

14th March, 1924

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**THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

(Official Report)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1924



**SIMLA
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 14th March, 1924.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RAILWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN GAYA AND SHERGHATI.

779. ***Rai Hari Prasad Lal**: Do the Government propose to call for opinion on the subject of a paying Railway connection between Gaya (E. I. R.) and Sherghati, with extension to Raniganj (Gaya), from the persons and bodies mentioned in my previous question, and lay a report of the opinions so received on the table when available?

Mr. O. D. M. Hindley: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes yesterday in reply to his question No. 756.

INDIAN TROOPS SERVING ABROAD.

780. ***Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai**: Will the Government inform the House as to the number of Indian troops serving abroad, stating the places they are garrisoning?

Mr. E. Burdon: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the numbers of Indian troops employed abroad, and the places at which they are employed.

Persian Gulf	6 British officers. 314 Indian other ranks.
Aden	16 British officers. 42 British other ranks. 1,040 Indian ranks.
Malay States	12 British officers. 762 Indian ranks.
South China	12 British officers. 762 Indian ranks.

In addition to the above, there are 123 Indian ranks serving as Consular Guards in Persia, Afghanistan and Abyssinia.

Indian troops are also employed in Palestine and Iraq but, as stated in reply to a question put by another Honourable Member, details of these cannot be given.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS ON THE C. I. DEPARTMENT, THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT.

781. ***Rai Hari Prasad Lal**: (i) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the annual expenditure over the maintenance of the (a) C. I. Department, (b) Excise Department and (c) Publicity Department, during the last 10 years?

(ii) If there be a continual increase in the expenses during the last 5 years, will the Government be pleased to state reasons justifying it?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: (i) A statement is laid on the table. The Publicity Department was not in existence prior to 1920. Excise is a Provincial subject and there is no Excise Department as such under the Government of India.

(ii) The Honourable Member will see that there has not been a continuous increase of expenditure.

Statement showing annual expenditure on

(a) Central Intelligence Department.

Year.	Rs.
1914-15	4,58,127.
1915-16	5,63,145
1916-17	5,67,148
1917-18	8,66,018
1918-19	6,97,402
1919-20	6,36,625
1920-21	7,77,772
1921-22	8,28,607
1922-23	6,42,025
1923-24	5,43,520

*(b) Bureau of Public Information.**

1920-21	65,377
1921-22	83,896
1922-23	1,50,830
1923-24	1,07,200

* N. B.—The Bureau was not in existence for the whole financial year 1919-20 or prior to that year.

**PERCENTAGE OF C. I. D. EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THE DETECTION OF
POLITICAL CRIMES.**

782. ***Rai Hari Prasad Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state what percentage, in each year, of C. I. D. employes has been engaged in the detection of political crimes, with reference to the total numerical strength of the C. I. Department?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: There is no organization under the Government of India which engages in the investigation of crime, political or otherwise. The function of the Bureau of Intelligence, to which the Honourable Member is perhaps referring, is primarily to collect information.

**PAY, EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND NATURE OF WORK, OF C. I. D.
EMPLOYEES.**

783. ***Rai Hari Prasad Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (a) the various grades of services under the C. I. Department, (b) scales of pay of each grade, (c) the educational qualifications or standard of ability required for each grade, and (d) the work and its nature, required from men in each grade?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: There is no C. I. Department in the Government of India. There is an Intelligence Bureau attached to the Home Department, the main function of which is to compile information as I have said in reply to the previous question. The conditions of recruitment to, and the work of, the office establishment and the scales of pay are similar to those obtaining in other attached offices. The officers are drawn from the Police, Imperial and Provincial. The present Director is an Army Officer selected for his special qualifications: his predecessor was a member of the Indian Civil Service.

The Honourable Member will find information as to the cost of the establishment at pages 48—49 of the Demands for Grants.

PATNA UNIVERSITY.

784. *Rai Hari Prasad Lal: Have the Government of India made any grant to the Province of B. and O., (a) for the establishment of the residential Patna University, and (b) has any provision been made for it in the next year's Budget? (c) Do Government contemplate any aid for the provision of higher medical and higher engineering teaching in the province than at present?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) Yes. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 8,00,000 was made in 1912-13 and a recurring grant of Rs. 1,00,000 in 1913-14 which terminated with the separation of provincial finance in the year 1921.

(b) and (c). No. Since the introduction of the reforms the provision of funds rests with the Local Government.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN SOUTH BIHAR AND CHOTA NAGPUR.

785. *Rai Hari Prasad Lal: (a) Are the Government of India aware that the industrial development of South Bihar and Chota Nagpur is hampered owing to want of proper transport facilities? (b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the number and plans of the schemes (if any) of Railway projects contemplated under—

- (1) State Management (if any),
- (2) Company Management (if any),
- (3) District Board and Inter-District Board Management (if any),
- (4) Road transport,

during the last 5 years?

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley: (a) The reply is in the negative. The industrial development of South Bihar and Chota Nagpur is a matter for the Local Government.

(b) The only information I can give the Honourable Member relating to railway projects in the province of Bihar and Orissa is contained in the Railway Board's pamphlet called "Railways and Tramways projected up to 31st March 1923" a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The pamphlet is under revision but, if the Honourable Member desires to have any further information about any of the projects therein mentioned, he can obtain it at the Railway Board's Office.

ANTI-DRINK MOVEMENT IN INDIA.

786. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to the Resolution on the "Anti-Drink Movement in India", passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 27th September 1921 (Assembly Debates, Volume II, page 1102), will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken in this connection?

(b) Have Local Governments been addressed on the subject; and if so, will the Government be pleased to place a copy of their replies on the table?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I refer the Honourable Member to the reply† given to Mr. B. R. Sinha's question No. 261 of the 11th March 1922. The original Resolution recommending that the Assembly's expression of opinion be conveyed to Local Governments was not accepted by this House; an amendment to the effect that note should be taken of the fact that the Assembly was in sympathy with the temperance movement in India was adopted in its place. The Local Governments were, therefore, not addressed in the matter.

SETTLEMENT OF FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE HOME AND INDIAN GOVERNMENTS.

787. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to question No. 1 put by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas on 1st February 1924, and the reply of Sir Basil Blackett, will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) By what time the items of financial expenditure in dispute between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government will be settled?

(b) The total amount that is in dispute?

(c) Whether the decision when arrived at will be communicated to this House by way of information, or whether the House will ever be given an opportunity of discussing the question?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Government of India are not in a position to say when the various items will be settled.

(b) The amounts so far as known are given against the various items. In regard to item (6) a further payment of £250,000 will probably have to be made by India, and provision for this payment has been made in the Budget for 1924-25.

(c) The Government will give as full information as possible to the House.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Am I to understand that this House will not be given an opportunity to discuss the matter?

- **The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I made no such statement.

ALLOWANCES DRAWN BY OFFICERS OF THE IMPERIAL SERVICES.

788. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to give a full list of the various kinds of allowances granted to members of the Imperial Services showing the basis on which the amount of each of such allowances is calculated?

† Vide p. 2868 of L. A. Debates, Vol II.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing what percentage of officers in the imperial services draw allowances amounting to 50 per cent. of their substantive salary, and what percentage draw allowances amounting to 75 per cent. or more of their substantive salaries?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: To furnish the information required by the Honourable Member it would be necessary to refer to Local Governments as they control these local allowances. The Government of India do not propose to take this action in view of the time and labour involved, which would not be justified.

As regards part (b) of the question, I may say that, so far as officers serving under the Central Government are concerned, none draw allowances on the scale suggested by the Honourable Member.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF CHAPLAINS RECRUITED IN INDIA.

789. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state why overseas pay, exchange compensation and other local allowances are given to officers in the ecclesiastical department who were recruited in India and were domiciled in India as agents or servants of missionary societies before they joined the ecclesiastical department?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: No overseas pay or exchange compensation allowance is granted to chaplains on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment. A small number of chaplains stationed in the presidency towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay and at certain other stations get house-rent allowances or rent-free quarters on account of the high cost of living.

INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION.

790. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** (a) In view of the pronouncement of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State in the Parliament and of the Honourable the Home Member in this House, will Government be pleased to state when the inquiry into the working of the Reforms Act will be undertaken?

(b) Whether the inquiry will be an open inquiry?

(c) Whether non-official Members will be nominated on the Inquiry Committee, including the representatives of all interests?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: As regards the nature of the inquiry into the working of the present constitution, I can say no more at present than in the statements which I made on the 8th and 18th February 1924, in this House. We shall consult Local Governments but, except that we intend that our investigation shall be a serious attempt to assess the causes and to examine the remedies necessary, I cannot at the moment say what further steps we shall take. It is proposed that the inquiry shall be begun with as little delay as possible.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: A supplementary question, Sir. Will the Government consider the advisability of associating with themselves in the inquiry one or two of those Members of the House who have had some experience of the working of the reforms during the last three years?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: As I said I cannot give a definite answer on this subject at present, but we have that suggestion under consideration.

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE MIRAJ-PANDHARPUR, KUDCHI-BAGALKOT AND
LONAND-PANDHARPUR LINES.**

791. *Sardar V. N. Mutalik: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when the construction of the following lines will be taken in hand;

(b) and what stage the consideration of the construction has reached:

1. Miraj-Pandharpur line.
2. Kudchi-Bagalkot.
3. Lonand-Pandharpur?

Mr. O. D. M. Hindley: (a) Government are not at present in a position to say when the construction of the lines referred to will be taken in hand.

(b) (1 and 3). Government are awaiting the revised estimates for the construction of these lines from the Barsi Light Railway Company.

(2) The construction estimate of the Kudchi-Bagalkot Railway was recently revised, the junction with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway being placed at Raibag instead of at Kudchi or Chinchli as originally proposed. The project does not at present promise an adequate return on its capital cost and its further consideration has been deferred.

**WITHDRAWAL OF THE EXEMPTION UNDER THE ARMS ACT FROM THE
SECOND AND THIRD CLASS SARDARS OF THE DECCAN.**

792. *Sardar V. N. Mutalik: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) The reasons for withdrawing the exemption enjoyed by the Second and Third Class Sardars of the Deccan under the Indian Arms Act, in the new rules under the Act?

(b) How long the order enjoyed this right and privilege or exemption?

(c) Whether it is not a fact that when the British Government was established in the Deccan, Government distinctly gave an undertaking that the rights and the privileges, enjoyed by the aristocracy, i.e., the Sardars, would be continued without any interference?

(d) Whether it is a fact that this is the only recognized class of aristocracy from which the exemption is withdrawn?

(e) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence on this point between this Government and the Government of Bombay?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state any cases where the exemption was misused?

(g) Are Government aware that there is a very strong feeling of dissatisfaction at the withdrawal of exemption, amongst the Sardars, and the withdrawal is considered as a blow to their prestige?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to reconsider their decision?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The privilege of life exemption enjoyed by the Second and Third Class Sardars of the Deccan under the rules of 1920 has not been withdrawn, but, as explained in paragraph 6 of the Home Department Resolution No. F-829,

dated the 8rd November 1923, certain entries have now been removed from the Schedule of personal exemptions attached to the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, and provision has been made for the grant to the persons concerned of life licences free of all fees.

- (e) The Government of India do not consider this to be necessary.
- (f) The Government of India have no information.
- (g) The Government of India received memorials to this effect in 1919.
- (h) No.

NEW PENSION RULES.

798. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik**: Will the Government be pleased to state when the new pension rules will be ready and published?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The rules are now under the consideration of the Secretary of State, and I am afraid it is not possible to say exactly when they will be published.

COMPLAINTS OF THE INCOME-TAX ASSESSEES OF AMRITSAR.

794. ***Lala Duni Chand**: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there have been persistently and continuously complaints on the part of the assesseees of Amritsar against the unjust and indiscriminate assessment of the income-tax?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of appeals filed by the assesseees of Amritsar against the assessment during the years 1920-21, 1921-22 and 1922-23?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Government have not received any such complaints recently. The Member, Board of Inland Revenue, visited Amritsar in April 1923, in connection with complaints made in the previous year, and no complaints have been received subsequently.

(b) 298 appeals were filed during the year 1922-23, but the Government have no information regarding 1920-21 and 1921-22.

INCOME-TAX ASSESSMENT OF LALA CHAJU MALL OF AMRITSAR.

795. ***Lala Duni Chand**: Is it a fact that one Lala Chaju Mall of Amritsar refused to pay the sum of Rs. 30,000, on account of the income-tax assessment, and the authorities had to resort to forcible recovery, and later on this amount was refunded to him, and, if so, have the Government done anything to compensate him for the wrong done to him, and to reprimand the Income-tax Officer for his high-handed action?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no information on the subject. They have called for it.

ALLEGED INCOMPETENCY OF THE INCOME-TAX STAFF AT AMRITSAR.

796. ***Lala Duni Chand**: Is it a fact that the staff of the Income-tax Department at Amritsar is not at all acquainted with the system of Book-keeping in vogue there, and that the Commissioner of Income-tax, Punjab, admitted the incompetency of the staff in this respect?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no information on the subject. They have called for it.

APPLICATIONS FOR FRESH ASSESSMENT TO INCOME-TAX FROM THE RESIDENTS OF AMRITSAR.

797. ***Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a number of applications for fresh assessment under section 27 of the Income-tax Act submitted to the I.T.O., Amritsar, were found missing, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the number of the complaints received with regard to them?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no information on the subject. They have called for it.

APPEALS AGAINST THE ORDERS OF THE INCOME-TAX OFFICER, AMRITSAR.

