of posters advertising the magazine;
- (b) the total amount of income derived from:
 - (i) sale of that magazine;
 - (ii) advertisements inserted in that magazine?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The magazine cost Rs. 2,04,407 to publish in 1929-30 and Rs. 30,131 were obtained from its sale and Rs. 2,04,596 from advertisements in it. Details of the expenditure on the items specifically mentioned by the Honourable Member are not available, but I am seeing if I can obtain figures from the accounts which will be of assistance to him, and will communicate with him on this point later.

PUBLICATION OF THE ALL-INDIA RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

100. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enter into competition with the printing and publishing houses which have been publishing for a long time past the All-India Railway Time Table by bringing them out themselves;
- (b) the income derived from:
 - (i) sale of the time tables,
 - (ii) advertisements in the time tables in 1929-30?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) It was not with any idea of entering into competition with printing and publishing houses that the All-India Time Table was published, but because it was considered that it would be convenient to the public to issue an authoritative time table covering all the railways of India.

Its sale has not however been large enough to warrant its further publication, and it has been decided to discontinue it.

- (b) (i) Rs. 15,201-8-3.
- (ii) Rs. 9,650-0-0.

COST OF PUBLICATION OF THE ALL-INDIA RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

101. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state the total amounts that have been spent in 1929-30 on the All-India Railway Time Table on the following heads:

- (i) printing, paper, etc.,
- (ii) blocks,
- (iii) maps,
- (iv) posters advertising the time tables?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The printing charges were Rs. 99,995-10-0 and the blocks cost Rs. 3,496-4-0. Details are not available as to the cost of the other items mentioned by the Honourable Member, and, as it has been decided to discontinue publication, I doubt if the Honourable Member will any longer require them.

EXPANSION OF CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA.

102. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to inform the House as to the amount of money spent by the Government of India on the expansion of civil aviation since its inception?

(b) Will Government be pleased to inform the House:

- (i) as to the number of flying clubs in India together with their total membership;

(ii) as to the number of officers employed in these flying clubs together with their pay; and

(iii) as to the contribution that the Government of India is making towards the maintenance of these clubs?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of pilots in civil aviation employed by the Government of India, the pay they are drawing and the number of Indians among such pilots?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the number of ground engineers employed in the flying clubs and otherwise by the Government of India, their pay and the number of Indians among such ground engineers?

(e) Are there any Indians under training as ground engineers in England, and what encouragement is the Government of India going to give them in the matter of employment?

(f) Will Government kindly state whether they contemplate the establishment of a school of civil aviation, and if so, when?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The expansion in civil aviation in India really dates from the year 1926-27, when the intention of the Government of India regarding their policy with reference to the development of civil aviation in India was announced and it was in the same year that the Civil Aviation Directorate was instituted as a direct outcome of the recommendations of the Indian Air Board in the matter. The expenditure incurred by Government from the year 1926-27 to the year 1929-30 amounts to Rs. 47,46,333. The estimated expenditure during the year 1930-31, is Rs. 24,75,000, approximately.

(b) (i) and (ii). A statement is appended giving the information required.

(iii) A sum of Rs. 20,000 per annum is paid by Government to each of the flying clubs towards maintenance, replacement, etc., and a sum of Rs. 30,000 per annum to the Aero Club of India and Burma, which is to be reduced to Rs. 20,000 for 1931-32.

(c) None at present.

(d) There are no ground engineers at present in Government service. Information in respect of the ground engineers employed by the flying clubs will be found in the statement referred to in the reply to part (b) (i) and (ii) above.

(e) Government are not aware of the actual number of Indians undergoing training as ground engineers in England, but, when the Indian State Air Service between Karachi and Calcutta is inaugurated, a certain number of Indian ground engineers will be employed by Government, provided qualified men are available.

(f) Not at present.

Name of Club.	Total Membership.	Officers employed. (All European.)				Ground Engineers. (All European.)			
		No.	Pay.*	Flying Bonus.	Car Allowance.*	No.	Pay.*	Flying Bonus.	Car Allowance.*
Bombay Flying Club	230	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1 per hour flown by Club Aero- planes.	Rs. 50	1	Rs. 650	Rs. 8 per hour flown by Club Aero- planes.	Rs. 50	
Madras Flying Club	219	1,000	Do.	Nil.	1	500	Do.	Nil.	
Karachi Aero Club	206	1,000	Do.	100	1	375	Do.	50	
Delhi Flying Club	263	1,100	5 per hour dual instruction. 5 per cent. of Joy Ride fees.	50	1	550	Do.	50	
Punjab Flying Club	330	1,000	1 per hour flown by Club Aero- planes.	50	1	500	Do.	50	
Bengal Flying Club	385	1,000	Do.	50	2	{ 500 300	Do. 5 per hour.	{ 50 50	
Total	1,633				6				

*Monthly rates.

GRANT OF COMMISSIONS IN THE INDIAN VETERINARY CORPS TO INDIANS:

103. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** (a) In view of the removal of the bar to the employment of Indians as Lieutenant Veterinary Surgeons in the Indian Veterinary Corps, has any qualified Indian been given a Commission?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of the early employment of qualified Indian M. R. C. V. S. in the I. V. C. as Lieutenants on the same basis as Indian I. M. S. officers are being employed in the Army?

Mr. G. M. Young: The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given on the 25th August, 1927, to starred questions Nos. 401 and 418, and on the 19th February, 1929, to starred question No. 587.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN RECRUITMENT TO THE MECHANICAL BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

104. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing how far rules discriminate on the ground of race or colour and not of individual merit between the employes of the North Western Railway in the Mechanical and Transportation (Power) Branch as regards pay and recruitment to service?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the steps, if any, taken during the last five years to remove racial discrimination in recruitment to the Mechanical Branch of the North Western Railway?

(c) Will Government kindly inform this House what was the scale of pay for shop and shed mechanics on the North Western Railway in the case of European and Indians respectively before 1926, and the scale of pay sanctioned for the combined cadre of Europeans and Indians from the 1st September, 1926?

(d) If the starting salary has been reduced in the case of journeymen, will Government kindly inform the House of the reasons which led to this lower scale of pay being adopted?

(e) Is it also a fact that in several other departments of the Engineering Branch of the North Western Railway the old scale of pay still continues, e.g., in the case of apprentices for the post of Permanent-Way Inspectors, Bridge Inspectors and Interlocking Inspectors?

(f) Have Government considered the desirability of reverting to the old scale of pay in the case of journeymen apprentices as is the case with apprentices in the other branches mentioned above in the North Western Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) to (f). Information has been called for from the Agent, North Western Railway, and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

PROVIDENT FUND FOR APPRENTICE MECHANICS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

105. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** Are Government aware that by the revision of rules relating to provident fund in the case of an apprentice "B" Class mechanic on the North Western Railway such apprentices have

been deprived of the privilege of provident fund which is still the case for apprentices in other Branches, *e.g.*, Bridge Inspector, Permanent Way Inspector and Signal and Interlocking Inspector, and have Government considered the desirability of removing this distinction in the case of such apprentices?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: "B" Class mechanics on the North Western Railway have not in the past been eligible for admission to the Provident Fund, but the question of admitting them in the future is under consideration.

LEAVE RULES FOR JOURNEYMEN MECHANICS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

106. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** Are Government aware that by classifying journeymen mechanics on the North Western Railway as belonging to the workmen class instead of Supervising Staff they have been deprived of the advantage of leave rules to which they were previously entitled? Have Government considered the desirability of amending the rules in this respect?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Journeymen on the North Western Railway have for the purpose of the new leave rules, been classified as workmen. Those already in the service, however, retain the option to remain under the old leave rules, while new entrants have been allowed leave on a scale, which in the opinion of Government, is reasonable.

The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

APPOINTMENT OF RAILWAY APPRENTICES TRAINED AT THE MOGHALPURA ENGINEERING COLLEGE, LAHORE.

107. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of persons sent up by the North Western Railway for training as "A" Class apprentices to the Moghalpura Engineering College, Lahore, and the number actually taken in service out of those thus qualified?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of reserving some posts in the superior establishment in the Mechanical and Transportation (Power) Branch or as foremen in the various branches of the Railway Engineering service for such persons?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Information has been called for from the Agent, North Western Railway, and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

(b) Government do not consider it desirable to reserve posts for students of particular colleges either in the superior service of the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Branch or as foremen in the subordinate establishments.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS AS MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ON RAILWAYS.

108. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing in the case of various Railways under State administration, the number of officers European,

Anglo-Indian, and Indian serving in the Mechanical and Transportation (Power), Signal, Electrical, Metallurgical and Colliery Departments?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of recruiting a certain number of Indians (excluding Anglo-Indians) with European qualifications as Mechanical Engineers in the Transportation (Power), Signal and Electrical Departments?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that the present number of special class apprentices recruited by the Railway Board for training as Mechanical Engineers in India and subsequently in England cannot lead to speedy Indianisation of the service? Have Government considered the desirability of reserving a certain percentage of posts in these lines for being filled by Indians possessing the necessary qualifications?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to Appendix "F" in volume I of the Railway Board's Report on Indian Railways for 1929-30, a copy of which is in the Library. The statistics were formulated in this form after consultation with, and acceptance by, the Central Advisory Council for Railways, and Government consider that they give as much detail as is desirable or necessary for keeping a watch on the position on each railway to secure that their policy is carried out.

(b) and (c). Government consider that the scheme for recruitment of special class apprentices will, in the course of two or three years, furnish the number of officers of Asiatic domicile required for the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Departments. Meanwhile, they appointed as officers to these Departments last year, seven persons of Asiatic domicile, some with European qualifications, and propose to recruit, if suitably qualified persons of Asiatic domicile are available, five persons this year.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS AS FOREMEN IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOP AT MOGHALPURA.

109. **Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal:** Are Government aware that there is only one Indian on the North Western Railway as foreman in the Carriage and Wagon Shop, Moghalpura, and are Government prepared to take early steps for recruiting Indians more freely in this line?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I would explain that promotion to the rank of Foreman is made from the lower grades with due regard to merit and seniority and that the rules for recruitment to these grades are entirely free from racial discrimination.

REVENUE COLLECTED UNDER CUSTOMS, RAILWAYS, SALT AND OPIUM.

110. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government be pleased to give actual or approximate figures of revenues collected under Customs, Railways, Salt and Opium from April 1st to the end of November or December, 1930, compared with the figures for the corresponding period of 1929, as well as both the average receipts under the above heads of revenue for the corresponding period of the preceding three years, 1926-29?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The following statement gives the figures required:—

(In lakhs of rupees.)

	1926—29 (Average.)	1929-30.	1930-31.
<i>Customs (Revenue.)</i>			
April	3,87	4,55	4,33
May	3,64	4,16	4,40
June	3,43	3,41	3,45
July	4,07	3,99	3,83
August	3,99	4,40	3,56
September	4,13	4,05	3,46
October	4,29	4,38	3,79
November	4,39	4,81	3,55
December	3,78	3,84	(Approximate.) 3,51
<i>Salt (Revenue.)</i>			
April	61	69	57
May	66	66	62
June	55	42	60
July	41	46	55
August	45	44	53
September	61	54	45
October	67	66	53
November	73	60	58
December	52	45	(Approximate.) 57
<i>Opium (Revenue.)</i>			
April	36	29	29
May	27	20	40
June	51	47	44
July	31	29	21
August	40	29	16
September	33	46	20
October	25	11	16
November	32	13	18
December	24	12	(Approximate.) 17
			(Approximate.)

(In lakhs of rupees).

	1926-29 (Average.)	1929-30.	1930-31.
<i>Railways (Gross traffic receipts).</i>			
April	8,52	9,20	8,52
May	9,10	8,89	8,73
June	8,65	8,14	8,14
July	7,14	7,81	7,04
August	6,86	7,59	6,13
September	7,39	7,40	7,08 (Approximate.)
October	7,89	8,22	7,31 (Approximate.)
November	8,14	8,41	7,47 (Approximate.)
December	9,35	9,08	Not available.

ALLEVIATION OF THE DISTRESS OF AGRICULTURISTS.

111. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Are the Government of India aware whether the Local Governments have taken any steps to relieve the distress of the agriculturists and the zamindars by the prevailing low prices of raw materials and food-grains?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to specify the steps, which are being taken in each province and particularly in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh to alleviate the prevailing distress?

(c) Have the Government of India made any recommendation to the Local Governments to meet the present situation due to the depressed condition of the agricultural industry? If so, what recommendations?

(d) Have the Government of India recommended to the Local Governments to make liberal remissions of land revenue to meet the present abnormal and unprecedented conditions? If not, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of this measure?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a), (c) and (d). The Government of India have no reason to think that Local Governments are not fully alive to the situation and that they will not take such action to meet it as they may consider called for. Members of Local Legislatures are not likely to neglect matters in which their constituencies are vitally interested. It has not therefore been considered necessary to make any recommendations to them. As the Honourable Member is doubtless aware, Land Revenue is a provincial subject and Local Governments have full discretion in the matter of remission or suspension.

(b) The Government of India are not in possession of detailed information on the subject. Enquiries have, however, been made from the Government of the United Provinces, who report that they are watching the position anxiously and are granting relief liberally where the position has been aggravated by damage to crops. They are not, however, satisfied

that any uniform system of relief is required for all districts, though they realise that relief may be necessary where settlements have recently been revised and also where recent harvests have been bad. They have summoned Commissioners to a conference on February 3, and will at that conference review the whole situation and take such decisions as seem necessary.

The Punjab Government have recently announced their decision as a special case and for the present *kharif* harvest to give assistance to areas under rice and cotton in fifteen districts assessed comparatively recently. The details of the reduction thus sanctioned are contained in the Press Communiqué, a copy of which is placed on the table. The Punjab Legislature has discussed the matter only recently. So far as the Centrally administered areas are concerned, the Government of India have sanctioned for the present *kharif* a twenty per cent. reduction in the land revenue and water rate demand on irrigated areas in the Peshawar District and on the water rate demand on the irrigated area in the Malakand Agency in the North-West Frontier Province.

Press Communiqué. (Lahore, Dec. 17, 1930).

The Punjab Government has carefully examined the conditions resulting from the prevalence of low prices for agricultural produce in the current Kharif harvest in districts of the Punjab. In consequence, apart from other measures which are under discussion for the stimulation of prices, the question of giving some special relief to landowners and cultivators by easing the pitch of Government demands on land has been explored.

Situation Depressed.

The situation is especially depressed as regards cotton and rice the prices of which have fallen to a markedly low level. Districts from which cotton and rice are normally exported in considerable quantities, and areas under these two crops, where the assessment is for various reasons higher than in others, seem to be those which especially call for examination. After careful consideration, the Punjab Government has come to the conclusion that in a number of districts of the Punjab, assessed many years ago, the commutation prices adopted at settlement, of which in many cases, owing to the low percentage of the half net assets taken, a proportion only has been used to fix circle rates, were so low that, having regard even to the present low range of price, the demand continues to be rigid.

Districts.

The position is somewhat different in districts, which were more recently assessed, and where higher commutation prices were assumed and, consequently, somewhat fuller rate of land revenue were imposed. In some of these districts, the demand for land revenue and occupiers' rate combined amounts to a not inconsiderable figure per acre; and though by theoretical principle and past revenue practice, such areas cannot strictly be held to be entitled to any relief by way of remission of a portion of the demand, yet in actual fact, in prevailing conditions and owing to low prices in the preceding rabi, the assesses are likely to find some difficulty in paying the demand.

Government's Decision.

In these extraordinary circumstances, the Punjab Government has decided, as a special case, and only for the present Kharif, to give assistance to areas under rice and cotton in tracts where the combined demand for land revenue and water rates exceeds Rs. 7 for cotton and Rs. 8-8 for rice per acre. Fifteen districts are concerned in a greater or less degree, *viz.*, Hisar, Rohtak, Ferozepur, Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Shaikhupura, Gujrat, Shahpur, Montgomery, Lyallpur, Jhang, and Multan. The method applied will be to take the total demand for land revenue

and occupiers' rate combined per acre for cotton and rice, and where this demand exceeds Rs. 7 on cotton and Rs. 8-8 on rice per acre, respectively, to reduce both the land revenue and occupiers' rate by 25 per cent.; but in no case will a reduction be made, which will result in bringing the combined demand below Rs. 7 for cotton and Rs. 8-8 for rice. To take a concrete example as an illustration, where the combined demand on cotton is Rs. 8-12, the demand will be reduced by Rs. 1-12 only, which is less than 25 per cent., but not by the full 25 per cent., as that would bring the revised demand below Rs. 7; but where the combined demand is as high as Rs. 11-4 per acre, the full reduction of 25 per cent., i.e., Rs. 2-13 is permissible because after deduction of this sum the combined demand will still not fall below Rs. 7 per acre.

Financial Anxieties.

This decision will seriously add to the financial anxieties of the Punjab Government whose resources, prior to this decision, already show a probable deficit of sixty-seven lakhs of rupees. Nevertheless, for the reasons explained, and in view of the very special circumstances of the case, the Government has decided to give effect to these remissions.

PRICE OF PETROL IN INDIA AND ELSEWHERE.

112. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of petrol produced in India? What is the known production for the whole world? What is the price per gallon in India? What is the price per gallon in England, France, Germany, United States of America and Canada? What are the reasons for petrol being dearer in India than elsewhere?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: So much of the information required by the Honourable Member as can be obtained is being collected and will be furnished to him in due course.

PROPORTION OF HINDUS, MUHAMMADANS AND SIKHS IN THE ARMY.

113. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs employed in the Army who drew their emoluments from Indian revenues during the years, 1900, 1914, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1928 and 1930? What is the proportion of each community to its population?

Mr. G. M. Young: I am afraid that the information required by the Honourable Member is unobtainable.

BOYS AND WOMEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

114. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of boys between the ages of 10 and 16 and the number of ladies arrested for offences connected with the civil disobedience movement in the year 1930 and the number of such persons arrested in connection with the political activities during the last 30 years?

(b) How many of them have been sentenced to whipping and rigorous imprisonment and how many of them have been sent to reformatory institutions in the year 1930?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). Enquiries are being made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

STAFF EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA AND THE INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER IN LONDON.

115. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government please place on the table the statement of officers and staff employed in the offices of (a) High Commissioner for India in London, (b) Indian Trade Commissioner in London, stating therein:

- (i) the number of Europeans and Indians, and
- (ii) salaries paid to each?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The total strength of the officers and staff employed in the office of the High Commissioner on the 1st January, 1931, excluding the industrial and menial staff, was 436. Out of this number 14 persons were employed in the office of the Indian Trade Commissioner, which forms a part of the High Commissioner's office and is designated the "Trade Department" of his office. On the date mentioned above, the number of Europeans in the High Commissioner's office was 367 and of Indians, including Anglo-Indians, 69. Of these 7 Europeans and 7 Indians, including Anglo-Indians, were employed in the Trade Department. I am afraid I am unable to furnish details of the salaries drawn by each member of so large a staff, but if the Honourable Member wishes, I shall be pleased to show him at my office a list of establishment of the office of the High Commissioner which contains this information.

BALANCE-SHEETS OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.

116. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Have the Government of India, Railway Board, noticed the article on the "Balance-sheet" of Indian Railways, which appeared in the *Indian Accounts*, the organ of Professional Accountants in India, for the month of August, 1930?

(b) If not, will Government please reply after reading the same, whether the Railway Board will now publish the balance sheets on the forms as prescribed by the British Railway Companies (Accounts and Returns Act, 1911) stating therein the reason if the reply be in the negative?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) I regret I have been unable to get a copy of the publication referred to.

(b) The question of preparing balance-sheets for Indian Railways is at present under consideration.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIAN ACCOUNTANCY BOARD.

117. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government kindly explain the reason for delay in establishing the Indian Accountancy Board, under the provisions of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1930, passed in the February Session of the old Assembly?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The establishment of an Indian Accountancy Board is to be provided for by rules to be made under the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1930. The preparation of these rules requires very careful examination of the subject which has necessarily occupied considerable time. It is hoped that the first draft of the rules will shortly be completed.

CARRYING FORWARD OF LOSSES UNDER THE INCOME-TAX ACT.

118. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) With reference to the Honourable Sir George Schuster's promise to take early steps to legislate for "Carrying forward of Losses" under the Income-tax Act at the session of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce, held at Delhi in February, 1930, will Government kindly explain when they propose to introduce the said legislation in order to relieve the hardship of the assesseees?

(b) Are Government aware that legal provision to carry forward the losses exists in all the self-governing units of the Empire?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) I have always made it clear in my public statements on this subject that the possibility of introducing a provision for allowing business losses to be carried forward for purpose of income-tax assessment was dependent on the general financial position of the Government. I had hoped that the new taxation introduced in the last Budget might prove sufficient to provide a margin from which we might eventually meet the loss of revenue which the introduction of a provision for carrying forward losses would mean. But I am afraid that developments since then have frustrated this hope. In the meanwhile, the Central Board of Revenue has started to keep up records which ought to enable us to estimate what the introduction of this measure would cost, if financial conditions should make that possible.

(b) My information, which is based on a publication of the year 1929, is that the carrying forward of losses is permitted by the laws of the Union of South Africa and the Commonwealth of Australia, but not by the law of the Dominion of Canada.

PROSPECTS OF COMMERCIAL PROBATIONERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

119. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that on the North Western Railway in 1918 ten young graduates were taken as Commercial Probationers, of whom only three after two years' training and confirmation, stuck to their jobs, *viz.*, one Muslim in the Multan Division, one Hindu on the Ferozepur Division and a Sikh on the Quetta Division as Claims Tracers, and the balance quitted the service for want of future prospects?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that out of the above ten probationers one European resigned the service and rejoined as a guard and is now working as an Assistant Station Master on the Lahore Division drawing Rs. 320 per mensem whereas the above three have been reverted to Rs. 140 only (maximum) for the last seven years?

(c) Is it a fact that there are at present four vacancies in the cadre of Junior Claims Inspectors, but in spite of repeated requests and representations from the above Claims Tracers, no action has so far been taken to promote them to these posts even though they have qualified themselves in Assistant Station Master's Coaching and Goods duties?

(d) Is it a fact that the Claims Tracer attached to the Ferozepur Division was selected as an Assistant Staff Warden on Rs. 200 per mensem, but was reverted after a month or so without assigning any reasons for the reversion, and a Muslim claims clerk, who is not even a Matric and was drawing Rs. 80 only, was promoted in his place? Will Government please state reasons for the above?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). I am obtaining information from the Agent, North Western Railway, and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

(c) There are three vacancies of Junior Claims Inspectors but the Agent, North Western Railway, does not propose to fill them for the present.

(d) The Claims Tracer attached to the Ferozepore Division was tried as Assistant Staff Warden but was reverted as he did not prove fit for the duties of the post. The Muslim clerk selected to replace him is considered to possess special aptitude for the work of the post.

NUMBER OF MEN OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN POSTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

120. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government please lay on the table the actual figures showing the number of men belonging to the undermentioned communities taken on in the different categories (a) Traffic Inspectors (Transportation), (b) Traffic Inspectors (Claims), (c) Commercial Superintendents, (d) Claims Inspectors, (e) Commercial Supervisors on the North Western Railway:

- (i) Hindus,
- (ii) Muslims,
- (iii) Sikhs?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government regret that they are not prepared to supplement with figures for particular classes of posts the information in regard to communal representation in railway services given in the Annual Administration Report on Indian Railways.

DISCONTENT AMONGST CLAIMS INSPECTORS AND CLAIMS TRACERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

121. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Are Government aware of the fact that, as a result of stagnation extending in most cases over a period of seven years, much discontent is at present prevailing amongst Claims Inspectors and Claims Tracers on the North Western Railway? Do Government propose to take early steps to eradicate this discontent?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, Government propose to draw the attention of the Agent, North Western Railway, to the question.

CONVICTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

122. **Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) How many convictions connected with the present civil disobedience movement in the various provinces were called up for consideration by Government themselves and what action was taken thereon?

(b) How many of them were sent up by the High Court in each province for consideration and what action was taken thereon?

(c) Did the Government of India give any instructions to Local Governments in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) and (b). These matters are dealt with under chapters XXXI and XXXII of the Criminal Procedure Code. I am sorry I have no information.

(c) No instructions were issued by the Government of India.

SENTENCES PASSED ON OFFENDERS AGAINST THE SALT LAWS.

123. **Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) Are Government aware that in certain cases prosecutions have been launched by Provincial Governments and sentences have been passed on offenders against salt laws under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why the general sections of the Indian Penal Code have been applied in the face of specific salt laws to deal with offences of illicit manufacture of salt?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of drawing the attention of the various Governments to this irregularity?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) I understand that some prosecutions were undertaken under section 117, Indian Penal Code, for the abetment of offences against the salt laws, and that convictions were obtained.

(b) and (c). May I remind the Honourable Member that, by section 40 of the Indian Penal Code, the abetment sections of that Code have been expressly made applicable to the abetment of offences under special or local laws, such as the salt laws. Section 117 of the Indian Penal Code is peculiarly suitable to the facts of the case, and the procedure has the authority of the Bombay High Court. This being so, he will, I think, agree that no irregularity is involved in the employment of that section for the punishment of such abetment.

DECLINE IN EXPORTS AND RISE IN IMPORTS OF WHEAT.

124. **Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of wheat annually exported from India since the War; and will they also be pleased to state the import of the same commodity for the same period?

(b) Are Government in a position to state why there has been a progressive decline in exports and a corresponding rise in imports of that commodity?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take (1) to encourage a greater flow of agricultural produce in India, and (2) to discourage the import of foreign wheat?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) A statement showing the estimated production of wheat in India, and exports and imports since 1919 is laid on the table.