798. ***Lala Duni Chand:** (a) Is it a fact that in a large number of cases the Income-tax Officer, Amritsar, took an unusually long time in furnishing the copies of his orders, and the appellate authority refused to allow the time so taken, and dismissed the appeals as barred by time?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of income-tax refunded during the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 as a result of the appeals having been accepted, and was the action of the Income-tax Officer in the matter of unduly and unreasonably assessing the people disapproved of in some tangible way?

(c) Is it a fact that the appeals filed in the court of the Assistant Commissioner in June 1923 concerning the assessment of 1922-23 have not been yet heard, and, if so, do the Government propose to deprecate this unusual delay?

(d) Are the Government aware that the assesses of Amritsar have to come to Ambala, a distance of about 160 miles, to file their appeals before the Assistant Commissioner and are put to much inconvenience and trouble, and do the Government propose to take any steps to relieve them of this trouble and inconvenience?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Honourable Member has not stated to what Income-tax Officer he refers. Presumably he refers to the Income-tax Officer, Amritsar. The Government have no information on the subject. If the facts are as stated, the proper course was for the assesses, if they were dissatisfied with the decisions of the Assistant Commissioner, to move the Commissioner to exercise his powers of review.

(b) The Government have no information on the subject, and do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by calling for it. They do not consider that the work of an Income-tax Officer can be adequately judged by more mathematical standards in the manner suggested by the Honourable Member.

(c) The Government have no information on the subject. They have called for it.

(d) The Government have no information on the subject. If assesses are put to any avoidable inconvenience the Commissioner of Income-tax will no doubt take steps to remedy matters, if he is approached on the subject.

**ALLEGED DEFAMATORY REMARKS MADE BY THE INCOME-TAX OFFICER
IN HIS ORDERS AGAINST A NUMBER OF ASSESSEES.**

799. *Lala Duni Chand: Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the I. T. O. Amritsar made defamatory remarks in his orders against a number of assesses, and later on had to expunge them?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no information on the subject.

PROSECUTION OF AN INCOME-TAX OFFICER IN THE PUNJAB.

800. *Lala Duni Chand: Is it a fact that the Commissioner of Income-tax, Punjab, asked certain gentlemen not to prosecute a certain income-tax officer as such action would bring discredit to his Department?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no information on the subject.

DISMISSAL OF ARJAN SINGH.

801. *Mr. Ohaman Lal: (a) Are the Government aware of the case of one Arjan Singh, clerk, Rawalpindi Post Office, who was dismissed by the Postmaster, Rawalpindi, on the charge that he brought a false complaint against the Postmaster of using abusive language against him?

(b) Are the Government aware that the matter was inquired into by the Deputy Postmaster General of Punjab. Will the Government be pleased to state what was his finding and what order was passed by the Postmaster General?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: Government have no official information regarding this case, which has not come up to them on appeal.

Mr. Ohaman Lal: May I take this opportunity of thanking the Honourable Member, Mr. Clarke, for having re-instated this man?

**INADEQUACY OF WARM CLOTHING FOR THE MENIALS OF THE DELHI
G. P. O.**

802. *Mr. Ohaman Lal: (a) Are the Government aware that the postmen, letterbox peons and packers of the Delhi G. P. O. who have to perform their official duties commencing from 4 A.M. and 6 A.M. up to 6 P.M. and 9 P.M. in winter are inadequately clothed?

(b) Are the Government also aware that other departments give warm clothes including a coat to day-time menials and great coats in addition to those whose duties extend into the night?

(c) Are Government aware that want of adequate clothing causes serious hardships and dissatisfaction among the men who are often handicapped in performance of their official duties?

(d) Will the Government therefore be pleased to state what steps are proposed to be taken to remove the dissatisfaction created by this inadequacy of clothing?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Warm clothing is not supplied to postmen and menials stationed at places in the plains including Delhi. Woollen jerseys are however supplied to keep the men warm during winter.

(b) Government are not aware of any general practice of the kind except in the police force.

(c) No complaints of serious hardship or general dissatisfaction have been received from these officials in Delhi.

(d) The present arrangements are the best that can be made at a reasonable cost.

RENT-FREE QUARTERS FOR THE OFFICIALS OF THE DELHI POST OFFICE.

803. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Are the Government aware that officials in the Delhi Post Office have to attend so early as 4 and 5 A.M. in connection with their official duties but they are not provided with free departmental quarters and have to come from very far or pay very heavy rents beyond their means?

(b) Are the Government also aware that the quarters in the Delhi post office compound are occupied by motor contractors' men, telephone office, and are used as rest houses for officers visiting the post office on business for which they are paid travelling and halting expenses?

(c) Do the Government propose to take such steps as they deem necessary to put an end to this use of post office buildings and allow rent free quarters only to those who are entitled to their legitimate use?

Mr. G. E. Clarke: (a) One mail clerk attends at the Delhi Station at 4 A.M. One Assistant Postmaster, 7 clerks and 6 sorting postmen attend at the Post Office at 5 A.M.

The sorting postmen get Rs. 5 a month house rent allowance. The Assistant Postmaster and clerks all live within one mile of the Post Office. The average rent paid is 15½ per cent. of their salaries.

(b) There are no residential quarters fit for clerks situated on the post office premises. The motor drivers are making use of the out-houses, as their presence on the premises is necessary in the interests of the service. The telephone office has been accommodated in one of the out-houses as a temporary measure till it is transferred to the new building.

There is no rest house on the post office premises. The old horse contractor's quarters, to which the Honourable Member probably refers, have been condemned for living purposes owing to their dilapidated condition.

(c) (1) No objectionable use is made of any part of the buildings.

(2) No quarters are available for this purpose.

INADEQUACY OF PAY OF POSTAL OFFICIALS.

804. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Are the Government aware that there is serious discontent among postal officials regarding inadequacy of pay and prospects of non-gazetted officials and menial staff in the post office and differential treatment being awarded to officials of the telegraph and audit offices?

(b) Will the Government therefore be pleased to state their reasons for this anomaly and do they propose to effect improvements as suggested in resolutions of the all-India Postal Conferences?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Government have received representations from the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R. M. S. Union and various Postal Associations urging a revision of the scales of pay provided for various classes of Postal subordinates.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 26th February 1924 to part (a) of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt's starred question No. 518.

DUTY ALLOWANCES FOR DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS.

805. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is the Government aware that no duty allowance is sanctioned for posts of Asstt. and Deputy Postmasters not holding charge of offices and it is causing a good deal of heart-burning among Asstt. and Deputy Postmasters of all the post offices in India?

(b) Do the Government propose to remove this very serious grievance by sanctioning adequate duty allowance for Asstt. and Deputy Postmasters?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Government are aware that duty allowances are not granted to Deputy and Assistant Postmasters. They have no information on the second point.

(b) Government do not consider it necessary to grant duty allowances to the officials in question.

APPEALS OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

806. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Are the Government aware that appeals in the Postal Department are dealt with in a very summary manner, and the reply to appeals is often not more elaborate than "Appeal is rejected" "D. G. does not see any reason to interfere with the orders passed" or "the orders already passed stand" and so on?

(b) Are the Government aware that such replies fail to give satisfaction to the parties concerned who are losing faith in the existing appeal procedure?

(c) Are the Government prepared to modify the appeal procedure so as to include detailed replies to the points of appeal very nearly approaching judgments in law suits?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) No. The brevity of replies in appeal cases does not imply that the appeals are dealt with summarily. I may remind the Honourable Member that with regard to punishment orders it is a strict rule, the observance of which is duly insisted on, that in every case in which the punishment is dismissal, or any other severe penalty, the punishment orders must contain the facts and history of the case, the charges against the accused, a careful examination of the evidence in support of these charges and of the defence submitted, the motives which are supposed to have influenced the accused, and the opinion and decision on each charge of the officer passing the orders. The replies to appeals which are rejected indicate that they have been rejected on the grounds on which the punishment appealed against was inflicted, or in other words, that the orders of punishment are upheld. I may add that an official is always at liberty to inquire the reasons for the rejection of his appeal if they should not be apparent.

(b) and (c). The answer is in the negative.

PUNISHMENTS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

807. ***Mr. Ohaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that there has been an abnormal increase of punishments in the Postal Department in the year 1923-1924 as compared with 1921-1922?

(b) If so, will Government please lay on the table a comparative table showing the increase and give reasons for the same?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: Government are not aware of any such abnormal increase.

As statistics are not yet available for 1923-1924, it is not possible to give comparative tables.

Mr. Ohaman Lal: Will the Honourable Member give the comparative tables when the statistics are received?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: They will probably appear in the Annual Report.

INCREASE OF WORK IN THE DELHI POST OFFICE.

808. ***Mr. Ohaman Lal:** Are the Government aware that the work in the Delhi Post Office has outgrown the capacity of the building and the sanctioned staff and part of the leave reserve is being employed to carry on regular work in addition to the sanctioned staff? Do the Government see their way to strengthen the staff and give better service to the capital town of India and will the Government kindly state how the inadequacy of the building is proposed to be remedied?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The accommodation in the Delhi head post office building is inadequate and the question of making additions and alterations to it is receiving the consideration of the Director General. The office is not understaffed, and the leave reserve is being employed for the purpose for which it is provided.

LOSS ON THE WORKING OF THE REINFORCED CONCRETE FACTORY, DELHI.

809. ***Mr. Ohaman Lal:** Is it a fact that the Government sustained a loss of about Rs. 80,000 (Eighty thousand) on the working of the reinforced concrete factory, under the Public Works Department, Delhi? What were the circumstances of this case, and how was this loss disposed of? Were any officers of the Government responsible? What steps were taken against them?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: There was what is called a loss on the manufacture estimate; that is to say, the rates provided for in the estimate did not cover the cost of production. The difference which amounted to Rs. 86,481, has been distributed over the works concerned. The person primarily responsible for the keeping of the initial accounts is dead. The degree of responsibility of his controlling officer is still under consideration.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Who prepared the estimates? Is the man who prepared the estimates also dead?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I could not say.

DELAY IN THE GRANT OF INCREMENTS TO SUBORDINATES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

810. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that orders regarding the grant of annual increments to clerks, subordinates and draftsmen employed in the Public Works Department, Delhi, are not issued in the month of March every year as required, but are issued several months or even a year after they fall due, and this causes undue hardships and worry to the persons concerned?

(b) What are the causes which contribute to the delay?

(c) Was this irregularity pointed out by the Deputy Accountant General, Central Revenues, Delhi?

(d) Do the Government propose to order that the annual increments be granted by the heads of offices (Executive Engineers, etc.), according to the rules and practice in all the Departments of the Government of India and Local Governments, and the other offices? If not, will they please state their reasons?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) There was delay in issuing orders in the years 1922 and 1923.

(b) The delay was due to a large extent to the late receipt of the recommendation rolls and to the necessity for careful scrutiny of each individual case. The standards of efficiency of the reporting officers vary and an endeavour has to be made to reduce them to a common denominator. It may be mentioned that, in the year 1923, reports on over 450 persons in the clerical, draftsmen and subordinate establishment had to be considered. At the same time I have issued instructions that in future delays should be avoided so far as possible.

(c) No.

(d) The establishment is temporary and Government do not propose to interfere with the arrangements at present in force for granting promotions and increments.

STARTING PAY OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN CLERKS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

811. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the starting pay of Indian and European clerks in the Public Works Department, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian clerks even with experience are appointed on Rs. 51, and European and female clerks fresh from school generally get a start of about Rs. 95 or 100 per mensem? If not, will the Government please state the names of such European or female clerks who were appointed on the initial pay of Rs. 51 per mensem?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for differentiation in their pay?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) and (c). There is no definite starting pay for clerks. The establishment is temporary and the initial pay of each clerk is fixed according to merits and capacity in each case.

(b) There have been cases of Indian clerks starting on lower pay than European and lady clerks and also cases of Indian clerks starting on higher pay.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government explain why this difference is made?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: According to the merits and capacity of the different persons appointed.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: How are the merits judged? By some university qualifications, or educational qualifications, or what?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: Everything taken together.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Is that the universal rule?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I believe so.

Mr. Chaman Lal: That is to say, in every case Europeans get more than Indians?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I have already stated that there are many cases of Indian clerks starting on a higher pay than European clerks.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. C. S. ROBERTS AS A CATTLE RANGER IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

812. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. C. S. Roberts has been appointed as a Ranger in the Delhi Public Works Department on Rs. 240—10—270 per mensem? If so, what are his qualifications? Is he a qualified Ranger from any recognised school of Forestry?

(b) What are Mr. Robert's duties?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state their reasons for appointing him on such a high rate of pay, when trained Rangers could be had from the Forest College on considerably much lower pay?

(d) Was this post of Ranger in existence when Mr. C. S. Roberts was appointed to it, or was it created only for him? In the former case, will the Government please state the names of incumbents and the pay of each?

(e) Was any complaint received against Mr. C. S. Roberts, Ranger, and Mr. Mustoe, Superintendent, Horticultural Operations, and if so, have they been fully inquired into? By whom were the inquiries made? Was it the Superintendent, Horticultural Operations, who inquired into the complaints against himself? What was the result of the inquiry? Will the Government be pleased to lay these papers on the table?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Mr. Roberts has been appointed as a cattle Ranger, not as a Forest Ranger. He is qualified for this appointment.

(b) He primarily looks after grazing and cattle trespassing. He is also in charge of Preserved Monuments in the New Capital.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The appointment did not hitherto exist. Formerly the duties were divided between two or more officials and the arrangement was found unsatisfactory.

(e) No complaint has been received against Mr. Roberts. Some allegations have been made against Mr. Roberts, which on inquiry by his superior officers were proved to be frivolous. Government do not consider it necessary to lay the papers on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. T. GATELY AS A TEMPORARY ENGINEER IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

818. *Mr. Ohaman Lal: (a) Is it a fact that the Government have recently appointed one Mr. T. Gately as a temporary engineer in the Public Works Department, Delhi, and that he has been posted as a Sub-Divisional Officer in the 3rd Project Division? If so, on what pay and from what date?