(b) It will be seen that there has been no progressive decline in exports, but that exports have been governed by the available surplus after providing for internal requirement, which are estimated to average about 88 lakhs of tons. The small exports in 1930-31 are due to the fact that there is a large surplus of wheat in world markets.

(c) Government have already reduced the railway freight on wheat to Karachi. The possibility of other reductions in railway freight on agricultural produce is being examined. The position in respect of imports of wheat is being carefully watched. I shall be glad if the Honourable Member or other Honourable Members apprise me of any idea which they feel should be examined and considered.

The Statistics of Exports and Imports of "wheat" from India to Foreign Countries in tons).

	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1st April to 30th November 1930.
Exports :—Wheat	Tons. 8,643	Tons. 237,665	Tons. 80,800	Tons. 220,184	Tons. 638,252	Tons. 1,111,691	Tons. 311,657	Tons. 175,949	Tons. 299,733	Tons. 114,707	Tons. 12,971	Tons. 190,960
Exports : Wheat Flour	48,209	60,769	64,420	50,056	57,295	78,069	67,162	58,940	60,424	54,153	50,660	30,227
Imports : Wheat	148,296	6	439,985	18,297	12,464	4,198	35,420	46,476	69,208	561,919	357,036	76,460
Imports : Wheat Flour	267	81	1,957	3,004	546	134	147	52	144	135	122	104
Nett Export (+)												
or												
Nett Import —	—67,724	+329,691	—285,461	+271,843	+710,911	+1,224,395	+276,740	+223,505	+320,040	—306,129	—269,558	+159,684
taking 1 ton flour = 1½ tons wheat (in tons)												
Estimated production of wheat in India (preceeding harvest) (in tons)	7,507,000	10,122,000	6,700,000	9,850,000	9,974,000	9,460,000	8,666,000	8,686,000	8,973,000	7,791,000	8,591,000	10,353,000
	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.

**DEPUTATION TO THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES TO CONSIDER INDIAN
LABOUR CONDITIONS.**

125. **Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that they proposed to send a deputation to Malaya last year and that the Standing Finance Committee had also agreed to that proposal, for obtaining first-hand information as to the conditions of life and labour of Indian unskilled labourers in the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements and for enabling the Government of India to determine the question as to whether these countries should be exempted permanently from the operation of rule 23 of the Indian Emigration Rules?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if it is also a fact that the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements welcomed the idea of such a deputation and had promised to give the deputation all facilities for the visit?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of sending the deputation this year?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Government of India do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by sending the deputation this year, as, owing to the depression in the rubber industry and the consequent dislocation of labour employed on rubber estates, conditions in Malaya are abnormal at the present moment. It is proposed to take up the matter again in consultation with the Malayan Governments as soon as normal conditions are re-established.

DEFINITION OF VARIOUS CLASSES FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CENSUS.

126. **Mr. A. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the definition of "Untouchable" for the purposes of the present census? Is it confined to *Doms* and *Bhangis* in the United Provinces, or are any other classes of persons included in it?

(b) What is the definition of a "Hindu" for the purposes of the census in the United Provinces? Is it the intention that in the United Provinces Arya Samajists, Jains and Sikhs are not to be classed as Hindus?

(c) For the purposes of the census in the United Provinces, are the depressed and backward classes like *Kahars*, *Dhobis*, *Gwalas*, *Ahirs*, etc., to be included amongst the Hindus or not? If not, under what head are they to be put down?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) No definition has been framed.

(b) It is not considered necessary to define the term "Hindu". Arya Samajists will be classed as Hindus in the United Provinces as in all other parts of India. Sikhs will not be classed as Hindus if they return themselves as Sikhs. Jains will be classed separately but will be recorded as Hindus also in the case of each individual who so desires.

(c) They will be included as Hindus unless they return themselves as belonging to some other religion.

HOUSE RENT PAYABLE TO MILITARY OFFICERS.

127. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Is it a fact that house rent payable to a military officer is paid on his certifying that he actually rented a certain house on a fixed rent for his residence?

(b) What scale of rent is payable to military officers of different ranks?

(c) How is this allowance affected when two or three officers live in one and the same bungalow?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) No. Lodging allowance is granted if the Officer Commanding certifies that no Government quarter has been allotted to the officer.

(b) The rates of lodging allowance vary from Rs. 20 to Rs. 250 a month.

(c) When two or more military officers live in the same private bungalow, no deduction is made. When they live in the same Government bungalow, a certain percentage of the lodging allowance of each of them is withheld. This percentage is calculated on the ratio of the accommodation actually occupied by the officer to that to which he is entitled under rule.

BYELAWS IN CANTONMENTS AGAINST CONGRESS ACTIVITIES.

128. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** Is it a fact that in some cantonments special byelaws have been framed to stop picketing liquor and foreign cloth shops and taking out Congress processions within the limits of certain cantonments and if so, will Government be pleased to state:

(a) names of Cantonment Boards who have adopted such byelaws; and

(b) whether these byelaws have actually been enforced anywhere and with what results?

Mr. G. M. Young: The Government of India have no information, as the approval and confirmation of byelaws are vested in Local Governments. But if the Honourable Member will refer me to specific cantonments, I will make inquiries.

ELECTION OF THE NOWGONG CANTONMENT BOARD.

129. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** Is it a fact that the civil population of Nowgong Cantonment exceeds 2,500 and if so, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of extending the right of election to the said Board?

Mr. G. M. Young: As a consequence of the withdrawal of troops from Nowgong, the area will shortly cease to be a cantonment administered under the Cantonments Act, 1924.

ELECTED BOARDS IN CANTONMENTS OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

130. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** Will Government be pleased to state what are the prospects of constituting elected boards in the various cantonments in North-West Frontier Province?

Mr. G. M. Young: The matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India who have called for certain information from the Local Administration.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES TO CANTONMENTS.

131. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Assistant Secretaries have been appointed in various cantonments up to 1930?

(b) How many of these appointments have been made directly and how many have been offered to Cantonment Fund employees of experience and ability?

(c) Has any representation been made in this connection and if so, with what results?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Assistant Secretaries have been appointed in 13 cantonments.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) A representation has recently been received from the All-India Cantonment Fund Employees Association, and is under consideration.

CANTONMENT RATES AND TAXES.

132. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a schedule of rates of all sorts of cantonment taxes in force in 1930 in all principal cantonments of India having a population of 10,000 and over?

Mr. G. M. Young: I will ascertain whether this information is obtainable, and will then communicate with the Honourable Member on the subject.

RENTS CHARGED FOR PLATFORMS IN FRONT OF SHOPS IN CANTONMENTS.

133. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Are Government aware that before the issue of the Government of India Army Department Circular No. 31622/1 (A. D.), dated the 19th February, 1926, regarding the condonment of platforms in some of the cantonments, rent was being charged for certain platforms in front of the shops from the tenants, for their using the platforms for the purpose of their trade?

(b) Is it a fact that this rent is still being charged even when the platforms have been condoned under the circular quoted above?

(c) Is it a fact that this rent is now being demanded in some of the cantonments from the house-owners?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state if rent in such cases was for the land under the platform or for the platform being used for business purposes?

(e) If it was for the land, why was it realised from the tenant and not from the owner of the shop?

(f) If it was for the carrying-on of business thereon, why was it being demanded from the house owners?

(g) Do Government propose to issue instructions that no rent be charged for such platforms as they stand condoned under the circular quoted above?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Government have no information of any cases in which rent is charged in contravention of the circular referred to; but if the Honourable Member will bring any specific instances to my notice, I shall be glad to inquire into them.

(d) to (g). Do not arise.

SEPARATION OF MOHALLA DILAZAK FROM SHAHJAHANPORE CANTONMENT.

134. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Is it a fact that Government have declared that the only reason for not separating Mohalla Dilazak from Shahjahanpore Cantonment is that the Mohalla forms a sanitary cordon between the Cantonment and the city?

(b) Is it a fact that the military authorities in the past had decided in separation of the Mohalla unconditionally?

(c) Will Government state in how many cantonments such sanitary cordons exist? If these do not exist in other cantonments, why is the retention of the Mohalla in Shahjahanpore Cantonment as a "sanitary cordon" considered to be necessary?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India Cantonment Administration Reform Committee appointed in 1921, strongly advocated the excision from Cantonments of those parts which were inhabited by the civil population and which were not now required for any military purpose? If so, how do Government propose to solve the question?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, at one time; but they have since opposed the separation.

(c) I could not say exactly, without making an inquiry from all cantonments. But the number is large.

(d) Yes. The recommendations of the Committee have been given effect to in several places where it was found possible to do so.

INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY AND FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN AMBALA CANTONMENT.

135. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will Government please state if the scheme of compulsory and free primary education in Ambala Cantonment sanctioned by the Cantonment Board several years ago, has been actually introduced or not? If not, what are the causes of delay in its introduction?

(b) Is it a fact that the Northern Command has sanctioned large amounts as special grants to two secondary schools of Ambala Cantonment without consulting the Inspector of Schools, Ambala Division and in one case against his advice?

(c) Has this diversion of the allotment under Education in the Budget of Ambala Cantonment Board caused delay in the introduction of the free and compulsory primary education?

(d) Are these special grants being given from year to year? Are Government prepared to take steps effectively to start the scheme of free and compulsory education before giving any more special grants to the secondary schools?

Mr. G. M. Young: I have called for a report and will let the Honourable Member know the result in due course.

REDUCTION OF THE CONSERVANCY TAX IN CAWNPORE CANTONMENT.

136. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Did Government in the last Session of the Assembly in reply to a question put by Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal, the then M.L.A., state: "that a special Committee of the Cantonment Board, Cawnpore, would examine the whole system of taxation at present imposed in Cawnpore Cantonment with a view to reduce the conservancy tax"?

(b) Has that Committee examined the system of taxation? If so, with what results and what reduction has been made in the conservancy tax?

(c) If the Committee may not have been formed as yet or may not have met, are Government prepared to issue instructions that it should meet without any further delay?

Mr. G. M. Young: I am making enquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result in due course.

GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION IN THE CASE OF APPROPRIATED HOUSES IN CANTONMENTS.

137. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article headed "Government obligation in case of appropriated Houses: How to enforce it", published on pages 9 and 10 of the *Cantonment Advocate* for October, 1930?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no provision in the House Accommodation Act to ensure that the house appropriated by Government under that Act is handed over to the owner in a state of reasonable repair at the expiry of the lease?

(c) If the reply to the above question be in the negative, do Government propose to put the house-owner in the same position to enforce an appropriated house being put in a state of reasonable repair, at the time of its being handed over on the expiry of the lease, as that of the Government for the same purpose at the time of appropriating the house?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Government have seen the article.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to section 7 (3) (a) of the Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Act, 1923.

(c) Does not arise.

CONTEST FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEOLALI CANTONMENT BOARD.

138. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the *Cantonment Advocate* for October, 1930, under the heading "Tussel for the Chair, Vice-President *versus* the Acting Commander—A scene in Deolali Board"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Officer Commanding the Station was on short leave outside the Cantonment?

(c) Under what section of the Cantonments Act did the Acting Officer Commanding the Station claim the Chair?

(d) Did Government or the Southern Command receive a reference on the matter? If so, what decision was given thereon?

(e) What action, if any, do Government propose to take to prevent such incidents in future?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Government have seen the article.

(b) to (d). I am making enquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result in due course.

EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF THE AMBALA CANTONMENT BOARD.

139. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Are Government aware that the term of Ambala Cantonment Board was to expire in January, 1931?

(b) Is it a fact that the Local Government has extended the term of the Board for a period of eight months and directed that new election should take place in September, 1931?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a system of mixed electorate in force and Muslims are in a minority and that no Muslim succeeded in the last election?

(d) Is it a fact that several public bodies of Ambala protested against the above extension, describing it to be illegal and administratively undesirable?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state if the three years statutory life of an elected Board can be extended; if so, under what section of the Cantonments Act now in force?

(f) If there be no section in the Cantonments Act warranting such extension, do Government propose to issue orders to hold fresh and separate elections and to revise the rules forthwith accordingly?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a), (b) and (d). Yes.

(c) Government are not aware of the reason why no Muslim was returned to the Board at the last election.

(e) and (f). Government are considering the legal aspect of the case, and I will inform the Honourable Member when a decision has been reached.

PROMOTIONS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES POSTAL CIRCLES.

140. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Postmaster General, United Provinces in his circular No. 9, dated the 1st December, 1924, published rules regarding seniority of time scale officials:

(i) that an official passing an efficiency bar will rank above any official senior to him who has reached the bar but who, owing to inefficiency or otherwise, has failed to pass it subsequently; and

(ii) an official failing to pass an efficiency bar on due date owing to inefficiency will lose seniority?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Circle graduation list of United Provinces Circle is maintained according to the above circular?

(c) If the reply be in the negative, are Government prepared to issue necessary orders to prepare it accordingly with effect from the 1st December, 1924?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be supplied to him in due course.

PROMOTIONS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES POSTAL CIRCLES.

141. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the officials of the United Provinces Postal Circle named below, who were held up at the second efficiency bar were allowed to sit in the Lower Selection Grade examination held in 1929 and 1930 in supersession to their seniors:

1. Nazuruddin, S. P. M. Bangarmau,
2. Har Bans Sahai, S. P. M. Mirzapur R. S.,
3. Md. Sharif, clerk, Ghazipur,
4. Maizuddin Ahmad, clerk Fatehgarh,
5. Asharfilal, S. P. M. Tekatnagar,
6. Girwar Pershad, S. P. M. clerk, Bahraich,
7. Rewadher Jayal, S. P. M. Srinagar, and
8. Newal Kishore Gaur, S. P. M. Anupshahr?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to issue necessary orders to allow the seniors to those officials to appear at the Lower Selection Grade examination to be held in 1931?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) and (b). Government have no information and do not propose to call for it. The power of selection rests with the Head of the Circle to whom officers should submit their applications.

DUTIES AND PAY OF POSTAL ACCOUNTANTS.

142. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many accountants of (i) first, and (ii) second, class Head Offices in India and Burma are placed in the Lower Selection Grade?

(b) If the reply to question (a) (ii) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state whether the post of accountants of 1st class head offices carries greater responsibilities than those of second class Head Offices? If not, why none of the accountants of second class Head Offices are placed in the selection grade?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether duties of accountant in all first class Head Offices in United Provinces circle are of the same nature and entail the same amount of responsibilities?

(d) If the reply be in the negative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the duties now being performed by the accountants of each of the six first class Head Offices in the United Provinces Circle?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) There are 7 posts of Accountants in the Lowest Selection Grade of Rs. 160—10—250 in first class Head Post Offices in India and Burma and none in second class Head Post Offices.

(b) It is not the case that the post of Accountant in every first class Head Office carries greater responsibilities than similar posts in all second class Head Offices. It is for this reason that Selection Grade Accountants are not allotted to many first class Head Offices. As explained in the reply given to Mr. N. C. Kelkar's unstarred question in this House on the 15th February, 1928, the pay of Accountants is raised to that of the Selection Grade whenever this is found to be justified.

(c) Yes, they are of the same nature, but the amount of responsibility must vary with the size of the accounts branch and the volume and complexity of the work dealt with in it.

(d) As explained in my reply to part (c) the duties of the Accountants in the six first class Head Offices in question are the same in nature, but not in responsibility. Government do not consider that any useful public purpose would be served in laying on the table a detailed list of the duties of each of these Accountants.

DUTIES AND PAY OF POSTAL ACCOUNTANTS.

143. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Accountant of Lucknow Head Office in the United Provinces Circle was placed in the Lower Selection Grade?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state reasons for sanctioning a Lowest Selection Grade appointment?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if similar reasons exist in the case of Allahabad, Cawnpore, Agra, Meerut and Benares Head Offices and if so, how do Government propose to fill the posts of accountants in these offices?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Yes, in the Lowest Selection Grade of Rs. 160—10—250.

(b) The sanction of a Lowest Selection Grade appointment was justified by the duties and responsibilities attached to the post.

(c) The same justification has not been established in the case of the Head Offices mentioned. The posts of the Accountants of these Head Offices will be raised to the Lowest Selection Grade if and when it is considered that the duties and responsibilities of these posts are, on the merits of each case, such as to justify a Selection Grade rate of pay.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS IN CANTONMENTS.

144. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Is it a fact that since the Cantonments Act, 1924, came into force, no Muslim was elected during a period of six years to the office of Vice-President in any of principal Cantonments in India?

(b) Is it a fact that under the said Act, nominated members have been debarred from taking part in the election for the said office, and only elected elements hold the privilege to elect one from amongst themselves, and that the Muslims are in the minority in every Board of Cantonments in India?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of amending the Act so that one of the elected members may be elected by the whole Board without prejudice to the office of Vice-President?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) Government have no information.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, Government have no information.

(c) Government do not propose to alter the existing arrangement. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the proceedings of the Select Committee on the Cantonments Bill, dated the 18th July, 1923, wherein it was decided that, in the case of Boards including elected members, the Vice-President should be elected by those members from among their own number.

APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES IN CANTONMENTS.

145. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is the policy of Government to nominate certain individuals as members of an Advisory Committee to the corporation sole in small cantonments and, if so, in which places such committees are helping the local corporation soles and with what results?

Mr. G. M. Young: The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to unstarred question No. 98 asked by Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal on the 14th July, 1930.

PERSONS EXPELLED FROM CANTONMENTS.

146. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of persons expelled under section 239, Cantonment Act, from the limits of various cantonments in India during the years of 1927 and 1930 with reasons of expulsion in each case?

Mr. G. M. Young: Government understand that no person was expelled from cantonments under section 239, Cantonments Act, 1924, during the year 1927. I will endeavour to obtain the information in respect of 1930, and will inform the Honourable Member in due course.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. President: Order, order. I have received four communications from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General regarding the Railway Budget and the General Budget and I will read them to Honourable Members.

(The Assembly received the Messages standing.)

“For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of rules 43, 46 and 47 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly of the

statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of Railways and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Legislative Assembly, namely :

- Tuesday, the 17th February ... Presentation in the Legislative Assembly.
- Thursday, the 19th February ... General discussion in the Legislative Assembly.
- Monday, the 23rd February ... }
 Tuesday, the 24th February ... } Voting on Demands for Grants
 Wednesday, the 25th February ... } in the Legislative Assembly.
 Thursday, the 26th February ... }

IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General."

New Delhi,

The 27th January, 1931.

The second Order is :

"For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of rules 43, 46 and 47 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of subjects other than Railways and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Legislative Assembly, namely :

Saturday, the 28th February Presentation in the Legislative Assembly at 5 p.m.

- Thursday, the 5th March ... }
 Friday, the 6th March ... } General discussion in the Legislative Assembly.
- Monday, the 9th March ... }
 Tuesday, the 10th March ... } Voting on Demands for Grants
 Wednesday, the 11th March ... } in the Legislative Assembly.
 Thursday, the 12th March ... }
 Friday, the 13th March ... }

IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General."

New Delhi,

The 27th January, 1931.

The third Order is:

“In exercise of the powers conferred by rule 2 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby appoint the Honourable Sir George Rainy, to perform the functions assigned to the Finance Member under rule 46 of the said Rules on the occasion of the general discussion appointed for Thursday, the 19th February, on the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor-General in Council in respect of Railways.

IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General.”

New Delhi,

The 27th January, 1931.

The fourth Order is:

“In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 67-A of the Government of India Act, I hereby direct that the heads of expenditure specified in that sub-section shall be open to discussion by the Legislative Assembly when the Budget is under consideration.

IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General”.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President: Under Rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I nominate Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Sir Hugh Cocke, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub and Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda on the Panel of Chairmen for the ensuing Session.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.

Mr. President: Members will now proceed to elect five Muslim Members to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz. There are seven candidates whose names are printed on the ballot papers which will now be supplied to Honourable Members in the order in which I call them.

(The ballot was then taken.)

RESOLUTION RE IMPORT DUTIES ON GALVANISED IRON AND STEEL PIPES AND SHEETS.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move the following Resolution :

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the increased import duties imposed by Notification No. 260-T. (127)-Tariffs, dated the 30th December, 1930, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3(4) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, on galvanized iron and steel pipes and sheets for the period 30th December, 1930 to 31st March, 1931, be continued for the remainder of the period of protection covered by the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1927, that is, up to the 31st March, 1934, and that the duties should not be reduced unless, at any time before that date, the Governor General in Council is satisfied that circumstances have changed so radically as to render the maintenance of the duties at the increased rates clearly unnecessary and undesirable."

Mr. President, the Steel Industry (Protection) Bill was passed into law in February, 1927. In all probability most of the Members who took an interest in the Bill would have said, if asked, that the need for additional protection was less likely to arise in the case of galvanized sheets than in the case of almost any other product. At that time something approaching 90 per cent. of the imports came from the United Kingdom, and the price had not been subject to the wide fluctuations which in previous years had characterised the prices of other products, such as bars and structural sections, also the amount of protection that was found necessary in the case of galvanized sheets was only Rs. 30 a ton exceeding by only Rs. 6 a ton the duty which would have been assessable had the 10 per cent. duty remained in force. We have found, however, in these post-war years, that the only thing which is certain to happen is the unexpected and in this case our anticipations have not been fulfilled. Almost from the time the Bill was passed into law, the price of galvanized sheet began to fall and has steadily fallen until it reached its present level. It is certain, I think, that, owing to the fall in prices, the Indian manufacturer of galvanized sheet has never enjoyed the full amount of protection which the Act was intended to give him. The Tata Iron and Steel Company waited for a long time before they brought the facts to the notice of the Government, and indeed it was not until August last that they raised the question. The ground on which they asked for additional protection was this, that the circumstance against which one of the sections of the Steel Bill was intended to provide had actually arisen, and that galvanized sheet was being imported into India at prices which clearly rendered the protection intended to be given ineffective. That is really the only issue which has to be considered. The reason for the fall of prices is to be found in three circumstances. In the first place there has been a very big fall in the price of spelter. That of itself would not justify the grant of any additional protection, because obviously the manufacturer in India and the manufacturers in other countries are equally affected, and if the cost of one of them is reduced, the cost of the other is reduced also to the same extent. In their Report of 1926 the Tariff Board estimated that galvanized sheet would be imported into India at a price of Rs. 240 a ton free of duty. The fall in the price of spelter has been sufficient to reduce that price by 34 rupees a ton, that is to Rs. 206 a ton; and, as I have said, that factor is completely eliminated from the protection problem; protection is neither claimed

[Sir George Rainy.]

nor justified so far as that particular element in the fall of price is concerned. But in addition to that, two other causes have operated to bring about a further fall of Rs. 37 a ton, bringing the price down to Rs. 169 a ton, which is the figure which the Tariff Board adopted in determining the amount of additional protection required. The two causes which have brought about this further fall in price are the competition from Belgium—and if Honourable Members will turn to Appendix III to the Tariff Board's Report they will notice that the imports from that country have been growing very rapidly—and the second cause which is brought out in another passage of the Report is the greatly restricted demand for galvanized sheet and consequent internal competition amongst manufacturers in the United Kingdom. These are the two causes responsible, and I will merely invite—I shall not read the passage—the attention of Honourable Members to an extract which the Tariff Board give at page 8 of their Report, from the remarks of the Chairman of a very large iron and steel firm in England made at the annual meeting of the company.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, in the amendment which he proposes to move to this Resolution, suggests that the House ought to be satisfied before any additional protection is given, that a genuine effort has been made to reduce the costs of production. I should like to make it clear that neither the Tariff Board nor the Government have taken into account, in considering the application for protection, the question of costs either one way or the other. The suggestion in the amendment is that, supposing the costs were unduly high, then it would be unreasonable to give additional protection because the high cost might be due to inefficiency; and I was a little bit surprised yesterday evening when I learnt indirectly that my Honourable friend was also interested in this question of cost from a different point of view. As far as I could gather his point was this, that the Tariff Board and Government had not sufficiently taken into account the fact that the cost of galvanized sheet at Jamshedpur as found by the Tariff Board and as stated in their appendices, was distinctly below the cost which the Board had forecasted as probable when they reported in 1926. I do not know which line my Honourable friend will finally adopt when he comes to speak; but it seems to me to be a little hard on the manufacturer if we are to say to him that he ought not to have any additional protection if the costs are too high, because then he does not deserve it, and that he cannot have any additional protection if his costs are too low, because then he does not need it. As far as I can see, unless the unfortunate manufacturer can get his cost to agree exactly with the forecasts of the Tariff Board my Honourable friend will rule him out either on the one point or the other.

Now, Sir, when my Honourable friend drew attention to the fact that the cost of production of galvanized sheet at Jamshedpur was substantially lower than the Tariff Board expected, I doubt whether he had made sufficient allowance for the fall in the price of spelter. I believe that in fact the cost of producing galvanized sheet in India has fallen substantially, apart from the fall in the price of spelter and this is certainly satisfactory. But if the figures on page 14 of the Tariff Board's Report are read without making allowance for the fall in the price of spelter, they will be misleading. What the Tariff Board estimated was that probably for the whole period of seven years the average cost would be Rs. 232 a ton, and that by 1934

they hoped it would fall to Rs. 200 a ton. Now, my Honourable friend can point out that, in 1928-29, only the second year of the period, the cost had already fallen to Rs. 210 a ton, in 1929-30 to Rs. 207 a ton, and in the best month in 1930 to something like Rs. 185 a ton. But I should like to point out that when allowance is made for the fall in the price of spelter, that is to say, if the Tariff Board when they made their forecast had based it on the present price of spelter and not on the price prevailing in 1926, instead of the average of Rs. 232 a ton, they would have said Rs. 198 a ton; and instead of Rs. 200 a ton, they would have said Rs. 166 a ton. Therefore it is not correct to say that the cost of production has been reduced so greatly that the House would be entitled to assume that additional protection was not required. As I have already said, there has been a distinct improvement, but a very large part of the fall in the cost has been due not to improvement in methods, but simply to the fall in the price of spelter.

Now, Sir, before I go on to the next question, namely, the method of protection, I should like to deal with another point to which my Honourable friend has also drawn my attention privately. I think he feels that, before being asked to give any vote or to come to any decision about this proposal, he would like to see the evidence taken by the Tariff Board, and he does not quite understand why Government have placed their proposals before the Legislature without waiting for the evidence to be published.

As soon as I learnt what was in my Honourable friend's mind, I had the actual facts as regards previous Reports by the Tariff Board examined. What I find is this, and I will give four examples. In 1927 the Steel Industry Protection Bill in which the whole question of protection for steel was raised, was referred to a Select Committee on the 26th of January, and none of the evidence was published until the 5th of February. As the Report of the Select Committee was taken into consideration on the 14th February, it seems certain that the Select Committee, before presenting their Report, could have had no opportunity of examining any of the evidence. Take another of the Tariff Board's Report, a much less important one, about printing type. The Bill was introduced on the 6th March, 1929, it was passed by the Assembly on the same date, and the evidence was not published until the 29th July. In the case of the Match industry, the Bill was introduced on the 4th September, 1928, it was taken into consideration and passed by the Assembly on the 17th September, and none of the evidence was published until the 12th December. And finally this is perhaps the best analogy to the present case—the supplementary protection given in 1925; the Resolution authorising the grant of a bounty was passed on the 9th September, 1925, in the Council of State, and on the 15th September, 1925, in the Assembly, and the evidence was not published till November. I have given these details for my Honourable friend's information to show that what is being done on the present occasion is merely what has been done on several other occasions in the past, and the Assembly has not usually felt itself unable to deal with a protection question until the Members had studied all the evidence taken by the Tariff Board. I would point out also that, when the application is for supplementary protection, the actual study of the evidence is less necessary in order to arrive at a decision than it might be when the main question whether an industry is to be protected or not has actually been raised.

[Sir George Rainy.]

Now, Sir, I turn to the method of protection. As the House knows from the Report of the Tariff Board and the Resolution of the Government of India, while the Tariff Board definitely preferred to proceed by way of duty, the Government of India considered carefully whether they ought not to proceed by way of bounty. I do not underrate in any way the force of the Board's arguments that additional protection, given by means of an increase in the duty, is the prompter method, and inasmuch as it does not require an annual vote of the Legislature, it renders it much more easy to bring about stable conditions, in which manufacturers and traders can carry on their business. On the other hand, the Government of India felt it could not overlook the fact that the Indian protection for galvanized sheet was not more than 1/10th of the total consumption when imports were at their highest, and not more than 1/5th perhaps of imports on the very much reduced scale of the current year. Nor could they ignore the fact that in the existing period of agricultural depression it was undesirable, if it could be avoided, to raise the cost of galvanized sheet to the consumer. But they were compelled to examine the whole question of the method which should be adopted in the light of the actual financial situation, and having done that, the Government of India were satisfied that the grant of bounties in this case was impracticable. They could not recommend, in the existing financial conditions, that the Assembly should commit itself in respect of bounties for a period of three years ahead. The obligation thereby falling upon the treasury was too serious, and they felt that there was nothing for it but to impose the additional duty. At the same time, in view of the fact that the actual price at which the consumer would be able to obtain galvanized sheet was substantially lower than the price which this House did not consider it unreasonable in 1927, the burden on the consumer was not likely to be excessive.

The Board recommended, Mr. President, that the additional duties should remain in force up to the 31st March, 1934. The Government, however, did not feel that they and the Legislature should be committed quite so deeply as that. Circumstances may change so radically that the retention of the duty would be clearly unreasonable. Thus for example in many branches of trade we have seen the formation of national, or international, combines which are able to raise prices. Obviously, if that occurred, I have not the least doubt that the Tata Iron and Steel Company itself would unquestionably admit that the need for additional protection had passed. But at the same time Government do recognise the fact that during the first-half of the period of protection, the manufacturers have received somewhat less protection than was intended, and they think it is reasonable that the duty should remain in force at the higher rate which has recently been introduced for the rest of that period unless, as I have said, circumstances should so radically change that no one would advocate its continuance.

My Honourable friend Mr. Das, in the amendment he proposes to move, suggests that the approval of the Assembly should be sought annually for the continuance of the duty, but what I should like to point out is this. I do not believe it is possible or desirable to have an annual investigation into the Tata Iron and Steel Company's costs, and that is the point which my friend specially desires to be examined. It is not

possible to pluck a flower up by the roots every few days in order to find out how fast it is growing. In addition, the element of uncertainty which would thereby come into play would, I think, lead to a good deal of doubt and speculation which would make trade more difficult and which would not be in the interests either of traders or of manufacturers.

(At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr. Deputy President.)

In what I have said to day, Mr. President, I have referred to the question of costs. I should be very sorry if anything I have said conveyed the impression that the Government of India regard the question of reducing costs at Jamshedpur to the greatest possible extent as anything but a matter of first class importance. Honourable Members will see from the Table at page 14 of the Board's Report, that the results actually achieved in 1927-28 were very remarkable, for the reduction in cost had gone much further than the Tariff Board anticipated it could go at that stage. Then followed the disastrous labour troubles in 1928-29, which handicapped the company to a very great extent, and since the actual strike came to an end the company have found it very difficult to get back to the 1927-28 standard. To me personally, after the sanguine anticipations I had formed on the figures of 1927-28, it is a very keen disappointment to see that the same results have not yet been reproduced. But I am quite sure of this, that no effort is being spared by the company to bring about the very desirable result of a much lower cost of production. And certainly they have the stimulus constantly upon them in the need for a lower cost level if they are to make the return to their shareholders, which the latter consider reasonable. That stimulus is as powerful as any I can imagine; it is as powerful as, or perhaps even more powerful than, the annual examination suggested by my Honourable friend.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I should only like to say this. I think that we all of us recognise that at a time like the present, when trade is depressed all over the world, no manufacturing firm can expect that they should be able to make the full normal profits, nor do I think that they can reasonably expect that the consumer, at a time when his purchasing power is small, should be burdened to the extent necessary to bring about that result to the full extent. That is not, however, what we are considering in the present case. It seems to me that in the present case the facts are perfectly clear, that owing to the causes I have indicated the manufacturer in India has never been able to obtain the price for his galvanized sheet which the Legislature accepted as being a fair price. Also I think it is clear that, unless action is taken now there is a real danger that a state of affairs might be brought about that the price at which he can sell his sheet which would be lower than the works cost of production with no balance left for overhead charges or return on capital at all. In those circumstances, it would have been very difficult for him to carry on the manufacture. I am not asking this House to agree to the proposal I have placed before them on any grounds connected with the cost of production, but merely on the ground that the fall in price has been so serious that, unless action is taken, it will, as I have said, be very difficult for the manufacturer to maintain his production.
(Applause.)

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I beg to move the amendment standing in my name:

“That for the words ‘for the remainder of the period of protection covered by the Steel Industry Protection) Act, 1927, that is, up to the 31st March, 1934,’ the following be substituted:

‘for the year ending on 31st March, 1932, and that the said period of protection can be continued for the remainder of the period of protection covered by the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1927, i.e., up to the 31st March, 1934, provided that the previous sanction of this Assembly has been obtained annually to such extension and provided it is proved to the satisfaction of this House that there has been genuine effort made by the manufacturers to reduce their cost of production and increase their output during the previous year.’”

(At this stage Mr. President resumed the Chair.)

I feel very grateful to the Honourable the Leader of the House for the way in which he has tried to anticipate the discussion that will proceed from this side of the House, and I must pay him this compliment, which he so richly deserves, that, in spite of the differences between that side and this side of the House, he has always tried today and previously also, to meet our view point and not raised any difficulties as regards procedure or facilities. Sir, I am very grateful to the Honourable Sir George Rainy for the explanation he gave as regards the evidence of the Tariff Board not having been published so far. It may be that his Department, dealing as it does with Commerce and Railways, has not sufficient time to publish the evidence in time so that Members of this House can take advantage of it. But it is a well-known practice . . .

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Perhaps, I might interject one word. It is not, I think, anything connected with my own Department, but it is merely difficulties connected with the Press and the Tariff Board itself in getting the evidence finally corrected.

Mr. B. Das: I am glad of that explanation. But when the Reserve Bank Bill was discussed on the floor of the House, it was a very important measure, and Government saw to it that the evidence before the Royal Commission on Currency was available to the Members of this House. Of course, I agree with my Honourable friend that this measure is only a subsidiary measure. Protection has already been granted by us and now only enhancement of duty is required. There have been adverse comments in the Press. Only this morning we see an article written by Mr. Trivedi in the *Hindustan Times*, who seems to have appeared before the Tariff Board to give evidence in this matter. He complains:

“It appears that it (the Board) received only three representations from Bombay, three from Calcutta, and one from a representative of British manufacturers. It called only two trade representatives from Calcutta for oral examination”.

If these allegations are true, then I, as a Member of this House, cannot form any judgment unless I see the evidence before me. Of course, I tried to get a copy by writing to the Secretary of the Department, but the departmental office Superintendent informed me that the evidence books were not yet published. Then I thought I could elicit a reply by the well-known practice of short notice questions, but the explanation, which the Honourable Member has given, satisfies me for the present.

As regards the question of additional protection which my Honourable friend has brought before the House, he has already explained to the House the reasons, from his point of view, why my amendment cannot meet the desire of the Government or the demand of the manufacturers. Sir, I am a well known protectionist and I have always advocated protection on the floor of this House.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Self-praise is no recommendation.

Mr. B. Das: I would not like that phrase to come from my Honourable friend. I was only trying to defend myself. and I am explaining
1 P.M. why I am opposed to the present measure. It appears that certain firms, which secured protection from Government, have forgotten their obligations and the implications thereof. It seems that the Tata Steel Company have done very little to reduce their cost of production. Something about the cost of production is given in the present Report. I would refer Honourable gentlemen to page 15, where the expenditure in various departments is given. In 1925-26 the total expenditure on labour amounted to Rs. 1,41,90,000 and the number of men employed was 26,290. I find in the year 1929-30 the expenditure is Rs. 1,57,87,269 and the men employed are 22,850. I find that in the previous year this expenditure came to 1,22 lakhs, but I think that low expenditure was due to the labour strike. So I do not want to allude to it. It was Rs. 1,37 lakhs in 1926-27, the year in which they wanted protection from the Tariff Board and probably they wanted to show an improvement in their operating charges. Everybody knows that recently the Bombay firm of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co. gave an assurance to a certain public organisation, the Congress, that they would employ Indians wherever they could in their higher staff and that they would employ European experts only when it was found necessary. My charge against the Tata Iron and Steel Co. is that they have received protection to the extent of 10 to 12 crores so far, which is almost equal to their capitalised value of the undertaking, and they have done very little since they came before the Government of India and this House in 1924, to Indianise their superior establishment. Their heavy expenditure is due to Europeanisation, and as far as I can gather, the trouble in that company is that there are three forces working. One is the German element; the other is the American element and the third is the English element. The three schools of experts always differ, as experts are bound to differ, and fight with one another and the Indian has very little chance in that company. There are very few Indian experts or engineers controlling the operation of steel manufacture in Tatas. So the Tata Steel Company cannot reduce its operating cost nor its top-heavy management. Incidentally I find that one gentleman, who was a technical adviser to the Tariff Board in 1924-26, Mr. Mathers, is now employed as a highly paid technical adviser to the Tata Steel Company. In spite of all these technical experts, the Tatas have done little to reduce their cost of production, and I think that out of the amount spent on labour and wages, a major portion goes to the highly paid and useless foreign staff that could be easily wiped out.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Including the Engineers?