(b) Was this Mr. T. Gately, formerly employed in the Public Works Department, Delhi, as a temporary Engineer, and was he even then holding charge of a Sub-Division in the 3rd Project Division? If so, will the Government please state the date of appointment and resignation of his first post, and the pay on which he had first joined, as also the pay he was drawing at the time of leaving the Department? Was he ever employed before also in a very junior position on about Rs. 50 or 60 per mensem? If so, on what pay and post?

(c) What is the normal rate of annual increment in the case of temporary engineers?

(d) What are the reasons of his being appointed now on such a high pay?

(e) What are the educational and technical qualifications of Mr. T. Gately?

(f) Could not a better qualified Indian or European be secured on this pay, and was any attempt made to find out and obtain a more suitable officer?

(g) Could not any of the present qualified temporary engineers working in the 3rd Division be appointed to the post, and if any one was available, why was he not appointed?

(h) Has a new Sub-Division been created in the 3rd Project Division on Mr. Gately's appointment to the Department now? What is the principle underlying the creation and abolition of Sub-Divisions?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Mr. Gately has been appointed on a consolidated pay of Rs. 850 from February 1st, 1924. This includes all travelling within a radius of 10 miles. He is not a Sub-Divisional Officer.

(b) He was employed as a temporary Engineer from the 22nd March 1921 to the 30th June 1922, when he resigned. He was appointed on Rs. 400, plus travelling allowance, and was drawing Rs. 420 when he left, being dissatisfied with his pay.

He was never employed on Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 per mensem.

(c) There is no normal rate.

(d) Owing to the non-return from leave of one of the senior Electrical Engineers, the division of work in the III and X Divisions had to be re-arranged and Mr. Gately was appointed in the re-arrangement. His pay is fixed at Rs. 850, which is approximately the amount of his total emoluments in the last appointment he held under the Government of India, which he resigned to join his present appointment. The pay fixed is justified by the work involved in the appointment.

(e) He was educated at Manor House College and received his technical training under Mr. J. S. Pitkeathly.

(f) A better qualified officer could not be obtained for the particular work for which he was required.

(g) No.

(h) No, there are no Sub-Divisions in the ordinary sense of the term in the Electrical and Mechanical Circle.

SHORTAGE OF ELECTRIC BULBS IN THE 3RD PROJECT DIVISION, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

814. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that when Mr. W. F. Symes, Executive Engineer, 3rd Project Division, Public Works Department, Delhi, proceeded on leave in March, 1923, there was a shortage of 10,000 (ten thousand) electric bulbs in the stock of that Division, and these were subsequently written off? What are the full circumstances of the case, and what steps were taken by the Government to make thorough inquiries into the matter? Were these bulbs actually received in stock, and if so, what became of them? What is the name of the contractor or the firm, who had supplied these bulbs? What was the total value of the loss thus sustained by the Government, and under whose authority was this amount written off? Why were no legal steps taken against the persons involved?

(b) If the inquiries made were incomplete, do the Government now propose to institute a thorough independent inquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) There was no shortage of bulbs.

(b) Does not arise.

PAY AND QUALIFICATIONS OF MR. A. WEMYSS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

815. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the name and pay of the post held in the Public Works Department, Delhi, by Mr. A. Wemyss, and his qualifications, both technical and educational?

(b) Does this officer also work as Personal Assistant to the Superintending Engineer, Electrical and Mechanical Circle?

(c) Was the appointment now held by Mr. Wemyss, formerly held by one Mr. A. G. Khan; what pay was Mr. Khan drawing and what were his educational and technical qualifications? Was Mr. Khan working as Electrical Inspector in addition to his other duties, and was he getting any allowance for it?

(d) Had Mr. A. G. Khan ever applied for a substantial increase in his pay, and what was the fate of this application?

(e) Is it a fact that as Mr. Khan was not well paid in the Public Works Department, Delhi, he went to the Indian Stores Department? What pay is he getting there now?

(f) If the educational and technical qualifications of Mr. Wemyss are not higher than those of Mr. A. G. Khan, what are the grounds on which a higher pay has been given to the former, and was previously refused to the latter? Is it based on racial bias or prejudice?

(g) What steps do the Government propose to take in this case, with a view to avoid such incidents and the resultant dissatisfaction among the Indian officers?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Mr. A. Wemyss holds the appointment of Stock Verifying Officer on a pay of Rs. 1,100 p. m. He was educated at Tonbridge School, Oxford University, and Heidelberg University.

(b) No.

(c) No. Mr. Khan was a temporary Electrical Engineer, acting as Assistant to the Superintendent Engineer, Electrical and Mechanical Circle, and for a period of two months carried on the duties of Stock Verifying Officer as a temporary measure. Mr. Khan was in receipt of Rs. 775, the maximum pay admissible to an officer of his service under the rules. Mr. Khan holds the degrees of B. A., M. Sc. (Tech.) A.M.I.E. He acted as Electrical Inspector for three months. No allowance is attached to the latter post.

(d) No.

(e) Mr. Khan applied for and secured a better paid appointment in the Indian Stores Department. He draws Rs. 950 *plus* a special duty allowance of Rs. 100 in that Department.

(f) and (g). The two men were holding different appointments and the question does not therefore arise.

ASSISTANT ESTATE OFFICER, DELHI.

816. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is it a fact that owing to the grant of pay being refused by the Indian Legislature, the post of Assistant Estate Officer was abolished in the year 1921, but it was subsequently re-created by the Government only after a lapse of a few months' time? Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information:

Name and pay of the former incumbent of the post, at the time of its abolition.

Name and pay of the present incumbent on the first appointment, and his present pay.

Reasons for re-creating this appointment.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. Mr. C. Posth held the appointment of Assistant Estate Officer from the 1st April 1920 when the post was created to the 25th May 1921 and was in receipt of Rs. 750 on the latter date.

The present incumbent is Mr. R. S. Brown, who was appointed on Rs. 750 on the 26th May 1921, and is now in receipt of Rs. 850, the maximum pay of the post. The post has been in existence from the 1st April 1920 and has not been abolished nor re-created since then.

PAY AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SANITARY STAFF, RAISINA.

817. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information in respect of the Sanitary Superintendent, and the Sanitary Inspectors employed under the Health Officer, Imperial City, Raisina, chargeable to the Public Works Department, Delhi:

- (1) Name of incumbent, (2) Educational and special technical qualifications, (3) date of appointment, (4) pay and allowances on first appointment, (5) date and amount of each increment granted, (6) present pay and allowances, and the date of promotion to present pay.

The Honourable Mr. A. O. Chatterjee: Mr. C. W. Pigott is employed as Sanitary Superintendent under the Health Officer, Delhi, and Mr. H. S. Rossiter as Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Pigott was educated in the La Martiniere College, Lucknow, and before appointment to his present post had rendered about 7 years service in the Public Works Department, Central Provinces. He has no technical education but has acquired practical experience in Sanitary Engineering and Health Engineering. He was appointed as Sanitary Superintendent on the 1st November 1917 on Rs. 180 p. m. He has since then received the following increase in pay:

	Ra.
From 1st April 1918	200
From 1st March 1919	220
From 16th August 1919	270
From 1st October 1919	320
From 1st March 1920	345
From 1st March 1921	370
From 1st May 1922	370 plus a duty allowance of Ra. 50 for the New Capital Railway Works.
From 1st March 1923	390 Ditto.

Mr. Rossiter was educated in the Boys' High School, Lahore, and before appointment to Delhi has served for about 8 years in the Punjab Police. He has no special technical education but is practically qualified for the appointment he holds. He was appointed as Sanitary Inspector on the 3rd May 1920 on Rs. 100 p. m. He has since then received the following increases in pay:

	Ra.
From 1st March 1921	150
From 1st March 1922	157
From 1st March 1923	164

Mr. Chaman Lal: Did I understand the Honourable Member to say that this gentleman was in the Punjab Police service?

The Honourable Mr. A. O. Chatterjee: Yes. He is now in the sanitary service of the New Capital works.

COMPLAINTS OF THE SWEEPERS EMPLOYED UNDER THE HEALTH OFFICER, RAISINA.

818. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is it a fact that the sweepers employed under the Health Officer, Imperial City, Raisina, submitted a petition to the higher authorities in Raisina, complaining that they were being forced by the Sanitary Inspectors and Daroghas, etc., to pay certain amounts as illegal gratifications, as was published in a local Urdu daily "Tej" in October 1923 (cuttings attached)? If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps were taken to inquire into and arrive at the truth of the allegations contained therein, and if the same were found based on facts and correct, have proper steps been taken against the offenders? If not, do the Government now propose to take any legal steps in the matter, and if not, why? Were any other officials also involved in this case?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: A complaint was received from the sweepers employed under the Health Officer, New Capital, against the Daroghas and Jamadars but not against the superior supervising establishment. A careful inquiry was made into the matter by the Health Officer but the allegations were not substantiated. No legal steps could be taken in the matter. No other officials were involved.

Mr. K. Ahmed: May I ask what are the sources of information of the Honourable Member, on which he has put these questions?

Mr. Chaman Lal: If the Honourable Member would only look to the text of the question he will find the sources of information indicated therein

TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

819. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that service of the temporary employes of the Public Works Department, Delhi, counts for leave and pension after a period of three years' continuous service? If so, will the Government please state the circumstances under which the gratuity or pension, which is reckoned as deferred pay, earned by the following persons, whose services were terminated on one month's notice according to their agreements, was not granted, and what was the total period of service of each of them:

- (1) B. Harcharan Singh, temporary subordinate.
- (2) B. Mangat Ram, temporary subordinate.
- (3) B. Bhagwan Dass, temporary subordinate.

(b) What were the qualifications of each of the above-named three subordinates?

(c) Were there no unqualified subordinates junior to the above-named persons, both in pay and service and having less than three years' service not entitled to pension or gratuity? If so, why were their services not terminated in preference to those of the seniors? Have any new subordinates been appointed to the Department, since the termination of the services of the above-named persons?

(d) Was B. Bhagwan Dass, temporary subordinate, on leave on full pay on medical certificate, when the notice of termination of services was given to him? Was a portion of his leave therefore cancelled, and under what particular ruling was this procedure justified? What was the total period of leave at the credit of this subordinate, on the date he ceased his connection with the Department?

(e) Was a female clerk, having a few months' service, granted leave on half pay for 8 months just before the termination of her services? Why was not this procedure adopted in the case of Babu Bhagwan Dass, who had rendered several years' service?

(f) Do the Government now propose to consider the cases of the above-named subordinates?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The service of certain classes of temporary employes of the Public Works Department, Delhi, counts for pension and leave, provided that they have held substantively temporary appointments in the Department for not less than 3 years and their service is approved. Babu Harcharan Singh had rendered service for 10 years 3

months and 15 days; Babu Mangat Ram for 4 years 4 months and 21 days and Babu Bhagwan Das for 5 years 9 months and 28 days when their services were terminated. The services of all three of these subordinates were terminated for unsatisfactory work and they forfeited their right to pension and gratuity.

(b) Babu Harcharan Singh and Babu Bhagwan Das were qualified upper subordinates from the Thomason College, Roorkee. Babu Mangat Ram had practical qualifications.

(c) There were subordinates junior to these 3 men in employ when they were discharged, but as already stated, their services were terminated for unsatisfactory work. Certain new subordinates have been appointed since the termination of their services.

(d) Babu Bhagwan Das was on leave on full average pay on medical certificate for 4 months when the notice of termination of service was given to him. His leave dated from the 14th February 1923 but on the 2nd May 1923 the subordinate wrote to his Executive Engineer stating specifically that he did not wish to avail himself of the remaining leave nor did he want pay for the remaining period of his leave. In accordance with his request he was paid up to the 2nd May 1923 and his service was terminated from that date.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The leave in question was granted on half pay on medical certificate. In view of the answer to (d) above the second part of the question does not arise.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

TERMINATION OF THE SERVICES OF MR. RAM PERSHAD, SUB-ENGINEER IN THE P. W. D., DELHI.

820. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** What are the circumstances justifying the termination of the services of Mr. Ram Pershad, Sub-Engineer, who had rendered about 10 years' service in the Public Works Department, Delhi, on one month's notice? Were there no officers junior to him and with less or no qualifications who could be brought under reduction if it was the object in view? Had this officer applied for leave, and why was it refused? What was the total amount of the leave due to this officer on the date of his relief? Do the Government now propose to consider his case?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The services of Mr. Ram Pershad were terminated, in accordance with the terms of his agreement, when they were no longer required. Some junior officers were dispensed with on the same occasion but reduction of establishment cannot be confined to junior men only. Mr. Ram Pershad was granted leave for 8 months with effect from the 1st February 1923 and this leave was cancelled in April 1923 at his own request. The Sub-Engineer was due leave on average pay for 4 months and 8 days and on half average pay for 9 months 28 days on the 15th June 1923, when he was relieved of his duties. The case was recently considered by the Government of India and it is not proposed to re-open the question.

TERMINATION OF THE SERVICES OF MESSRS. KUMAR AND SANDHU, TEMPORARY ENGINEERS, P. W. D., DELHI.

821. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) What was the period of service rendered by (1) Mr. C. L. Kumar, and (2) Mr. N. S. Sandhu, Temporary Engineers, Delhi, at the time their services were terminated, on one month's notice?

(b) What are the educational and technical qualifications of each of the above-named officers? Are these qualifications inferior or superior to any of the Temporary Engineers junior to them who are still in service?

(c) Why no regard was paid to their better qualifications and to their seniority when their services were terminated, and what were the causes which led to it?