Mr. B. Das: Certainly, including the foreign engineers. In 1924, this House insisted that Tatas must give a guarantee that they would Indianise their departments. In 1926-27, when the Tata Directors were going about in the lobbies and talking to us in whispers, they said that they would do

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their best and employ Indian experts, but that they could not get Indian experts. I said that it was an entirely false assumption, but I know this much, that after we gave protection in 1926-27, those very gentlemen, the Directors and the Board of Management of Tatas said, "We care a fig for the Assembly. We have got seven years' protection, we are not coming to the Assembly any more, and in seven years' time we will be all right". There is another ground for our serious apprehension. The Tatas are managing other concerns too. They are managing hydro-electric concerns in Bombay. Government gave them the concession, and the concession which Government gave them also belonged to the people of India. What happened? They brought in Americans to manage the hydro-electric schemes in Bombay and the three schemes in Bombay are being controlled by American experts and American financiers. We apprehend that the day will come when Tatas, owing to mismanagement and lack of knowledge as to how to manage their industrial concerns, and being in the clutches of these American experts, will have to admit that they cannot manage the steel concern. They will go to America for money and the concern will go to America, while the Government of India and the people of India have given them bounty to the extent of 10 crores, and the consumers have borne another 25 to 30 crores of taxation, which has gone to meet the deficit Budget of my Honourable friend Sir George Schuster. This is indeed a very serious matter of apprehension. We pointed out then that the Tata Company has been over-capitalised. There was no business to put the capital so high. They could have reduced the capital. Certain auxiliary plant was purchased and spare sets of plant were purchased that ought not to have been purchased, especially when the prices were very high. The shareholders and the directors of Tatas, if they were honest, ought to have assured the Government that they would reduce the capital. They did not do that and neither did the Government, when they persuaded us to give protection insisted on Tatas reducing their cost and expenditure, unless they did so by means of secret correspondence. My Honourable friend Sir George Rainy knows better than anybody in this House, or outside this House, because he was the first and the most successful President of the Tariff Board, who inaugurated the system of protection in this country, but I do not think that Government insisted that Tatas should reduce the cost of administration by reducing the large European staff and by reducing their capital. Even in this small Report that the Tariff Board has produced, on galvanized sheets, they allude to the cost of production, and at one place they say that the Tatas are not laying aside sufficient money for the Depreciation Fund. How can they put sufficient money into the Depreciation Fund when their cost of operations is too high and when the company is over-capitalised? They also suggest in one place that there should be some mode of outlet for sale of their ingot steel and other steel products. Government do not order at present sufficient rails from the Tatas. The Tatas, if they produce what they assured us in 1926 that they would produce, *viz.*, 500,000 tons of steel, they must find a market. It seems they have no market; and what is the use of our giving them protection when they cannot sell their produce in the country and outside?

Sir, I know and the Government of India in their Notification of the 30th December, have admitted it, and my Honourable friend, Sir George Rainy, told us this morning, that owing to financial difficulties, the Government cannot give any bounty to the Tatas. I find that for 25,000 tons of

galvanized steel sheets which the Tatas produce, the Government will have to give them Rs. 9 lakhs; and another 3 lakhs they may have to pay in connection with the other auxiliary products and galvanized tubes, etc.; so for a matter of Rs. 12 lakhs Government are asking the consumers to pay to the Government exchequer a crore of rupees or a little more. Sir, a crore of rupees is a windfall to the Finance Member and the Government of India when they have to meet a deficit Budget, but I do not approve of this way of exploitation of the consumer. If Government want money, let them come to us, and let them appoint a Committee. Then let them put their cards on the table, and we will do our very best and advise them how to meet the deficit Budget. But what they propose to do is to come through the back door in this way in the name of protection and to collect a crore of rupees. Sir, in 1926 when we gave protection to galvanized sheets, the Tatas' production was only 10,000 tons, which is under 3 per cent. To give an industry protection when the production in India was 3 per cent. is one thing and it is quite another thing today when the production is 25,000 tons and it comes to 10 per cent. Of course I do not object to the 10 per cent. getting protection, but I do not think that we should give protection when the consumers are very hard hit owing to the depression, and I am glad to note that my Honourable friend himself admitted it and expressed that view. So what is the use of burdening the consumer with a crore of rupees of taxation because the Tatas will get a production of 55,000 tons and a bounty of Rs. 25 lakhs of rupees eventually in 1934? Sir, if Government cannot give them a bounty, I could suggest another alternative. They could spread over that Rs. 25 lakhs by an import duty, by a permanent duty which will come to about, I think, Rs. 5 or 6 more on the present duties. That means Rs. 35 per ton, that is, the *ad valorem* import duty would be Rs. 35 instead of Rs. 67 which the Tariff Board and the Government of India have advocated.

Sir, there is another issue to which my Honourable friend alluded. He said the labour troubles did not give the Tatas the chance to reduce their cost of production. Sir, I ask, why do these labour troubles happen so much only with the Tata Iron and Steel Company and not in other places? Of course I know there such troubles do happen in the Bombay mills. But I may quote from memory a speech which my friend, Mr. Birla, the President of the Federation of Indian Merchants' Chambers, gave last year at their annual meeting, when I think my Honourable friend, Sir George Rainy, was present. Mr. Birla said that the time was coming when capitalists and employers on one side and labour on the other side must have cordiality of feeling towards one another. He said that, although he owns so many cotton mills, he never experienced a strike in his mills. I ask the same question. Have the Government taken any opportunity to inquire why all these labour troubles crop up at the Tata works? Here I have got a petition which the labour leader, Mr. Homi, has addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy in connection with the Tata labour troubles for which Mr. Homi has gone to jail. Well, I have never met Mr. Homi. I understood he was a very partisan labour leader and he created a lot of trouble, but from his petition to His Excellency the Viceroy I make out that the charges he has brought against the Tata Iron and Steel Company are worthy of investigation by Government. This much also I know from friends, that there was a time when Mr. Homi was being pampered by the management of the Tatas as a labour leader. But afterwards they thought it worth while to approach

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my own Provincial Government of Bihar and Orissa to prosecute him and put him into jail. Sir, I ask, why is it that the management of the Tata Company cannot pull on well with their workmen, while an eminent industrialist like Mr. Birla can do so much for his work people? I can say there are dozens of other managing agents, take for instance the Ahmedabad millowners, who pull on well with their work people. Is it because they assume a super-millionaire dignity and superior airs, which their workmen cannot stand? Is it because there is no cordiality of feeling between the employers and the employees? Sir, on that point my Honourable friend seems to think that his duty is finished as soon as protection is given, but I think he as Member for Commerce and as a Member of the Government ought to see that there are cordiality of feeling and humane relations between the employer and labour.

I will now make certain observations about a particular remark of the present Tariff Board. On pages 4-5 they have gone out of their way to review certain statements of the Government and say that the Tariff Board is following the intention of the Legislature. Sir, this is the first Report I have read where the Tariff Board say that they are following the intention of the Legislature, because sometimes the Honourable the Leader of the House himself and his predecessor, Sir Charles Innes, have flung the remark at our heads that the Tariff Board is not the final authority; that the final authority is the Government. Sir, I will take this opportunity to quote just a few lines which the *Statesman* of Calcutta—my Honourable friend, Mr. Arthur Moore's paper—wrote about this reverential attitude of the Government towards the Tariff Board. I took the opportunity to quote this in 1927. The *Statesman* states—a very apt quotation—and I quote it again:—

“The reverence of Ministers like Sir Charles Innes for the Tariff Board is one of the things that it is difficult to understand. To him the pronouncements of that body are as the commandments that descended from Sinai. The commandments were written on stone and had a degree of permanence. They were not replaced on the morrow by a new set of injunctions”.

Well, Sir, that was the view of the *Statesman* and at that time Sir Charles Innes rose on the floor of the House and went on to say that the Government of India was the final authority over the Tariff Board. I do not know whether the present Tariff Board wants to play us, the Members of this House, against the Honourable Sir George Rainy, for it says that the intention of the Legislature must be followed, and for that reason they could not recommend a bounty to be given to the Tata Steel Works. Well, Sir, as I accidentally brought in the name of my old friend Sir Charles Innes once again to the floor of this House, I would like just to read one sentence in which he gave this House an idea of protection and fiscal autonomy, which is, of course, as dead as King Charles. He said:

“On the one hand, India aspires to Dominion status, that is to say, she aspires to political independence within the Empire. On the other hand she aspires to economic independence.”

Sir, Sir Charles Innes said this in 1924 and since then what has passed? I do not want to allude to all that now.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir George Rainy anticipated me when he gave the reply which I wanted from him in answer to the short notice question, *viz.*, how is it the Government have not taken into account the Rs. 23 which is at present the difference between the estimated price of the Tariff Board in 1926 and the present cost price? How is it that in Europe and in England the prices of galvanised sheets and black sheets have gone down so much that there is not only a reduction owing to the reduction in the price of steel, but there is a reduction in the overhead costs and reduction in wages? How is it this has happened on the Continent and in the United Kingdom? Why is it it does not happen in India? Is it not a fact that the prices of foodstuffs have gone down since 1926-27? I think we have already heard about the fall in prices from the Members on the Treasury Benches, and we will hear more about it when the Budget is presented to this House. In India the prices have fallen so much that we are hearing that people are clamouring all over India stating their inability to pay full land revenue because the foodstuffs are very cheap and that prices have fallen very low. If in India also the prices have fallen, how is it and why is it that the management of the Tatas cannot reduce their cost of production? That is the most important point to be considered. If the Honourable Member does not want to accept my amendment, I do not want to fight with him. I do not want to repeat the fight which I have been carrying on year after year on the floor of this House; I do not want to continue the fight till 1934. I am not in a mood to fight, but I want to know whether the executive, who say they take a mandate from this House, have exercised their executive power, and whether the executive have compelled the Tatas to reduce their cost of production by reducing their top heavy administration by sending away their innumerable, unwanted and useless American and European staff (Hear, hear), and also by reducing the wages of labour, in view of the fact that foodstuffs are selling at half the prices they were selling one and half years ago. That is the point which the Government must consider, and they should not think that, because we have got a crore of rupees by the back door as extra revenue, we intend to give this little money to the Tatas and leave them to do anything they like with it.

Sir, I need not add anything to what I have said already. Sir, I am a protectionist. But if I want that protection should be adequate to an industry, I also want that those who seek that protection should be guided by that Report which, I am sorry to say, Government never gave effect to, that is the External Capital Committee's Report, where certain recommendations were made. Although the Tata steel industry is at present an internal capital company, I apprehend, as I said before, that there is every likelihood that its management might pass away from Bombay to New York. Sir, this may not come to pass. I do not know that. But I very much apprehend this. The Tatas have never shown so far any sympathy towards the Indian intellectuals and Indian Industrialists or towards the national industries. I want that the steel industry, which is a key industry, should be a national industry. Knowing all these things, the Tatas have not yet placed the industry on a national footing. The capital is not Indian entirely. If the capital is not Indian, if the brains that control that manage and that operate that concern are not Indian, then the Tatas have miserably failed in not taking Indians in to fill high posts because they are obsessed with so-called American experts who are controlling them and brow-beating them. (Nationalist Applause.)

Mr. President: I should like to know the pleasure of the House whether they wish to continue the debate and finish before lunch, or whether they desire that we should now adjourn for lunch.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I do not think it is likely to be finished before lunch.

Mr. President: I think there are several speakers who wish to take part in the debate. We will therefore now adjourn for lunch till quarter to three.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Mr. L. V. Heathcote (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I wish to oppose both the Government Resolution and, I am sorry to say, the amendment also of my Honourable friend Mr. Das. If I am allowed to show why I oppose the Government Resolution, I shall be able to make myself clearer as to why I have to oppose the amendment. My main reasons for opposing the Resolution are three. The first is that action of very great moment and importance to last for the long period of three years is proposed by Government on the strength of what is only a summary Report of the Tariff Board. My second reason is that it appears to me that the principle of protection with discrimination is being largely overlooked in the action proposed in the Resolution; and my third reason is that the protection which Government propose to grant to galvanised iron sheets covers the whole genus of galvanised iron sheets and not only the species which it is the Government's desire to protect. Government were confronted with an appeal from Tata's for protection in very special circumstances. No one knows, except perhaps Government, how great that appeal was for protection; and in the face of the Tariff Board's Report and the fact that when the Steel Protection Bill was first introduced, special means were devised for allowing executive action to be taken before the Legislature could be consulted, I do not think any one can object to the action that was taken by Government to introduce the protective duty up to the end of March of this year. We also I think agreed that, in the very limited time at their disposal, the Tariff Board could have hardly made a better and closer examination of the case before them. I do not criticise Government in their action, nor do I wish to criticise the Tariff Board's Report. But the Tariff Board themselves admit that in some respects, owing to the time at their disposal, it was not possible for them to examine the question in all the detail that a matter so large and of such importance required. The Tariff Board state that the Legislature will naturally expect or would like to be given an opportunity of showing how successful their protection has been to this very great indigenous industry of India; and we can see from the statistics of production that in the matter of galvanised iron sheets the production has increased during the last few years from some 8,500 tons in 1927-28 to 18,476 tons in 1929-30. I think the House would like to know what the maximum production of Tata's is of galvanised iron

sheets. We would like to have an indication of what possible further economy might be produced during the remaining three years of the operation of the Steel Protection Act. We would also have liked some information in regard to the cost of imported material, as to how much of it is basic and how much of it is liable to fluctuate owing to the competition which exists between the various manufacturers on the Continent and in England; how much of the cost is made up by freight, for instance; and what are the possibilities of rising freight affecting the imported cost of the material. These are matters of importance, and owing to the limited time at the disposal of the Board, they were not able to report, as I think they should have reported, if it were decided that we had no alternative but to impose protection for the remaining three years on the basis of the figures which were prevalent when the Tariff Board did report.