(d) Was Mr. Sandhu on leave on medical certificate when the notice of termination of services was served upon him, and did it result in cancelling a portion of the leave recommended by the medical authorities? Under what rules was this action justified?

(e) Why the leave applied for by Mr. Sandhu was not granted to him in full? If it was due to the reason that leave on full average pay for the whole period was not due to him, why was he not granted leave on half average salary, or even leave on full average salary in advance permissible under the rules?

(f) Do the Government propose to review the cases of these two officers, Mr. Kumar and Mr. Sandhu?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Mr. C. L. Kumar, temporary Engineer, had rendered service for 2 years, 8 months and 13 days and Mr. N. S. Sandhu, service for 2 years, 1 month and 18 days when their services were terminated.

(b) Mr. Kumar went through a three-term course of training in Civil Engineering at the Crystal Palace School of Practical Training and is an Associate Member of the Institute of Municipal Engineers. Mr. Sandhu holds the degree of M.A. and is an A.M.I.C.S., F.R.S.A., and M.R.A.S. No Engineer junior to Mr. Kumar who is still in employ has inferior technical education to him. Some have inferior technical education to Mr. Sandhu.

(c) Regard was paid both to their qualifications, length of service and other considerations before these officers were selected for discharge. Their services were terminated on the reduction of establishment.

Sir, the answers to remaining parts of this question and the next question are even more tedious than those that I have given and I propose to lay these answers on the table with the Honourable Member's permission.

(Remaining portion of answer to question No. 821 laid on the table.)

(d) and (e). Mr. Sandhu applied for and was granted leave on average pay for 8 months on the strength of a medical certificate from the 18th July 1923. In October he applied for an extension of leave till the end of December 1923, and in December 1923 he applied for a further extension to the end of February 1924. The former application was supported by a medical certificate recommending leave till the 15th December 1923 and the latter by a medical certificate recommending 8 or 10 weeks leave from the 4th December 1923. The Audit Department certified that the total leave on average pay at the credit of Mr. S. Sandhu on the 18th July 1923 was 8 months and 16 days. As he had no leave at his credit on the 29th October 1923 an extension of leave on half average pay could be granted on medical certificate provided there was a prospect of his returning to duty and earning leave equivalent to the amount of leave "not due" taken. This certificate was received on the 19th November 1923. In the interim, however, Mr. Sandhu had been selected for discharge on the reduction of establishment, so that there was no question of his resuming duty and earning any more leave. On being apprised of this the Audit

Department certified to the admissibility of leave, without allowances only after the 29th October 1923. One month's notice of termination of service was served on Mr. Sandhu on the 19th December 1923 and he was granted leave on full average pay for 3 months and 16 days (the maximum due) and leave without allowances to cover the remaining period of his absence (that is, up to the 19th January 1924). The medical certificate produced by the Temporary Engineer recommended leave of absence up to the 29th January 1924 (that is, 8 weeks) or 12th February 1924 (that is, 10 weeks). In view, however, of the fact that only leave without allowances was admissible it was not worth while extending the period of the leave or notice.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: Might I ask, Sir, when you have long answers like these you will be good enough to lay them on the table? We have very serious business before the House to-day and a great deal of time is being taken up in answering these questions which, I ask, might be laid on the table.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I think, Sir, the appeal should be made to the non-official Members of the House.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: I intended really to appeal to them also.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Sir, are there not any fixed rules with regard to these starred and unstarred questions put by Honourable Members of the House so that we may consider whether they are important enough to be asked and answered as starred questions. I do not think the questions which the Honourable Member has asked about sweepers and the grades of various officers are very important, as also all the post office matters which have occupied the House from the beginning to the end. Would it not be better, Sir, for the Committee of which you are the Chairman to take up these matters and make certain changes in the rules if necessary.

Mr. Chaman Lal: May I point out that I put these questions deliberately as starred questions because I want to draw the attention of this House to the working of the P. W. D. I wanted to bring out the working of this Department and to concentrate the attention of the House on it.

Mr. President: A more proper way of drawing attention of this House to the working of any Department is to move a resolution in that Department demand or to move a Resolution. I observe from the supplementary questions that have been asked that there is a certain amount of feeling in the House regarding the Honourable Member's questions. I may say I considered the matter very carefully before admitting any of these questions as to whether they were matters of public concern. I gave the Honourable Member the benefit of the doubt. I would, however, add that I hope every Member of this House, when he proceeds to ask questions about individuals, will exercise more than usual caution in not casting a reflection upon individuals unless he is very sure of his ground.

Mr. Chaman Lal: I am quite prepared, in view of your ruling, Sir, that the answers should be laid on the table.

Mr. President: That is a different subject. That is a matter of the time of the House and it is already the practice here that an Honourable Member of Government in replying to a question, if he considers the answer to the question must necessarily go to a great length, may in his discretion lay it on the table or not as he chooses.

Mr. Chaman Lal: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I may say I would have taken the course of moving a reduction but the party's rules precluded me from doing so.

Mr. President: Then the Honourable Member is trying to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. He must choose.

MR. W. WILKINS, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL OFFICE, P. W. D., DELHI.

822. *Mr. Chaman Lal: (a) Will the Government please furnish the following information in respect of Mr. W. Wilkins, Chief Superintendent, Central Office, P. W. D., Delhi:

- (1) Educational qualifications, etc.
- (2) Date of appointment to Government service, and the pay on that date.
- (3) Date of his deputation to Delhi.
- (4) Name and pay of the substantive post held by him in the P. w. Department, Punjab, at the time he joined the Delhi P. W. D., on deputation, and at present.
- (5) Name and pay of the post held by him in the Public Works Department, Delhi, when he first joined and the pay now drawn by him.
- (6) Average rate of annual increment received while actually serving in the Punjab, and the average rate of increment earned by him in his substantive post in that Province during the period of deputation to Delhi.
- (7) Average rate of annual increment granted to him in the Public Works Department, Delhi.

(b) On what grounds was Mr. Wilkins selected for the present post, and consequently obtained on deputation from the Punjab?

(c) What is the reason of the increase in his pay? Could he not serve here on his substantive pay in the Punjab P. W. D. *plus* usual deputation allowance of 20 per cent.?

(d) Why was none of the existing Superintendents appointed to the post of Chief Superintendent, in preference to an outsider?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) (1) Mr. Wilkins has passed the Matriculation Examination of the Bombay University.

(2) He was appointed to Government service on the 10th May 1918 on Rs. 60 per mensem.

(3) 17th February 1922.

(4) He was an Assistant, Upper Division, in the Public Works Department, Punjab, on Rs. 250 in the grade of Rs. 100—10—300 when he was deputed to Delhi. Information is not available as to his present pay in the Punjab.

(5) Chief Superintendent of the Central Office, Public Works Department, Delhi, to which he was appointed on Rs. 350 per mensem on the 17th February 1922: His present pay is Rs. 390 per mensem.

(6) The information is not available.

(7) Rs. 20.

(b) and (c). The post of Chief Superintendent fell vacant and Mr. Wilkins was selected for the post by the Chief Engineer as he was considered the most suitable man for the post. The pay of the post is Rs. 850—20—450. He was not willing to take up the appointment on lower pay nor would it have been reasonable to expect him to do so.

(d) None of the Superintendents in the Central Office was considered fit to hold the appointment of Chief Superintendent.

ARCHITECTS EMPLOYED IN THE P. W. D., DELHI.

823. *Mr. Chaman Lal: (a) Will the Government please state the number of architects employed on the staff of the Public Works Department, Delhi, in addition to Sir Edwin Lutyens and Mr. Herbert Baker, the British architects working under contract system?

(b) What is the name and pay of each such architect, and what is the total expenditure incurred annually on their pay and allowances, as well as the pay and allowances of their staff? What is the gross expenditure incurred on this account by the Government, from the beginning of the New Capital Project up to date?

(c) How many different types of buildings have been designed by them, and what is the cost of one building of each type designed by them from the beginning up to date?

(d) To what percentage does the gross expenditure incurred up to date on their pay, etc., furnished by the Government in reply to the last part of

(b) above, work out if the cost of one building of each type designed by these Architects is totalled together? How does this percentage compare with the rates allowed to the British architects (Sir Edwin Lutyens and Mr. Herbert Baker)?

(e) What are the buildings still required to be designed by these architects, and does the work necessitate the retention of so many highly paid architects in Government service?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a), (b), (c) and (d). There are at present 8 architects employed in the Public Works Department, Delhi, in addition to Sir Edwin Lutyens and Mr. Baker, namely, Mr. R. T. Russell on Rs. 2,050, Mr. Davies on Rs. 1,175, and Mr. T. H. O. Collings on Rs. 1,625. The actual expenditure incurred on the P. W. D. architects and their establishment is not readily available, but the total cost did not exceed Rs. 6½ lakhs for the 10 years ending the 31st March 1923. The actual expenditure on works designed by them during the same period was over Rs. 2 crores (this excludes designs and layouts not carried out or given effect to). The percentage was thus about 8½ as compared with 6 paid to the English architects for the central buildings.

(e) The balance of the architects' work in hand, excluding fund heads other than 57 New Capital, amounts to over Rs. 1 crore. The work in hand and to be done cannot be accomplished within the time available with less than the number of architects now employed.

CASE OF PANDIT HARI RAM SHARMA OF THE CHIEF AUDITOR'S OFFICE, N.-W. RAILWAY, LAHORE.

824. *Lala Duni Chand: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that one Pandit Hari Ram Sharma, sub-head of the Goods section in the Chief Auditor's Office, N. W. Railway, Lahore, drawing Rs. 118

per mensem with a service record of more than nine years, submitted a medical certificate signed by Captain T. R. Khanna, I.M.S., Medical Officer, Lahore Cantonment, on 9th November 1921, recommending him two months' sick leave from that date?

(b) Is it a fact that the medical certificate for two months' sick leave was not accepted by the Chief Auditor, N. W. R., Lahore; if so, what were the reasons?

(c) Is it a fact that a similar certificate for three months' sick leave given by the same medical officer to L. Gopal Das, sub-head, Goods section in the Chief Auditor's Office, N. W. R., Lahore, was accepted by the Chief Auditor, and leave sanctioned on full pay?

(d) Is it a fact that Pandit Hari Ram Sharma submitted a further certificate signed by Major Deeks, I.M.D., Civil Surgeon, Gujranwala, on 4th January 1922, recommending him three months' further sick leave from 9th January 1922?

(e) Is it a fact that Pandit Hari Ram Sharma had to his credit privilege leave for more than 5 months on 9th November 1922?

(f) Is it a fact that Pandit Hari Ram Sharma's period of sickness for five months was not treated as sick leave or privilege leave on full pay by the Chief Auditor, N. W. R., Lahore, although it was covered by the two Medical certificates, granted by such competent medical authorities as Captain T. R. Khanna, I.M.S., Medical Officer, Lahore Cantonment, and Major Deeks, I.M.D., Civil Surgeon, Gujranwala?

(g) Is it a fact that Pandit Hari Ram Sharma's services were terminated by the Chief Auditor, N. W. R., Lahore, while he was on a sick bed without giving him any notice or one month's pay in lieu of notice on 15th February 1922, as provided in "State Railway Open Line Code, Volume 2, para. 298"?

(h) In view of the facts as stated and brought out in the above questions, do the Government propose to compensate Pandit Hari Ram Sharma for the wrong done to him?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no information on the subject. They are making inquiries from the Auditor General and the Honourable Member will be informed of the result in due course.

ARMY CLOTHING FACTORY, SHAHJAHANPORE.

825. ***Lala Hans Raj:** 1. In the answers given in this House on the 4th February last to questions Nos. 107, 109, it was admitted—

(a) that private producers were capable of supplying the army clothing requirements of Government;

(b) that unless special reasons existed, Government factories would not manufacture articles which could be purchased from private producers.

It was also stated in the answer to question No. 110—

(c) that an expenditure of Rs. 4½ lakhs was sanctioned for the building of proper workshops at Shahjahanpore and that further additions to the factory were in contemplation.

2. Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why the action in (c) above is considered necessary in view of the statements in (a) and (b)?

3. Will the Government also be pleased to state how much of the expenditure of Rs. 4½ lakhs is being apportioned to buildings, how much to plant and how much to stock in trade, if any?

Mr. E. Burdon: 1. The answers to which the Honourable Member refers were not intended to convey, and it is not actually the case, that private producers are capable of supplying all the Army clothing requirements of the Army in India. Moreover, in the case of army clothing, it is necessary, for military reasons, to retain a fairly substantial nucleus of manufacturing capacity in the hands of the military authorities.

2. The buildings are required to provide for the official manufacture of army clothing up to the extent which I have just mentioned. The buildings, I may mention, will not be a net addition to our manufacturing capacity, since, as I explained on a previous occasion, the clothing factory and depot at Alipur, which in present day conditions is a less convenient location than Shahjahanpore, has been closed down as a clothing factory.

3. The whole of the expenditure will be incurred on buildings.

POWERS OF APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF INCOME-TAX COMMISSIONERS.

826. ***Haji Wajihuddin:** Is it a fact that the status of Income-tax Commissioners is equal to that of a first grade collector or at the most to that of a Divisional Commissioner, and if so, why and on what principle the power of appointment and dismissal of Assistant Income-tax Commissioners and Income-tax Officers has been granted to one officer, and not to the Local Government as in all other cases? Also to state whether the Government propose to revise the Income-tax Act, accordingly in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Section 5 (4) of the Income-tax Act, 1922, empowers the Commissioner of Income-tax to appoint Assistant Commissioners and Income-tax Officers, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council. This control is exercised through the Local Government and such appointments require the approval of the Local Government. Any Assistant Commissioner or Income-tax Officer who has been dismissed, has a right of appeal to the Local Government. The Government see no reason to modify the law or rules on the subject.

RESIGNATION OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

827. ***Haji Wajihuddin:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- How many Income-tax Officers had tendered their resignations in the United Provinces during the last 8 years?
- How many had refused to join the department after selection?
- How many had applied for reversion to Deputy Collectorships?
- What are the reasons responsible for the changes, if any?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) None.

(b) One—who wished to appear at the examination for the Indian Civil Service.

(c) Two—one because he was passed over for promotion as Assistant Commissioner, and another on account of ill-health.

(d) The reasons stated in the answers to (b) and (c).

INCOME-TAX ASSESSMENTS.

828. *Haji Wajihuddin: Is it a fact that there are no provisions in the Income-tax Act, fixing the limit of "income" up to which an Income-tax Officer has power to assess and so the whole lot depends upon the Income-tax Commissioners and, if so, do the Government propose to fix a maximum amount for the Income-tax Officers to frame assessment?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the fact that all assessments are made by Income-tax Officers. An Assistant Commissioner may be empowered to exercise the powers of an Income-tax Officer, but his normal and proper functions are those of an appellate and supervising authority. It would be both impracticable and inconsistent with the scheme of the Income-tax Act to issue general orders imposing a monetary limit on the powers of Income-tax Officers as assessing officers. It is open to a Commissioner to restrict the powers of an individual Income-tax Officer if necessary.

DISSATISFACTION AMONG INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

829. *Haji Wajihuddin: (a) Will the Government be pleased to say when and by whom was Shafat Husain appointed as Assistant Income-tax Officer in the United Provinces, and when and by whom, and for what reasons, was he discharged from his duties?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the *Muslim Outlook*, dated the 21st March, 1928, on this subject?

(c) Are the Government aware that a feeling of general dissatisfaction is prevailing among the Income-tax Officers of the United Provinces on account of the provision of section 5 (4) of the Income-tax Act, and certain consequential circumstances, which have greatly lowered their status and if so, do the Government propose to have the same so modified that the appointment and dismissal powers be entrusted to Local Governments just as in the case of other Gazetted Officers?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Government have no information.

(b) No.

(c) No.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

880. *Haji Wajihuddin: Was any scheme about the creation of circles and numbers of Income-tax Officers framed and approved during the last three years and if so, when and with what result? If not enforced yet, please state reasons and whether the Government are now prepared to have it enforced forthwith?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: During the last three years schemes for the organisation or partial re-organisation of the Income-tax Department have been sanctioned for all the major Provinces—except Assam—and these schemes either have been introduced or are being gradually introduced as men are trained to fill the new appointments.

NEW CANTONMENTS ACT.

881. *Haji Wajihuddin: Is it a fact that the new Cantonments Act under the orders of the Government of India will be enforced from 1st April

next, in all the Provinces, and if so, whether the new electoral rolls will be prepared or whether the present rolls for local Councils, will do for the election of members to the new Cantonment Board? Also what would be the fate of the present Cantonment Magistrates?

Mr. E. Burdon: The Cantonments Act, 1924 (II of 1924), will be brought into force with effect from 1st May 1924. Electoral rolls for the election of members to Cantonment Boards will be prepared under the orders of Local Governments in accordance with sections 26—31 of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

Officers of the Cantonment Magistrates' Department who agree to be transferred will be employed in the new Cantonments Department as Inspecting or Executive Officers of Cantonments.

CONVERSION OF THE PLATFORM OF THE GARIB SHAH MOSQUE, DELHI, INTO A RAILWAY PLATFORM.

832. ***Haji Wajihuddin:** To what extent is it true that a portion of the platform (which under the Muhammadan Law is a part of the mosque) belonging to Garib Shah mosque on Pahargunj Road, Delhi, is proposed to be converted into the "railway platform and improvement of railway lines" which are under construction and whether the Government will issue immediate orders not to touch any portion of the said as well as all other platforms hitherto attached to mosques?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: It is not true that any portion of the platform of the Gharib Shah mosque is to be cut off and converted into a railway platform. The mosque building and platform will not be touched. It may be necessary at some future time to take up a portion of the courtyard. The only action immediately contemplated is the removal of the out-house to the South-west of the mosque. This alteration, as has been repeatedly explained to local persons interested, is absolutely indispensable for the construction of the new railway station.

MOSQUES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS PROTECTED UNDER ACT VII OF 1904.

833. ***Haji Wajihuddin:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the mosques and other religious buildings protected under Act VII of 1904, also which of them have been already repaired and at what cost and which of them are still unrepaired with estimates of repairs?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: I shall be glad to show to the Honourable Member statements showing the monuments in India protected under Act VII of 1904 in which mosques and other religious buildings are indicated. The attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to the statements of monuments repaired prior to 1920-21 which will be found in the Provincial Archaeological Reports and in which the cost incurred is given. A consolidated statement of works carried out during the year 1921-22 can also be shown to the Honourable Member. There is no finality about repairs, the need for which may arise at any time. Government are, therefore, unable to supply the information asked for in the concluding portion of the question.

COMPENSATION FOR MOSQUES IN THE NEW CAPITAL.

884. *Haji Wajihuddin: Are any funds in payment of compensation for grounds belonging to certain mosques in Raisina deposited under the control of Government of India, and if so, please state full particulars?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: A sum of Rs. 80,547 is lying in deposit with the District Judge, Delhi, as compensation awarded 10 years ago for mosques in the course of the Land Acquisition proceedings for the new Capital. This sum covers 17 mosques situated in 8 small villages. The details are not likely to interest the House, but are available for the information of any claimants to the compensation.

TOMB OF ZEBU-N-NISA BEGUM.

885. *Haji Wajihuddin: Are the Government aware that the tomb of Hazrat Zebunisa (daughter of Aurangzaib, Alamgir Badshah) is situated in the Tis Hazari Bagh grounds, and if so, whether the Government intend to make some necessary improvements therein to safeguard the said tomb, and whether the Government have received donations from certain Ruling Princes and Muslim *raises* for the purpose, and if so, please state amounts and when the work will be taken in hand?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: From inquiries recently made it now appears unlikely that the grave referred to on the Tis Hazari Maidan is the grave of Zebu-n-Nisa Begum. In the circumstances Government do not now propose to spend any money on the grave referred to and have not invited or received any donation for the purpose.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is it not a fact, Sir, that a similar question was put by myself in 1922, and your predecessor, Sir Henry Sharp, answered evasively that the matter was under consideration?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: Yes, there was a belief then that the grave was the grave of the lady in question, but further inquiries by the experts have shown that this is not the case.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Has it taken two years from 1922 to 1924 to make further inquiries? Government was going to take action in that matter then.

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: Inquiries have been made and the result is as I have given just now.

MOSQUE ON ASOKA ROAD, RAISINA.

886. *Haji Wajihuddin: Is it a fact that a small mosque is situated on the corner of Asoka Road, Raisina?

Will Government state:

- (a) whether any application to re-roof the said mosque has been submitted,
- (b) and if so, with what result,
- (c) is there any objection to have it covered with a pucca roof,
- (d) and if so, on what grounds, if any?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The question presumably refers to a small building known as the Randiwali or prostitute's mosque. This stands on land which has always been recorded as Government property. It is not known when the encroachment took place. An application to repair and re-roof the building was received last year. The applicant was asked to prove that he had any claim to this building standing on Crown land. This he has not as yet done.

THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS' DIFFICULTIES IN PURCHASING TICKETS.

837. ***Haji Wajihuddin:** Are the Government aware that the large number of 3rd class passengers on principal stations throughout India are faced with great trouble and sometimes loss in purchasing their tickets on account of a single ticket seller and hundreds of purchasers at a time, and whether the Government will be pleased to make thorough inquiry and consider the advisability of increasing the number of booking clerks wherever necessary to remove the complaint?

Mr. O. D. M. Hindley: The provision of facilities to enable 3rd class passengers to obtain their tickets without difficulty is a matter which is receiving special attention from railways and the Government Inspectors.

PASSENGER SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE B. B. AND C. I. RAILWAY.

838. ***Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) When were the posts of Passenger Superintendents created on the B. B. and C. I. Railway?

(b) how many were appointed?

(c) on what annual cost?

(d) what extra amounts have been collected through them during any one year?

(e) have the public appreciated their services?

(f) had any representation been received from the public?

(g) what action was taken on it?

(h) if the posts have since been abolished, please state reasons.

Mr. O. D. M. Hindley: Inquiry has been made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

MUHAMMADANS IN THE POSTAL ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

839. ***Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Are the Government aware that a considerable (though proportionately small) number of Muhammadans is employed in the clerical service of the Postal Accounts Department; the number of S. A. S. men as well as gazetted officers is insignificant and their departmental interests are not adequately safeguarded?

(b) In view of the fact that only two out of 71 appointments are held by Muhammadans, do the Government propose to enforce measures which may lead to make up the number of Muhammadan S. A. S. to a normal proportion by (i) giving facilities to the intending candidates for acquiring the technical knowledge necessary for passing the

examination, (ii) appointing a handful of Muhammadans with good academic qualifications either from among those who are already in service or distinguished graduates from the Universities as paid probationers?

(c) Is the passing of the S. A. S. examination the only necessary test to judge the capabilities of a candidate to discharge the duties of an accountant?

(d) Have not the Government appointed several non-qualified men with a good record of clerical service as accountants exempting them from the examination? If so, cannot the experiment be repeated in the case of Muhammadans?

(e) Is it a fact that in one of the Postal Circles fresh recruitment has been reserved for members of the backward communities for a few years to come with a view to give them their due proportion? If so, are the Government prepared to adopt a similar course in the case of the Postal Accounts Service?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Inquiry is being made into the matter, and a further reply will be given to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

SUBSTITUTION OF A PROVIDENT FUND FOR PENSIONS.

840. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** (a) Are the Government aware that non-gazetted Government servants prefer Provident Fund to Pensions?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is under consideration to substitute Pensions by Provident Fund?

(c) What are the objections and difficulties in the way of adopting a Provident Fund scheme?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Government are not aware that there is any such general preference.

(b) and (c). The Government are prepared to examine the whole question. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the discussion on the subject printed at pages 244 to 258 of the Council of State Debates, Volume IV, No. 10.

PAY OF DAFTARIES IN THE SECRETARIAT AND ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

841. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the rates of pay and pensions allowed to daftaries in the Secretariat and Army Headquarters in 1919 and 1922, respectively?

(b) Is it a fact that in view of the similar nature of duties performed at the same station and with similar qualifications and mode of living of the Secretariat and Army Headquarters daftaries, their rates of pay have always been and are still unequal?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Secretariat daftaries now get Rs. 20 as pension while A. H. Q. daftaries get only Rs. 10 under the same conditions and after drawing the same rate of pay?

(d) Will the Government state the reasons for this kind of differentiation?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The rates of pay of *daftaries* in the Secretariat and Army Headquarters are the same.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Secretariat appointments are regarded as having a higher status and more favourable conditions are for this reason attached to these. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining *daftaries* in Army Headquarters on existing terms.

Year.	PAY OF DAFTARIES IN		PENSION OF DAFTARIES IN	
	Secretariat.	Army Headquarters.	Secretariat.	Army Headquarters.
1919 . . .	Rs. 10-1-24	Rs. 10-1-24	Half pay not exceeding Rs. 10.	Prior to 14th June 1919 <i>daftaries</i> were not entitled to a pension and from that date they have been eligible for a pension equivalent to half pay not exceeding Rs. 10.
1922 . . .	20-1-40 15-1-35	20-1-40 15-1-35	Half pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 30.	Half pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

842. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** Is it a fact that a few new posts were recently sanctioned for the office of the Central Board of Revenue?

- (a) What was the total number of applicants and how many were finally selected for the appointments?
- (b) How many of them have passed the Staff Selection Board's examination for the class for which they have been finally selected?
- (c) What are their qualifications—
 - (i) what are their University qualifications?
 - (ii) what is their record of Secretariat service if there is any?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Four additional Assistants and 8 clerks on attached office scale of pay have recently been sanctioned for the office of the Central Board of Revenue.

(a) About 30 applications were received by the Board and passed on to the Staff Selection Board. Five men were finally selected, the remaining two posts of clerks being given to men already working on a temporary basis in the Board's office.

(b) They have all passed the Staff Selection Board test for the class for which they have been finally selected or for a higher one.

(c) (i) Of the Assistants, two are M.A.'s, one B.A., one B.T. and one F.A. All the three clerks are Matriculates.

(ii) The Assistants have from 2 to 8 years' Secretariat service and the clerks between 3 and 6 years.

FILLING OF VACANCIES IN THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

843. ***Lala Piyare Lal**: Will the Government be pleased to state if the selected candidates for the posts of the Central Board of Revenue have family war services, if so, how many? Has any of them got personal war service and has rendered active service in His Majesty's Forces out of India, during the great war?

(a) Are these appointments permanent, if not, for what period?

(b) Have these appointments been approved by the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Of the men selected three have rendered personal war service.

(a) Only one post of Assistant and one of clerk are permanent. The rest are temporary for a period of one year in the first instance.

(b) The creation of the posts in question was approved by the Standing Finance Committee.

RECRUITMENT OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.

844. ***Lala Piyare Lal**: Is it a fact that during the last few sessions several questions were asked by the Honourable Members in both the Houses of the Legislature regarding the appointment of Income-tax Officers and Assistant Income-tax Officers in various provinces?

(a) What is the present system of recruiting for the above services in the United Provinces and the Punjab?

(b) Are the Government prepared to start a system of holding examinations, competitive or qualifying, from time to time for them?

(c) If not, will the Government state the reasons for it?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: A few questions on the subject have been asked in the Legislative Assembly.