In some other respects I also consider that the Tariff Board have made certain unjustifiable conclusions. When they reported in 1926, they found that the fair selling price of galvanized iron sheets was Rs. 270 a ton. They show that there has been a drop on account of the reduction in price of spelter of Rs. 34 a ton. Then they say: "Therefore the fair selling price of Indian galvanized sheets today is Rs. 236". I want to know where the "therefore" comes in, and this is linked up with the present cost of production of the materials and the possibility of further reductions as a result of the further economies which may be expected from increased production. When the Steel Protection Bill was introduced, I think it may be said that this Legislature accepted the principle of protection with discrimination, and I do not want to say in any way that the large steel industry of Tatas is not a suitable industry to protect. But discrimination seems to me to mean rather more than that. It must also apply to the manner in which the protection is granted. The Tariff Board have assumed that, because the Legislature in 1926 accepted the principle of imposing an import duty to bring the cost of imported material up to a fair selling price, that is a principle which they have to adopt now. That seems to be an unjustifiable assumption.

That brings me to the third point which is in connection with the different classes of galvanized iron sheets where also discrimination might have been exercised. As far as I know, Tatas only manufacture sheets of 24 gauge thickness and upwards. Sheets of 26 and 28 gauge are used almost universally in Burma, where there is a large demand for sheets connected with the rice industry. Twenty per cent. or thereabouts of the imports into Calcutta are also of sheets of thinner gauge than 24, and even if we accept the principle of protection to the fullest possible extent and do not criticise it in the terms in which my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, criticised it this morning, there seems still to be no reason why an import duty should be placed upon all gauges. The Honourable the Commerce Member gave the Government's explanation for following the recommendation of the Tariff Board in imposing an import duty instead of giving a bounty. He said it was mainly due to the financial position of the country. We can all realise how difficult matters will be for the Finance Member during the coming year, and had the Government proposed to impose this duty as a revenue duty, with the added advantage of it being a protective duty, little might possibly have been said, and so I must oppose this Resolution mainly on the ground that it is imposing a burden on the consumer which is immense, as my Honourable friend Mr. Das

[Mr. L. V. Heathcote.]

said, a crore of rupees additional duty for the sake of protecting an industry, the total value of whose production at present in galvanized iron sheets does not exceed some 44 to 45 lakhs, a duty of double the value of the total industry, and I would like to urge the Government to withdraw this Resolution and to introduce it in a different form, to ask the Legislature to give them sanction to pay a bounty the money to pay which they will secure from a much smaller import duty than they at present propose, that bounty to fall should the import duty in the Budget exceed the protective import duty proposed immediately by Government. My Honourable friend Mr. Das suggested that a five rupee import duty would be sufficient to procure the money required to pay the whole bounty necessary to protect the Tata's production. While that might be the case, we look to Tatas to increase their production very considerably. It should not be difficult for the Government to ascertain what is the maximum level of production likely to be arrived at by Tatas during the course of the next three years.

Mr. B. Das: 55,000 tons.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I must say that I do not accept that figure.

Mr. L. V. Heathcote: I would say 40 as the outside figure, but that is a matter of comparatively easy inquiry. I should say, without knowing much about the steel industry, that if we take the figure 40,000 tons as the maximum and look to that production being reached before the Steel Protection Bill expires, I reckon that, allowing for the increase in the production of Tatas supplanting a similar quality of imported material, an eight rupee duty would be adequate to provide the revenue. If, when the Budget comes in next month, the Finance Member wishes to procure the further revenue of some 80 lakhs of rupees or thereabouts, that proposal can come to the House as an ordinary item in the Budget and it will be considered on its merits. The argument which the Honourable the Commerce Member put forward as a justification for the imposition of the whole duty as a protective measure, merely that there has been such a fall in the price of galvanized iron material, that it will be no hardship to the consumer to pay the higher duty, will be an argument which can be usefully put forward by the Honourable the Finance Member when he imposes the tax as a revenue tax. It would follow that where the Budget imposes a tax higher than the initial protective duty, the bounty would be correspondingly reduced, and this brings me to the reasons for my inability to accept the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Das. Apart from the difficulties of examining Tatas' books on each occasion, the House would be confronted each year with the necessity for imposing this burden of a crore of rupees or more on the consumer for the sake of this comparatively petty branch of Tata's business, and it would have no alternative but to turn it down or to accept it. If, on the other hand, the Government could introduce a smaller duty to pay for the bounty, that would stand until the Protection Bill expires and taxation for revenue purposes can be imposed on the merits of the case each year as each year comes along. For those reasons I would suggest that it might be possible for the House to persuade the Honourable the Commerce Member to put forward his Resolution in another manner asking for the House's permission to grant a bounty necessary to protect Tatas' production in full. (Applause.)

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, before I begin my observations on the motion of my Honourable friend, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Member for the very excellent and well-reasoned maiden speech he has just delivered. My Honourable friend, I understand, comes from Burma . . .

Mr. L. V. Heathcote: I come from Bengal: I represent the Associated Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I was mistaken then; because if he came from Burma, we could well understand his opposition to any kind of protection to the iron and steel industry. (Laughter.) Sir, whatever might be the effect of the imposition of import duties on iron and steel material in some parts of India and Burma, this House has recognised that the iron and steel industry of India is a national industry, and as such ought to be amply protected by this House. In the Steel Protection Bill of 1924, and subsequently in the Bill of 1927, this House, in spite of its differences of opinion with the Government on the methods, co-operated with the Government in granting adequate protection to the iron and steel industry of India. The present position is this: that the iron and steel industry now find that the measure of protection granted under the Act of 1927 is inadequate, and for this reason the Tata Company have come forward before Government with the request that additional protection should be granted. The Resolution of my Honourable friend deals with only part of the iron and steel industry; that is, relating to galvanised sheets. The Tariff Board, after a careful examination and analysis of the cost of production of the Tata Company, have come to the conclusion that the fair selling price for the home manufacturer for galvanised sheets must be Rs. 236 per ton. I am prepared to accept that figure of the Tariff Board because this House must, after all, accept the opinion of an expert body like the Tariff Board on a point like this. The Tariff Board has further found that the landed price of imported galvanised material is Rs. 169 per ton, and this means that the home manufacturer must get Rs. 67 more per ton to enable him to compete with the foreign manufacturer. The Act of 1927 has imposed a duty of Rs. 30 per ton on imported galvanised material: so at the present selling price of foreign imported galvanised sheets, the Tata Company find that they are at a disadvantage to the extent of Rs. 37 per ton, and therefore the Tariff Board have made a recommendation to the Government that an additional duty of Rs. 37 per ton must be imposed on imported galvanised material; and my Honourable friend the Commerce Member now seeks the sanction of this House for the imposition of this additional duty of Rs. 37 per ton. The Act of 1927 realised that, though it imposed a duty of Rs. 30 a ton on imported galvanised material, situations might arise in which the price of the imported commodities might fall still further, thereby handicapping Tatas, and to meet this emergency they empowered the executive to impose additional duties if circumstances so demanded. In virtue of the power conferred on the executive by this provision of the Act of 1927, the Government of India have already imposed a duty of Rs. 37 per ton on imported galvanised material, with effect from the 30th December, 1930, and my Honourable friend the Commerce Member now seeks the sanction of the Legislature for the continuance of this duty to 31st March, 1934. That, Sir, is the position that is now before us and that this House is asked to consider.

[Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty.]

As far as the question whether the Tata Company require this additional assistance of Rs. 37 per ton on galvanised material is concerned, I do not think there will be any difference of opinion at least on this side of the House. The only point which we have to examine is whether the proposal which has been made to render this assistance to Tatas is consistent with that policy of discriminating protection to which this House and the Government of India are committed. Let us now understand what exactly is the position of this home industry. The Tariff Board have found that the present production of the Tata Company in galvanised material comes to 25,000 tons per annum, whereas the import of galvanised material comes to between 275,000 and 325,000 tons per annum. To give protection to the home industry, constituting 25,000 tons, the Honourable the Commerce Members seeks the sanction of the House to impose a duty of Rs. 37 per ton on about 300,000 tons of imported material, and it is for this House to examine whether the proposal of the Honourable the Commerce Member is reasonable and consistent with the policy to which we are committed. When one is confronted with the figures of home production and the imported material that I have just given, one would naturally be tempted to suggest that when the home production constitutes such a small fraction of the total quantity consumed in the country, the proper method of protecting the home industry would be in the form of a bounty to the home manufacturer. ("Hear, hear" from the European Benches.) The Tariff Board unfortunately did not devote sufficient attention to this aspect of the question, and here I entirely endorse the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr. Heathcote. I think the Tariff Board was not justified in assuming that the Legislature was committed to a policy of protective duties in preference to bounties, and therefore that they were precluded from examining this question of the grant of bounties. The terms of reference of the Government of India, which were given to the Tariff Board, amply make it clear that the Board was asked to examine the various methods of granting protection, whether by means of import duties or by means of bounties, and it is very regrettable that the Tariff Board, for the members of which I have the greatest admiration and respect and whose opinions I always value, should have ignored this aspect of the question and should have taken it for granted that the Legislature was committed to a particular course of action and that they were precluded from going into the detailed examination of alternative methods which would yield the same results.

One other reason that the Tariff Board urge for the grant of a protective duty instead of a bounty is the question of urgency. They say that if a bounty is to be granted, the executive must naturally get the sanction of the Legislature, and that means that they will have to wait for another three or four months, and the Tata Company can not afford to wait all this period. But, Sir, what is it that has actually happened? The Report of the Tariff Board was signed on the 17th October, 1930, and the Government of India have exercised their power of imposing this additional duty with effect from the 30th December, 1930. If the Government of India thought fit to bring before this House a Resolution for the grant of a bounty, is it not possible that the Tata Company could get this bounty at least from the 30th January, 1931? I ask my Honourable friend the Commerce Member to consider whether he would attach any great value to that

part of the Tariff Board's recommendation in which, on the ground of urgency alone, they recommend protective duties in preference to bounties.

The Tariff Board give another reason why protective duties are recommended by them. They say that, if the industry is to be protected by means of a bounty, it means that the executive must come before the House annually for a vote. I quite concede the force of that argument. The necessary corollary of the grant of a bounty is that the Government of India must come for an annual vote to meet the expenses connected with the bounty, but that argument, I submit, is not insurmountable. It might be that technically an annual vote is necessary in this House for the grant of a bounty. But I would submit, Sir, that if this House agrees in principle that it is necessary to grant this bounty for a period of four years, it would be possible to commit this Legislature by means of a Resolution for the grant of a bounty for that period of four years and technically come before the House for an annual vote. That, therefore, is not an insurmountable argument either.

The last argument of the Tariff Board is that the burden on the consumer is not very excessive. Well, Sir, I am afraid this is the weakest part of the argument of the Tariff Board. They say that in 1927 the Legislature recognised that Rs. 270 per ton was a fair price that the consumer might be asked to pay, but today the consumer is asked to pay Rs. 236 and therefore the consumer is not seriously affected. That argument cannot carry much weight in this House. If, as a result of the fall in the prices of commodities in the world, the Indian consumer can get certain articles cheaper, there is no reason why, either by executive action or by the action of this Legislature, the Indian consumer should be deprived of the benefit of a fall in prices. That argument of the Tariff Board is, therefore, the weakest part of the whole case.

My Honourable friend the Commerce Member says, "Ah, yes, but the financial position of the country precludes all possibility of granting the bounty." Sir, let there be no misunderstanding. I am entirely at one with my Honourable friend over there, and I am also entirely at one with the findings of the Tariff Board that the Tata Iron and Steel Company must be given protection to the extent of Rs. 37 per ton on the galvanised materials produced by them. Very well. Rs. 37 per ton on 25,000 tons comes to Rs. 9,25,000. My friend says that, in the present financial stringency of the country, it is impossible to find Rs. 9,25,000 for this bounty. But I ask him, is not the way easy and clear? Impose just that amount of duty on the imported galvanised material as will give you this 9½ lakhs of rupees to be given as bounty. Instead of following that course, what is it that my Honourable friend wants to do? He wants to impose a duty of Rs. 37 per ton on 300,000 tons of imported galvanised material, and what is the practical and ultimate result of this? My friend, the Commerce Member, has foreshadowed the Budget position of the country and has come forward with the first Bill of taxation for the coming Budget. The proposal of my friend means that the Government of India just to give assistance to the extent of 9½ lakhs of rupees to the Tata Iron and Steel Company, propose to levy taxation to the extent of 1½ crores of rupees, and that for three years. I consider the Resolution of my Honourable friend today as the first measure of taxation for the coming financial year. He might certainly be congratulated by my friend the Finance Member for enabling him to find an

[Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty.]

additional Rs. 1½ crores in the difficulties with which my friend the Finance Member will be faced in the years to come. But surely, Sir, this House cannot accept, without protest, the implications underlying this proposition of the Honourable the Commerce Member. But my friends might ask, and some of them have asked already, what exactly should we do on this Resolution? Well, that is a more difficult question to answer. We know from past experience that, whatever might be the protest on this side of the House against the methods adopted by the executive in granting protection to the Home manufacturers, we are often told, "Either take it or leave it." I do not know whether that is the position of the Honourable the Commerce Member today. Sir, we on this side of the House will not be parties to any action that will deprive the iron and steel industry of India of the protection which an expert body like the Tariff Board found that the industry needs. At the same time, it is very hard to ask this House by this indirect means,—I was almost going to say insidious means,—of raising additional taxation to the extent of 1½ crores. I would ask my friend the Commerce Member to reconsider if possible the dilemma in which he has placed us. It is unfair to this House, it is unfair to the iron and steel industry of India, to place this House in a dilemma. Surely my Honourable friend the Commerce Member must recognise that it is not at all fair to ask this House to sanction additional taxation to the extent of Rs. 1½ crores to enable them to find Rs. 9½ lakhs for giving a bounty. It is very unfortunate and unfair that my friend the Commerce Member should have placed this House in this dilemma, and I sincerely hope and trust that my friend opposite, in the light of what I have said, will undertake to withdraw this Resolution, reconsider the whole position, and agree to impose on imported galvanised material just that amount of additional duty as will enable him to find the money for giving assistance to the Tata Iron and Steel Company.