(a) Income-tax officers in the United Provinces and the Punjab are appointed as elsewhere by the Commissioner of Income-tax subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, who exercises that control through the agency of the Local Governments.

(b) Not at present.

(c) Because the general educational qualifications of the candidates are evident from such academic distinctions as they may possess. To prescribe a technical examination for entrance to the Department might be expensive, unnecessarily inconvenience a large number of candidates and narrow the field of recruitment. The Government do not propose to alter the present system under which candidates are selected with reference to their moral, social, physical and general educational qualifications, are then required to undergo a course of training and are tested as to their technical qualifications by departmental examinations which they are required to pass before they are confirmed.

ALLEGED PACT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONALIST PARTY.

Sir Campbell Rhodes (Bengal: European): Sir, with your permission, I wish to ask the Home Member a question of which I have given him private notice. In this morning's Calcutta "Statesman", the newspaper received in Delhi this morning, occurs the following statement:

"With regard to the new policy of the Nationalist party as enunciated by Pandit Motilal Nehru in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. C. R. Das, in conversation with a representative of the *Statesman* said that in the absence of fuller information, he was unwilling to make any definite statement. "But" Mr. Das added "I have been expecting it. My belief is that as a result of negotiations behind the scenes, some understanding has been arrived at between the Government and the Nationalist party; that explains the new attitude."

The question, Sir, I desire to ask is what is the nature of these negotiations, because I believe there is a general feeling in the House that the change of heart on Monday night last amongst the friends of Mr. Das occurred not by reason of a pact with the Government, but by reason of an impact elsewhere?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey (Home Member): Sir Campbell Rhodes showed me that extract this morning and I may say I should very much have preferred to answer his question in the presence, rather than in the absence, of Pandit Motilal Nehru, whose name of course is referred to in that extract. But I am sure that the Honourable Pandit would himself agree to my stating that there has been no pact between the Government and the party which he represents. We have had many discussions, Sir, inside the House and some of us have had amicable and interesting discussions outside the House. But there has certainly been no pact of any kind with Government.

Mr. Chaman Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, may I ask what justification Sir Campbell Rhodes has for making this insinuation?

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member is putting a supplementary question, I ask him to put it a little louder, because the Chair is interested in it.

Mr. Chaman Lal: May I ask Sir Campbell Rhodes what justification he has for making the remark that the change of heart on the part of the Nationalist party was due to an "impact" elsewhere and as to what exactly he means by the word "impact"?

Sir Campbell Rhodes: That, Sir, I will leave to the intelligence of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Chaman Lal: May I assure him that no such thing happened in the Nationalist party and that he may take my word for it? It is not due to anything of the sort that the change of heart took place.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadian Urban): May I ask the Honourable Member if he had any interview with the leader of the Nationalist party or leaders of the Nationalist party between Monday night and Tuesday morning when we met here?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Whether I had any interview, Sir?

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal: Whether the Honourable Member had any interview with the leader of the Nationalist party or any of the leaders of the Nationalist party between Monday night after the House rose and Tuesday morning when the House assembled?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: It is not usual, I think, to interrogate Members of Government as to what has happened outside the House and in their private capacity. But here again I am sure the Honourable Pandit would agree to my stating since the matter has been brought up and it appears that some importance is attached to it, that I had no interviews in the period mentioned by Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal.

Mr. President: I would like to add that Members should be very careful in asking questions of this kind because they may open a discussion of a private nature regarding which even two very good memories might disagree. I have hitherto ruled that a reference to what passes outside this Chamber is not in order, and, though I have allowed the Honourable the Home Member to reply to the question, I cannot always ask him to answer such questions on the ground I have stated. What passes outside this House, unless it is a matter of public importance, cannot be referred to as such, as it may become a matter of an acrimonious controversy which may pass out of the control of the Chair.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Will you allow me, Sir, to add a few words. I had also a consideration of that nature in my mind; and I merely answered the question because I feared a refusal to answer it might be open to misunderstanding.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

Mr. President: The Honourable the Leader of the House will now make the statement regarding the business next week.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey (Home Member): Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be Government days.

Except for a formal motion regarding the election of the Standing Finance Committee for the succeeding year the consideration of the Indian Finance Bill will be the first business to be taken up. We cannot foresee how long the House will be occupied with that Bill, and it is not possible to say on which date the other items of Government business will be before the House, but we hope in the first three days of the next week besides disposing of the Finance Bill, (1) to introduce a Court-fees (Amendment) Bill, (2) to move for the circulation for opinion of the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, (3) to take into consideration the amendment made by the Council of State in the Indian Coinage (Amendment) Bill. The other Government business outstanding is the consideration of the recommendation of the Council of State that the Indian Succession Bill be referred to a Joint Committee of both the Chambers, the consideration of the reports of the Select Committees on the Income-tax (Amendment) Bill and on the Standing Orders. We may also move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government and other Provident Funds. Whether it will be feasible to

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take up any of this business on Wednesday or whether it will be necessary to take it up on Saturday, the 22nd, depends on the progress made in the first two days of the week.

Thursday, the 20th. As already announced this morning this day has been allotted for non-official business, that is to say, the discussion of Resolutions.

Friday is a public holiday.

MAY SESSION IN SIMLA.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson (Associated Chambers of Commerce: Nominated Non-Official): Might I address a question to the Honourable the Home Member in regard to the session which it is proposed to hold, I am told, in the month of May in Simla. Whilst giving the Honourable the Commerce Member every credit for proposing this session in what he believed to be in deference to the wishes of the House, it is nevertheless a fact that it will be extremely inconvenient to a great many of us to attend that session and it will interfere with the whole of our summer programme. Honourable Members from Madras, I believe, will have to spend five days in coming up here and five days in going back. I think it would be a good thing—and I hope the Honourable the Home Member will not mind it—if a reference were made to the House as a whole to ascertain its wishes in the matter. Of course if it is the wish of the House that we should all meet in Simla in May, then I should be one of the last persons to raise any personal objection. But all the same I do think that it will be very inconvenient.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Before that question is answered, may I ask the Honourable the Home Member as to what business it is proposed to be transacted during the May session? Will he kindly give the House an indication of the business which is likely to be transacted and also an indication as to how long the session is likely to last, and whether it will be convenient for the Members of the House to attend that session?

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao (Godavari *cum* Kistna: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I say one word, Sir? Mr. Willson has referred to the Members from Madras. I may assure him that this question of the steel industry cannot be dealt with at the end of this month and, if a session in May is inevitable, we shall not shirk our duty and we have made up our minds to attend that session. (Hear, hear). (Mr. W. S. J. Willson: "That is what I said.") I do not want the House to be under the impression that we are averse to a session which is absolutely necessary, and that is the point which I wish to make very clear.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey (Home Member): My Honourable Colleague has already explained to the House the reasons which have moved the Governor General in Council to propose this special session in the course of the summer; he also expressed the great regret of the Government at the inconvenience that was being caused to Honourable

Members. We had considered with the utmost care whether it would not be possible to dispose of the questions connected with the report of the Tariff Board in time to place them before the Assembly either before the date originally fixed for the close of this session or by extending the period of the session. We came to the conclusion that, if we were to give due consideration to the many and intricate issues involved, it would not be possible to do so. Even supposing that we were able to arrive at a decision ourselves, yet it would not be proper to place that decision before the Assembly, before the public and many other commercial and industrial interests concerned have had time to consider the report. That seemed to us decisive. Dr. Gour has asked what other business there will be before the Assembly during the special session. As at present arranged, we had intended to devote the whole of that special session to the business arising from or connected with the report of the Tariff Board. If in the brief time for which we should call the session any vacant days occurred we should divide them between Government business and private business. We have some outstanding Bills which will not be of a very controversial nature and they might then be brought one stage forward.

Dr. H. S. Gour: We suggest, Sir, to the Honourable the Home Member that, if the session is to be held in May at all, it would be to the advantage of the non-official Members of this House if other outstanding questions and Resolutions are also taken up so that it may be worth our while to pay a visit to Simla for 10 or 15 days instead of only for a week or 6 days. I suggest to the Honourable Member that there is the Indian Bar Committee, whose report is likely to be out. Then there is the Frontier Province Committee report. That is also likely to be out. Besides a very large number of non-official Resolutions have remained undisposed of owing to the shortness of time in the Delhi session. I would therefore suggest that this special session may be availed of for the disposal of outstanding business at Simla.

Mr. Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): Could not the Honourable the Home Member arrange for a combined session to consider the recommendations of the Tariff Board and then take up the ordinary business, say, in August or September next? (*Cries of "No, no."*)

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Mr. Darcy Lindsay has touched the exact point on which the discussion originally arose. Does the House, in spite of the inconvenience, attach such importance to this question, that they are prepared to face a special session? (*Honourable Members: "We are."*) If the House were entirely opposed to holding such a session, the Government would give full consideration to that fact. Does the House feel that the consideration of the matters arising out of the report of the Tariff Board is so urgent that it is prepared to face that special session? (*Honourable Members: "Certainly."*)

Khan Bahadur M. Shams-uz-Zoha (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): But not before the middle of May, because we will have *Id-ul-Fitar* after the *Ramzan*.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Will the Honourable Member kindly give me the date of *Id-ul-Fitar*?

Khan Bahadur M. Shams-uz-Zoha: It will come off on the 6th or 7th of May, and the Moslem Members coming from distant places must have sufficient time after that to reach Simla.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I would like this House to realise the gravity of the situation in regard to the matter that we are discussing. I am really surprised that a suggestion should have come that the session should be postponed until August. I wish to urge upon Government, with the utmost emphasis that I can command, that it will be highly detrimental to the large interests of India if you delay that session by even a day after May. I think that the Government are fully aware of that and therefore they, after careful consideration, decided that the session should take place in May. Now we are being side-tracked and I want this House to realise the importance of this question, whatever may be our inconvenience we ought to go to Simla, all of us, and assist the Government in their desire to grapple with this question as soon as possible, which otherwise will be disastrous to the commercial world of India. I therefore hope that every Member, unless he has some other intention of delaying this matter, will go to Simla in May.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): I would like to add that this question of the recommendations of the Tariff Board should be dealt with with the least avoidable delay; that the earlier it is done the better and, that, if possible, we should hold a session in Simla in the first or the second week of May. As to the proposal that other subjects should be brought up, I should like to suggest that the session should be confined to this question of the recommendations of the Tariff Board, or any other subjects that Government may consider of special urgency. Most of us feel that Simla is not a pleasant place to go to in May.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: I hope that Mr. Jinnah was not referring to me when he said that there may be some other consideration attaching to the proposal to defer the session till August. I may tell him that I am a very considerable shareholder in the Tata Iron and Steel Company, and no one is more anxious than I am personally that the recommendations of the Tariff Board may be decided in a particular way!

Mr. Darcy Lindsay: I also wish to disclaim any ulterior motive. My suggestion was based on grounds of economy, as I understand that the cost to the tax-payer in connection with the session will be one lakh and fifty thousand rupees at the very lowest. I therefore suggest that the September session be called at an earlier date and a combined session be held, at which most of the ordinary and special business could be dealt with. If August does not suit my other friends, perhaps a few weeks earlier than that might meet the case. What is the extreme hurry for calling a session in May?

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, since from a commercial Member there has been the suggestion that the matter of the recommendations of the Tariff Board is not so urgent, it is desirable that Government should not take another ground for incurring a great loss to the country of 1½ lakhs of rupees by summoning a session of the Assembly in May. It is desirable that the session at Simla in the month of September or even October, if necessary, be continued, as that is the time when all the representatives of the people of India, professional men, commercial men, who have holidays such as bank holidays, Poojah holidays, and different kinds of holidays can spare the time during their holidays. We generally can afford to go to Simla during September and part of October. That would serve the purpose and it will not be inconvenient.

in any way. We could then have our non-official Bills, as well as the North-West Frontier Committee's Report, the Indian Bar Committee's Report, etc. I think that that would be the best time, that is to say, the Simla session ought to be held next September to suit all instead of having another short session in May.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I would like to say one word with reference to Mr. Lindsay's suggestion. Mr. Jinnah has placed some considerations before the House, and I would like to supplement what Mr. Jinnah has said. Everybody knows that the Tariff Board's Report has been received. Many industries in India are vitally concerned and interested in the recommendations contained in that Report. All those industries will remain in a state of doubt and uncertainty until a decision has been arrived at. That is one of the reasons why we feel that it is a matter of most urgent importance that a decision one way or the other should be arrived at, with reference to the recommendations contained in that Report. I therefore think it essential in the interest of trade that that period of doubt and uncertainty should be as short as possible.

Mr. President: Arising out of this I ask Government if they are in a position to fix the exact date of the session before the Assembly adjourns at the end of this month.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: We hope to do so.

THE BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Expenditure from Revenue—cont^l.

DEMAND NO. 15—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—*contd.*

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao (Godavari cum Kistna: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the sub-head 'Department of Education Health and Lands' (page 50) be reduced by Rs. 100."

I wish to make a few observations which are pertinent to the Departments under the control of my Honourable friend, Sir Narasimha Sarma. The point that I wish to raise is that our educational institutions in this country are not so organised as to permit of the recruitment of the various public services in this country to the best advantage of both the administration and of the people. I more particularly refer to the technical services, not only under the control of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, but also under the control of the other departments of the Central Government. Sir, the whole question of the organisation and recruitment of the public services came under consideration when the Islington Commission paid a visit to this country. It is now about 12 or 18 years since that Commission came out to India, and we are now having a second Commission to consider more or less the same class of problems from probably a slightly different angle of vision. But the point to which I would invite the attention of Honourable Members is that in regard to the

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improvement and expansion of educational institutions no perceptible progress has been achieved since the report of the Lalington Commission was submitted to Parliament. In regard to some of the technical services, taking the Agricultural Service first, the Royal Commission stated that the Government of India had frequently declared that the object to be steadily kept in view was to reduce the minimum number of experts appointed in England and to train Indians thoroughly in order to enable the country to depend upon its own resources for the improvement of the agricultural staff in the higher branches. With this principle the Commission were in complete agreement and they accordingly recommended that the facilities for such training should be developed in India, and that the standard should be brought up to the level of the best quality of agricultural institutions in Europe and America. They proceeded to state that training classes should be established at Pusa and should be brought up to the highest standard of efficiency attainable in the western countries. The Agricultural Conference which met at Pusa also made many recommendations, to which it seems to me unnecessary to refer at the present stage. In regard to veterinary education also the Commission stated that the higher services in that department were almost entirely recruited in the United Kingdom and the candidates were required to hold a diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Then, in referring to this Department, the Royal Commission expressed the opinion:

"There are, however, no considerations of policy which make recruitment in Europe necessary, and we cannot regard it as satisfactory that at the present time the cadre of the Imperial branch does not include a single officer who is a statutory native of India."

and they accordingly recommended that, as soon as possible, classes teaching up to the highest standard should be established in India, and that the passed students of these classes should constitute the normal field of recruitment for the Imperial branch of the department. Then, Sir, in regard to Forestry education they also stated . . .

Mr. President: Before the Honourable Member goes further, I should like to make certain that these services do come within the control of the Government of India. I am not at all clear that they all do. The Honourable Member, I gather, is reading from a Report published before there were transferred subjects.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: I was referring to the general aspect of it which is under the Central Government.

Mr. President: I know the Government of India have a general power of superintendence and control, but education is not only a Provincial subject, but it is a transferred subject, which makes it all the more important that this House should not encroach on that field except where absolutely necessary.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I point out that under the Devolution Rules institutions providing for medical training or for technical and professional training or for the promotion of special subjects are reserved to the Central Government.

Mr. President: I wanted to be satisfied that the Honourable Member was within that sphere. Is that so?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma (Member for Education, Health and Lands): I shall take the necessary exception if my Honourable friend exceeds the limits and asks me to travel into the domain of Provincial Governments. At present he is dealing with Agriculture, Veterinary and Forestry as regards higher education.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, I was referring to the need for the expansion of the existing institutions in regard to education in Forestry. I may also invite the attention of Honourable Members to the general observations made by the Commission in 1912. They will be found on page 22 of the Report. They divided these services into three classes, and, referring to the particular service which I mentioned, which should come in the third category, they say:

"There are no grounds of policy for any considerable admixture of officers imported from Europe, and all that limits recruitment in India is the lack of facilities in that country for technical instruction and the consequent deficiency of properly qualified officers."

And they proceeded to state:

"Towards the third group of services" (that is the group of these technical services) "for which requisition is made on Europe so as to obtain officers with the necessary technical knowledge, our attitude is different. In these, we think that a determined and immediate effort should be made to provide better educational opportunities in India, so that it may become increasingly possible to recruit in that country the staff needed to meet all normal requirements. This will require an initial expenditure of a considerable sum of money, but not probably as much as would at first sight be expected. For instance, up-to-date institutions already exist at Pusa and Dehra Dun which can be utilised for the purposes of the Agricultural and Forest Departments. Large railway workshops are also already in existence to supply the needs of the locomotive and carriage and wagon branches. It is only for the Civil Veterinary, Geological Survey, and Mines departments that the existing provision is wholly inadequate. In any case the outlay would be more than repaid, not only by the additional facilities which such institutions would give to young men to qualify themselves for direct appointment to the higher branches of the public services, but by the contribution they would make to the industrial progress of the country."

Sir, it is in these words that the Royal Commission surveyed the position in 1913. They recommended that immediate steps should be taken and immediate efforts should be made by the Government of India to expand and improve all educational institutions in these various departments suggested, Forestry, Agriculture and Civil Veterinary, Geological Survey, Mines and all the technical services for which recruitment at this day takes place.

Now I ask my Honourable friend whether any of these steps have been taken in this country, and, if so, to what extent. Sir, I know something has been done. When the Lytton Committee was sitting in England an effort was made, in view of the increasing number of students who were resorting to that country, to find out whether the educational facilities for which the Royal Commission so strongly pleaded in 1912 had been afforded in this country, and we were informed that, so far as the Secretary of State was concerned, he took no action in the matter, and one of the officers who appeared before that Committee stated that the initiative rested with the Government of India and there was no information in that country as to what had been done. Sir, that is the position in which we are to-day. The Lee Commission is now sitting and it is quite possible that that Commission may make some recommendations which may not be about recruitment, but as to whether the scope of that Committee includes also a recommendation for the expansion of these institutions in this country is a matter about which I am not quite sure. Sir, the

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whole problem of education is beset with difficulties. I hoped that the Government of India had moved in this matter long ago, as was suggested by the Commission in 1912. I may say, Sir, that there is also an idea that in the recruitment of these public services British qualifications are absolutely necessary. Sir, that is a matter which has been very much discussed before the Lytton Committee. I trust a change of policy will be initiated in that respect as early as possible by a recognition of the qualifications possessed by people in India. The extent to which this recognition is now given is a matter on which many of us are in doubt, and, unless educational institutions of the requisite kind, which would give the same class of instruction for these services, are immediately established, it may not be possible to recognise these degrees.

Sir, the seriousness of the problem in regard to Indian students in Great Britain has been very well summarised by one of the witnesses who appeared before that Committee. Sir Charles Mallet stated:

"It is, I believe, in the development of education in India that the only permanent solution of our problem lies. Hitherto the tradition has been that only men trained in England were qualified for the prizes of their profession—in Indian administration, medicine, law. We have readily encouraged Indian students to come here, fit and unfit, educated or uneducated, and have taught them that a smattering at least of English education was the best recommendation for professional success. Until we frankly abandon that tradition, Indian students will inevitably flock here, and probably, as time goes on, in numbers with which British institutions will refuse to cope.

We are at present manufacturing the difficulties we deplore. May it not be well to consider whether this tradition should not be given up, and a new tradition substituted, namely, that India must and can provide an adequate education even for the ablest of her sons? Instead of trying to make good Indians into indifferent Englishmen, to super-impose a superficial English training in a few years at Oxford or a few years in London at the Bar, might it not be possible to develop an Indian type at least as highly educated and as competent—even for administrative purposes—as any hybrid? Such an undertaking would be slow and difficult and costly; but may it not be that the change has to come? It would mean raising the standards of Indian Universities, and of Indian education generally to levels never yet attained. It would mean an Indian Bar and Judicature, trained, organised and developed on their own lines. It would mean a highly trained Medical Service, and opportunities for medical and industrial training far in advance of anything yet attempted. It would not of course mean, for many years at any rate, less intercourse with England or less intellectual stimulus from English sources; quite the reverse. But it would be a natural instead of an unnatural system and its home would be in India."

These are the considerations which are in my mind and I request my Honourable friend to consider this aspect of recruitment by the establishment of educational institutions as early as possible compatible with the financial conditions of the Central Government. I think, Sir, that Government have already delayed this question for the last 10 years and I have already pointed out it is certainly competent to them under Rule 88 of the Devolution Rules to establish certain agencies for professional and technical training, and I trust, Sir, that in all branches of the public service—whether in the Railway administration or in the field of finance, anywhere where recruitment is made from outside,—institutions should be set up to supply recruits on the spot. That is the point I wish to refer to the Education Department and to any other Departments which are concerned.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): May I be permitted to follow the example of my Honourable friend over there and make one or two small complaints against the Department in the charge of my Honourable friend, Sir Narasimha Sarma. Before making

my complaint I should like to express my appreciation of the courage and pertinacity with which the Government of India have championed the cause of Indians overseas. I must however add that our cause has to some extent suffered prejudice by the manner in which reference is made to the Indians who are employed overseas. I wish, Sir, to point out that the use of the term "cooly" in connection with the Indian labourer is open to objection and creates serious prejudice against the Indians abroad. This word "cooly" has been adapted from the Tamil language and is used in English to denote a labourer; but the term has acquired such hateful associations that I think it is high time that this exotic word "cooly" in the English vocabulary should be hereafter banned from official correspondence and for all use by the Government. In making this complaint I am aware that we non-officials have to plead just as guilty as the Government themselves, but on reflection everybody will acknowledge that this use of the word "cooly" to denote the labourer is open to serious objection and that it creates a great amount of prejudice against the Indian labourer. It may be asked what word I would suggest to denote the Indian labourer. Let us have the English term "labourer." I have no doubt it will soon get into currency even among people who do not know English. That is a suggestion which I make in all seriousness to the Government and I hope my Honourable friend will be able to give an undertaking that this word shall hereafter be banished from the English vocabulary, so far as it lies in the power of Government.

Another suggestion which I should like to make to the Honourable Member relates to certain educational institutions. Sir, in making their recommendations the Indian Retrenchment Committee went to very undesirable lengths in proposing serious cuts in the expenditure on Education. For instance, expenditure on the School of Mines at Dhanbad was stopped or suspended, I believe, in consequence of the financial stringency and the desire to give effect to the recommendations of the Incheape Committee. I hope a serious start will now be made in pushing on this School of Mines at Dhanbad.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma: I may say for the Honourable Member's information that the Industries Department deals with the School of Mines; the Education Department does not.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: That is all right. I am making a general observation and I do not wish to repeat myself. I hope the Industries Department will make the necessary provision at as early a stage as possible because you find that wherever you have to make selections for appointments in the Geological Survey of India, there are no candidates who have the necessary training which would qualify them for the Department. If we had a School of Mines training candidates to the necessary standard of efficiency we should soon be able to find Indian candidates well qualified to enter the Geological Department. I therefore commend my suggestion to my Honourable friend, Mr. Chatterjee, in the hope that he will lose no time in starting the School of Mines at Dhanbad.

The Honourable Mr. A. O. Chatterjee (Industries Member): Provision has been made.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): I move, Sir, that the question be now put.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Labour Interests): My friend Dr. Gour does not apparently know that his Department is an Education Department

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and the Assembly has not yet sanctioned the grant for the Education Demand of the Central Government. I hope, Sir, he will remember this fact before he moves the closure again.

I do not want to take up the time of the House very long but I want to ask the Government of India whether they propose to introduce legislation to enable compulsory education to be introduced in those territories which are under the direct management of the Government of India. Sir, since the new reforms, a great impetus has been given to the state of primary education in this country. There are various provinces where legislation has been passed in favour of compulsion being introduced in primary education. Compulsory education is already being introduced in several areas, municipal as well as local board areas, but I find, Sir, that the Government of India which ought to lead in this matter is lagging much behind the Provinces. The Government of India naturally is expected to set an example in this matter but unfortunately, instead of setting a good example, they lag much behind the Provinces. I need not give many figures on this point, but will only quote a few. The percentage of pupils in schools to the population in the territories directly managed by the Government of India is 2.9, while the average for the whole of India is 3.42; for Madras the percentage is 4.14, for Bombay 4.9, for the Punjab 4.3. These percentages will show by themselves that the Government of India have practically done nothing so far to accelerate the progress of education in the territories directly managed by them. And while they spend some amount of money on education, my conclusion is that they give greater importance to secondary and university education than to primary education. Sir, for the purpose of showing that my conclusion is correct I shall quote a few figures. In the territories mentioned by me, there are 1,563 students receiving university education, and the expenditure is Rs. 8,47,000. This figure may be a little old, because it is last year's figure. There are 37,000 students receiving secondary education, and the expenditure is Rs. 16,21,000. In the primary education department there are 58,000 students, and the expenditure is Rs. 9,00,000. Sir, in most of the major provinces Government spends a great deal of their educational grant on primary education, but the Government of India seem to give greater importance to secondary education of the higher classes than to primary education, which is really needed for the poor people. This is what struck me by looking into the figures of the educational expenditure of the Central Government on territories directly managed by them. I think, Sir, this is not playing a fair game by the masses of this country. I do not wish to take up the time of the Assembly by showing that a large part of the revenue of the Government of India comes from the masses, and, if you want to allocate your revenues to the people according to the taxes they pay, it is natural that you should expect Government to spend more money on primary education than on secondary education; but, Sir, the Government of India have neglected this matter altogether. Perhaps, the reason is that the Government of India have to devote their attention to what are considered to be more important matters throughout the Central Departments, such as the management of the services of a few hundred men of this or that department, than to the interests of the masses themselves. It is an unfortunate fact that the Government of India have been asked to be directly responsible for the education of the masses of these territories. Unfortunately there is no other representative body which is responsible for these subjects, and the Government of India themselves are

responsible for these subjects, so, if they do not give sufficient attention to this subject, it will be thoroughly neglected. The people themselves, I find, have recognised the need for receiving education. Some time ago I read in the papers that the Delhi Municipality is thinking of introducing compulsion within their municipal limits, but the Government of India are not yet ready with their legislation. How is the Government of India to give power within the municipality to introduce compulsion if they are not ready with legislation?

Then, Sir, there is one more point which I want to mention in this connection. It is about the North-West Frontier. We are spending crores of rupees on the North-West Frontier to safeguard the life and property of His Majesty's subjects in that territory. Sir, I think if the Government of India spend a larger amount of money on the education of the people of the North-West Frontier Province, if they establish a network of educational institutions on the border, much of the expenditure which they are forced to incur in fighting with the Waziris and other tribes could be saved. During the general debate on the Budget, an Honourable Member mentioned this vital fact, that the Government of India should try the experiment of using humanising influences on these wild tribes. So my suggestion to the Government of India is that, if they take care of the education of the people of the North-West Frontier and also of those who live a little beyond the frontier, the money will be well spent, and our expenditure on the Army will be saved; not only that, but our great anxiety about the frontier will to a great extent be allayed. I therefore want the Government of India to give their serious attention to the educational advancement of the territories which unfortunately have been placed in their charge.