*Mr. N. R. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support this amendment of Mr. B. Das. The original Resolution of the Honourable Sir George Rainy, I observe, is that the increased import duties on galvanised iron and steel pipes and sheets for the period 30th December 1930 to 31st March 1931 should be continued for the remainder of the period of protection, *i.e.*, up to the 31st March 1934, and that duties should not be reduced at any time before that date. Mr. B. Das' amendment is: "That for the words 'up to the 31st March, 1934', the words 'the year ending 31st March, 1932' be substituted." This amendment, in my opinion, is worth considering.

In this connection, several speeches have been made in this House already. In those speeches, reference was made to the Tariff Board's Report and the evidence contained therein. The recommendations of the Tariff Board are worthy of consideration. Mr. Das is at least fair in stating that every effort should be made to make the industry self-supporting before consumers should be asked to bear the burden of additional protection demanded. He moved an amendment to make an annual decision instead of signing away his liberty for three years.

* The Honourable Member spoke in Marathi.

I request Sir George Rainy to accept the amendment of Mr. Das and not to insist upon the Members of this House supporting the Resolution as it stands. I think, no good impression has been produced upon this House by his long speech. In case the Honourable Sir George Rainy does not amend his Resolution in the light of the amendment of Mr. Das, I request that all elected Members of this House should stand apart unanimously to give a defeat to the opposition, on the ground that the continuance of duties should be granted till next year. This is the fair method of relief to Tata's Industry, and I fully support Mr. Das' amendment.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to oppose this amendment, and in doing so, I shall confine my remarks to the only points which are relevant for the discussion of the matter before the House. As I read the amendment of Mr. B. Das—and as far as I can see, the general sense of this House is in favour of the protection being granted, there is no question about that—as I read the portion of the amendment proposed by Mr. Das, he says that for the year ending the 31st March, 1932, the protection may be granted. The proposition of the Honourable the Commerce Member is that the protection be granted for three years, and as far as I can understand the amendment, it agrees to the protection for one year. So, there is only a difference of two years, and even as regards these two years, it is not that my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, is unconditionally opposed to the protection. He says, by all means give protection, but only under two conditions. Come to the Legislature every year for the vote and satisfy us that there has been a "genuine effort made by manufacturers to reduce their cost of production and increase their output during the previous year".

Now, in regard to coming to the Assembly every year, -in addition to the objections that have been formulated by the Tariff Board, there is one little difficulty. Supposing the Honourable the Commerce Member comes before this Assembly and asks for this protection, there must be some materials, and those materials must be collected by some expert body like the Tariff Board. The materials have been collected, they are there before you; and if circumstances so change that it would not be desirable to continue the protection, the Government Resolution provides for it by adding a clause that the duties can be reduced if the Government are satisfied "that circumstances have changed so radically as to render the maintenance of the duties at the increased rates clearly unnecessary and undesirable". Now, I should have thought that if circumstances so altered that you ought not in reason continue these duties, there was enough provision in the Resolution itself to take steps to get the material upon which you could come to a conclusion. What, then, I respectfully ask, is the necessity to come before this Assembly? Don't mistake me. I do consider that every important measure that the Government takes must be sanctioned by this Assembly. But this case stands on a peculiar footing. The Assembly, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, who took a leading part in the discussions of 1927, assured us, will insist upon giving this industry, which is a national industry, as much protection as may be necessary in order

[Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar.]

to bring it to a working level. That being so, and there being enough provision in the Government Resolution itself for finding out whether the protection should be continued for the remaining two years and whether materials for that exist or not, I respectfully ask why they should come to the Assembly and face the difficulties that the Tariff Board have enumerated? And in regard to the other condition, which I suppose is in one sense a part and parcel of the first condition, namely, satisfaction about the cost of production as well as increase in output, the statements contained in paragraphs 21 to 24 of the Tariff Board's Report fully refute and answer the position taken up by Mr. Das. They have shown in regard to increase in output, how the Tatas have not been able to get rid of it in consequence of the difficulty of their not having got orders from the Railway Department. Sir, if that Report is carefully studied, it is clear that, so far as the Tata Company is concerned, they have tried their very best to come up to the expectations of the Tariff Board, raised in the year 1926, upon the faith of which the Act of 1927 was passed.

So that, to sum up, the position is this. We are agreed upon the grant of protection—and I am only taking up the terms of the amendment—we are agreed upon the protection for one year; and as for the other two years, what you want to do is, in the first place, a matter of super-erogation, and in the next place, you have got already materials before you. Those being the circumstances in which the amendment is moved, I would respectfully point out that there is absolutely no point in agreeing to this amendment, but that the House should straightaway agree to the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Commerce Member.

Before I resume my seat, as this is the first time that I have had the honour of addressing this august Assembly, I thank the Honourable Members for the courtesy with which they have listened to me.

***Mr. S. G. Jog** (Berar Representative): Sir, today I find that the office of the Commerce Member and that of the Finance Member have been combined in one. The Honourable the Commerce Member has brought forward a Resolution by which he is not only giving protection to the Tatas, but, as observed by my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty, introducing a measure of taxation. I wonder whether it is a protection to the Tatas, or whether it is a protection to the Government. I was waiting to see how this subject was coming up before the Assembly, and it seems only natural that the members of the steel frame should have a natural sympathy for the steel industry. (Laughter.) On the other hand, I find from the observations and remarks made by some of the previous speakers that there seems to be an unholy alliance between the Tatas and the Government. The Tatas wanted protection for their industry. The Government, on the contrary, said, "You apply for protection; we will give you some protection; and we will take the rest for ourselves". That seems to me to be the position.

As regards the observations made by my Honourable friend Mr. Das, what this House has got to see is whether this is really a national industry, and, if so, and if it requires protection, whether it deserves it, and thirdly,

*Speech not revised by the Honourable Member.

RESOLUTION *re* IMPORT DUTIES ON GALVANISED IRON AND STEEL PIPES, ETC.

the lines on which it must be given. It is our duty to see that the protection given is used and not abused. The industry must, not only in name, but in substance also, be national, and it must deserve the protection and the sympathy of this House. With these remarks, I entirely support the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Das and suggest that the House should reject the Resolution of the Honourable the Commerce Member.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I have listened with great interest to the debate which we have had, and I should like to join with my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty in congratulating my Honourable friend Mr. Heathcote on his admirable maiden speech. I listened with special interest to what he and Mr. Chetty said as regards the precise proposal which the Government of India have placed before the House, basing it on the recommendations made to them by the Tariff Board. I do not know that I need take up a great deal of the time of the House in discussing what has been said, but there are two or three points on which I should like to say something. My Honourable friend Mr. Heathcote suggested that the Tariff Board ought properly to have gone more fully into the question of costs than they actually did. Now, from my experience of two supplementary inquiries by the Tariff Board in regard to the protection of the steel industry, I am quite certain that in both cases it would not have been possible to make any sort of detailed investigation into costs. These supplementary inquiries have to be conducted under great pressure of time. The whole object of vesting special powers in the Government of India is precisely this, that the time available is very short and therefore only the most relevant factors can be fully taken into account. I do not think that it would in any way be possible for the Tariff Board to examine the question more fully.

Then, Sir, there is another point. I think it was in the speech of Mr. Chetty. It was on the question of the relative speed with which you could introduce a system of bounties as compared with the speed at which you could impose an additional duty. I agree with him to this extent, that in 1924 the thing was actually done. What happened then was that in the supplementary steel inquiry, the Tariff Board recommended substantial increases in the duties, but the Government of India preferred to proceed by way of bounty. What they did was to publish a Resolution announcing their intention of placing proposals before the Legislature, they then put in operation the necessary administrative machinery to record the output of ingot steel and they obtained the approval of the Legislature with retrospective effect in the following session. But there is this difference. There was no great difficulty in recording the output of ingot steel for the purpose of paying a bounty on it. But when every consignment of galvanised sheet has to be recorded as it is manufactured, it is a somewhat more complicated business, and undoubtedly before such a system could be introduced we should have to make somewhat detailed inquiries. I do not say the thing is impossible, but I cannot say how much it would cost and some time would necessarily elapse before the necessary inquiries could be completed. That brings me to another point. I have been declared entitled to the congratulations of my Honourable colleague who sits beside me on having imposed, or attempted to impose, the

[Sir George Rainy.]

first taxation measure of the session. I have made no secret of the considerations which weighed with Government. In my speech I made it clear that financial considerations had great weight with the Government of India in arriving at their decision. At the same time I have been much impressed by what has been said in this House by several speakers about their desire to see that the protection which an industry needs should be given in the manner which imposes the smallest possible burden on the consumer. Considerations of that kind, especially when advanced from non-official Benches, will, I hope, always have great weight with the Government of the day, however that Government may be constituted. What I am prepared to do is this, if it will in any way meet the wishes of my Honourable friends. I am prepared to agree to amend my Resolution, so that instead of reading that protection "be continued for the remainder of the period of protection covered by the Steel Industry (Protection) Act", etc., it may read "continued up to the 31st March, 1932, and that before that date Government should make inquiries in order to ascertain whether a system of bounties might not be substituted wholly or in part for the increased duty". Both from the administrative point of view and from the financial point of view, the position, we may hope, will be a good deal easier next year than it is now. If that would meet the wishes of my Honourable friends I should be quite prepared to accept an amendment on those lines.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: With your permission, Sir, I should like to congratulate my Honourable friend the Commerce Member on the way in which he has accommodated the opinion of non-official Members on this side of the House. I am glad that he has not made any secret of the fact that his Resolution sought to impose an additional tax to the extent of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores, extending over a period of over three years. I made it perfectly plain in my speech that we on this side of the House recognise the need for protection, and to achieve this end, we are prepared to accept the amended motion of my Honourable friend the Commerce Member.

Mr. B. Das: In view of the amended Resolution, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: I will now ask the leave of the House to amend the original Resolution in the manner the Leader of the House desires.

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): I suggest that an amendment be moved by some Member of the House, and though I do not profess to be an expert in this matter, I should be glad to move the amendment myself, if it is going to produce concord in this House.

Mr. President: At this stage it would be better if the Honourable Member asks the leave of the House to amend his Resolution.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I will certainly adopt the suggestion.

Mr. President: When the Honourable the Mover is replying, it is hardly possible to introduce a new amendment. I think the best procedure would be that, with the consent of the House, the original motion should be amended at the request of the Mover.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Then, with your permission, I would formally ask the leave of the House to amend my Resolution, so that all the words after "continued" be omitted and that the following words be substituted:

"up to the 31st March, 1932, and that before that date Government should make inquiries in order to ascertain whether a system of bounties might not be substituted wholly or in part for the increased duty."

Mr. President: I desire to ascertain the pleasure of the House as to whether they will allow the Honourable the Mover to amend his motion in the following manner; that is, omit the words in line 5 from the word "for" to the word "undesirable", and substitute for them the words, "up to the 31st March, 1932, and that before that date Government should make inquiries in order to ascertain whether a system of bounties might not be substituted wholly or in part for the increased duty". The motion, as amended, will then read as follows:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the increased import duties imposed by Notification No. 260-T. (127)-Tariffs, dated the 30th December, 1930, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3(4) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, on galvanized iron and steel pipes and sheets for the period 30th December, 1930 to 31st March, 1931, be continued up to the 31st March, 1932, and that before that date Government should make inquiries in order to ascertain whether a system of bounties might not be substituted wholly or in part for the increased duty."

Is it your pleasure to allow the Honourable the Mover to amend his Resolution accordingly?

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, amended.

Mr. President: I have now to put to the House the following Resolution:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the increased import duties imposed by Notification No. 260-T. (127)-Tariffs, dated the 30th December, 1930, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3(4) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, on galvanized iron and steel pipes and sheets for the period 30th December, 1930 to 31st March, 1931, be continued up to the 31st March, 1932, and that before that date Government should make inquiries in order to ascertain whether a system of bounties might not be substituted wholly or in part for the increased duty."

The question is that that Resolution be adopted.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 29th January, 1931.