There is one other matter to which I want to refer in passing, and that is about the Ecclesiastical Department which is managed by the Education Department. I want the Government of India to tell this House what is their policy about this Department, and whether they want to continue this expenditure of Rs. 30,00,000

Mr. M. S. D. Butler (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I rise to a point of order, Sir. The Ecclesiastical Department is not a votable item.

Mr. President: It can be brought under discussion under the convention established last year. It cannot be made the subject of a reduction, but it can be discussed.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Thank you, Sir, for your ruling. The Government of India are spending about Rs. 30,00,000 in maintaining an ecclesiastical establishment for the benefit of their European officers. Sir, I think that expenditure is not justified. The Government of India have got large establishments belonging to various religions, and they have got no such establishment to minister to the religious needs of their officers who belong to these other religions. Why should the Government of India, therefore, spend such a large amount of money for the religious needs of a small number of European servants? My objection is not really so much on the point of money as on other grounds. You will remember, Sir, that two years ago we discussed the subject of compulsory payment to a Hindu priest, and the Government of India rightly objected to that compulsory payment. Now I want to ask the Government of India whether we, who do not believe in the religion which is established by the Government here, are not justified in objecting to the compulsory payment for maintaining this religion? When I say the payment is compulsory, I need not explain

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how it is that taxes in India are not voluntary. No tax is voluntary. I have to pay a tax whenever Government levies it. Therefore, my payment towards the maintenance of this religion is absolutely compulsory, and I therefore object to this compulsory payment on the ground of principle. The principle is absolutely right. When this Bill was introduced, I had supported it, and the Government had also supported that principle. Now I want the Government of India to carry out that principle in practice. I therefore want the Government of India to tell this House what their attitude towards the maintenance of this department is. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will give a satisfactory reply to both these points.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to confine my observations to the question of Indian students in England, to which reference has been made by my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao. I can recall a time, 10 years ago, when the Honourable Member in charge, Sir Narasinha Sarma, was present in England at a large and representative meeting of Indian students in Caxton Hall, listening, as a member of the Congress deputation, to the speeches of the Indian students complaining of their grievances at the universities and other educational institutions in England, and I remember him promising to do his very best for these students during the time that he was to be in England. Ten years have passed. I do not think much improvement has taken place in the position of Indian students since that day, I think it was the 9th of April 1914. The conditions of admission to the universities and other educational institutions, the restrictions placed on Indian students, the terms on which they are admitted, the qualifications which they must produce, and the channel through which alone their applications for admission are considered, are practically still the same. An Indian student in England, Sir, does not get admission simply because he is qualified as a student and is prepared to submit to all the conditions of student life there. He must produce in most cases a recommendation from the Indian Students Department, which goes under different names, now is located in the India Office, now in Cromwell Road, sometimes in Gower Street, but in different guises and disguises it is the same body which controls the admission of Indian students indirectly. Unless the Indian student applies to the educational institutions through this channel, the chances of his getting admission are still practically hopeless. And I find in the last Report of the Indian Students Department the same admission is made, that is, that most of the applicants for admission to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were admitted because they went through this Department, and hardly even 10 per cent. of the admissions were of those who had applied independently. Well, Sir, the late Mr. Gokhale happened to be in London in 1914 and he presided at a meeting of Indian students where pointed attention was drawn to the most deplorable condition under which Indian students' applications were considered—I mean the condition of humiliation under which they were admitted. The ostensible reason was that the Indian student was not known in England. Therefore, somebody must introduce him, and therefore the Secretary for Indian Students, who happened at the time to be Sir Charles Mallet—I think it is Mr. Sen now—had to certify that the intending student was a good boy. How is a gentleman living in England to know whether a boy coming fresh from India to seek admission is good, bad or indifferent? We proposed that the condition should be that he should produce a certificate from the head

of the last college or school he attended and if that certificate spoke well of the student, then the admission should follow as a matter of course, provided there was a vacancy at that institution. But this request of ours, which was an entirely reasonable one, was not granted, and this Department continues to be the intermediary between the Indian students and the educational institutions for the most part. And then this Department depends for its information about these students on whom? It depends on the official reports, and the official reports depend on the police reports, and the police reports come from the districts. And the condition is this, that the Indian student who seeks admission is in the last resort compelled to satisfy the police authorities of his district that he is a good boy, that he takes no part in politics, that he should be admitted into the institution, and that no consequences will follow. (*Pandit Sham Lal Nehru* : "Not the son of a good boy?") Well, I do not know about that. What is required is that indirectly and in the long run these police authorities should control the admission of Indian students into educational institutions in England. And, Sir, there is a tradition among Indian students, therefore, to regard this Department or its ramifications not as an institution for improving the facilities of Indian students but as a police *thana* in London. This Department, Sir, is regarded by the Indian students as a police station to watch the conduct of students in England. It is a sort of espionage on Indian students and is most highly resented by the Indian student who is usually a man of good social position and a man of culture and sometimes far superior to the gentleman who lives there as Secretary controlling his movements. And there are nearly 1,500 students. Each of them spends nearly Rs. 4,000 a year as the minimum cost of education, so that it costs the people something like 60 lakhs of rupees every year, and yet the facilities they get are limited on grounds which are not at all educational. I do not want to plead for the Indian student who is incapable, or for the Indian student who has not the requisite qualifications. But it often happens that a student who has inferior qualifications gets admission because he has got a recommendation from the Department, while a student with superior qualifications, because he does not care to secure the recommendation of the Department, fails to get admission. The result is that often an incompetent student is admitted and a competent student is not. Various Committees have been appointed to consider this question. Among others there was Lord Lytton's Committee. We gave all sorts of evidence proving that there were no facilities, proving that we were handicapped in various ways. It was recommended by the various Committees that the conditions of admission should be relaxed and should be made more elastic, but the Secretary of State for India did nothing of the kind. There are other non-official bodies who occasionally provide tea for Indian students. They say "We want to be more friendly to Indians. We want to promote social intercourse." Lord Haldane once promoted what was called "The Hospitality Committee." What is the use of showing hospitality to Indian students who go there for their education if you first put restrictions on them? Who cares for a cup of tea if he is first debarred from admission to your educational institutions? And yet that is precisely the condition in most cases. Sir, there is a feeling in the minds of Indian students in England that all this would be unnecessary if the Government would give up their suspicious attitude towards Indian students. Government have got at the back of their minds a certain feeling, which was perhaps more or less justified when the idea of a Student's Department was formulated, but since then there has been no justification for this feeling of suspicion on the part of the Government towards

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nearly 1,500 people of honourable character, men of good social position, people who are highly cultured. It is very properly resented and the Secretary of State was asked to represent to these universities—some of which got grants from the India Office—that those universities which pronounce a ban on Indian students should be told that their students would not be allowed to appear for the examinations for the various Indian Services. He was asked to threaten these Universities with this. He was asked to take up and champion the cause of the Indian students and warn the English universities that, if they make any discrimination against Indian students, their students should not be admitted for the competitive examinations of the various Indian Services. The Secretary of State did not do it. A single such threat seriously conveyed would have brought these universities to a proper frame of mind. Soon after the report of the Committee of 1918 came out unfortunately the war broke out and Lord Crewe said: "As the war is going on, nothing can be done for the present." I cannot understand what difficulty there was on account of the war. But there it was. Therefore, Sir, I think I can still appeal to Sir Narasimha Sarma to remember his promise to the Indian students in 1914; and now that he has it in his power to devise the means whereby to make the position of Indian students in England less difficult, I would request him to accelerate all his efforts to ameliorate the lot of students in England. The late Mr. Gokhale said in the meeting to which I referred that, so long as the Government of India were under the Imperial Government, Indian students had every right to go for education to English universities. The bar against Indian students is at any rate very highly deplorable, because India does contribute in various ways to some of the educational institutions in England.

There is another difficulty. In some of these educational institutions Indian students are not allowed to join as officers of the training corps because they are Indians. In some of the Colleges fellowships were not given,—I do not know whether the bar has now been withdrawn, but I have not heard of it. All these things cause a bitter feeling of resentment and, if the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma can remove them before he leaves his present office, I think the Indian students will be grateful to him.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma: Sir, the first question I have been asked is whether the Government of India are providing any facilities in addition to those which existed at the time of the Public Services Commission's report in 1914 for the imparting of higher training in some of the technical subjects to which special reference has been made, and I hope to be able to give a satisfactory answer that, as far as we can see, there does not seem to be any very great necessity for students to proceed from India to England to receive education for service in the Agricultural Forestry and Civil Veterinary Departments which are directly under me, when the facilities we hope to provide are completed. To take up the Agricultural Department first, Pusa is ready to take up the training of officers for the higher branch of research in science. Pusa is ready to take up students for training them as Deputy Directors of Agriculture. That is, both in the administrative branch and in the science branch, facilities have been provided at Pusa and in the allied institutions for imparting the higher training which students should get for entry into the Imperial Agricultural Service. We have Indianised the service considerably during the last three years. The number of Europeans who

have been taken into the Service during the years 1921-28 has been only 8 as against 28 Indians. If we have not been able to proceed further in the direction of the employment of a larger number of Indians, it is because the Provinces have not been able to find money to employ men in the 48 vacancies which at present exist in the Imperial Agricultural cadre. There are a number of applications from Indians who have been trained in England, at Pusa or at both centres for appointment in the Indian Agricultural Service, and we shall be able to furnish the Provinces with men in various branches as soon as funds are available. It is owing to the very limited scope for appointment that although Pusa was ready to take 12 young men from the universities for training in the science branch, only 3 suitable men have sought admission. We have opened a school for animal husbandry at Bangalore and the training that would be imparted there and at Pusa would qualify a student for employment as Deputy Director. That is on the administrative side. There is only one thing more to be done and that we hope to do as soon as funds are available, that is the opening of an engineering branch, and with that equipment we hope to be able to complete our course of training at Pusa for the higher branches of agriculture.

With regard to the Civil Veterinary Department, the strength of Indians in that Department is not very satisfactory inasmuch as there were no training facilities in India for a very long period and the cadre of the service is very limited, namely 54, including 9 for leave reserve. But in the year 1921 we sent 5 Indian students from India for training in England and we hope to get four of them very soon into the Indian Veterinary Service. There is another satisfactory feature which I wish to mention to the House. We have got a very energetic, enthusiastic and capable officer at Mukteswar, Mr. Edwards, who has informed us that the facilities at Mukteswar are such as are possessed nowhere else in the world for civil veterinary training on the purely scientific side. We have taken six officers for training there—four from the Provinces and two from the laboratory—for the higher service, and I believe they have very nearly completed, or completed their courses of studies and some of them have succeeded in getting employment in the all-India Service. The Veterinary Board have laid down certain curricula for studies and as soon as the Provinces are able to find funds for imparting higher education, this branch of activity will be placed on a sound and satisfactory footing.

With regard to the Indian Forest Service, I regret that there has been some misunderstanding on the part of the House that there has been avoidable delay in this matter. Honourable Members will remember that very high importance has been attached by all those who are connected with forestry to the study of silviculture. The greatest obstacle that has stood in the way of training in the higher branches of forestry in India was that our forests were considered to be not sylviiculturally suited for further training. I shall not now allude to that controversy. There was another difficulty also, in that Dehra was not even otherwise well equipped for the task of training students in other branches of forestry before the buildings under construction were completed. The Government of India have with great difficulty found 46 lakhs of rupees for buildings and lands alone in order to equip the Forest Research Institute for the purpose of research, and it was only a few days ago that we could secure an additional sum of 12 lakhs of rupees for the purpose of

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completing the Research Institute and adding to the existing buildings. Until that is done it would be difficult to train students in the higher forestry branches at Dehra Dun and that has stood in our way partly. Now that we have secured funds, and it is also realised that the facilities which India can afford are such as are unparalleled elsewhere in all branches except silviculture and that, with a view to specialise in silviculture, men could be sent later on to Europe for training, we hope to be able to start in the next two years at Dehra Dun the higher course in forestry. Even as it is I have already given to you figures which

1 P.M. show that there has been a very large recruitment of Indians

to the Indian Forestry Service. I have shown Honourable Members that, so far as agricultural, veterinary and forestry training are concerned, the highest education possible anywhere is being or would in a few years be imparted. With regard to mining education, it was money that stood in the way and the Government of India are glad to inform the House that provision has been made in this year's Budget for the School of Mining and, as soon as the buildings are completed (I believe the Principal has been recruited already some time ago) we shall go ahead.

Then, Sir, the next subject that was alluded to is primary education. On this subject there is no essential difference between the Government of India and my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. We are all for compulsory primary education. We are all for encouraging it in the administrations directly under the Government of India as well as in the Provinces; but here, as elsewhere, it is not lack of enthusiasm, it is not lack of conviction, but lack of money that stands in the way. It is not that we have been idle. We have doubled the grant under the head of primary education during the last 8 or 9 years. If Honourable Members will refer to page 201 of the Retrenchment Committee's Report they will find that, whereas the grant was Rs. 4,62,800, it is now somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10 lakhs and odd. My Honourable friend made special allusion to the North West Frontier. There I think the figures have risen from 2 lakhs and odd to 6,66,000 in 1922-23.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Is the Honourable Member aware that 105 primary schools were closed last year in the North West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma: I am painfully aware of the fact. But it has been due to the circumstance that we have been pressed very hard to balance our Budget. The Incheape Committee suggested certain retrenchments in educational expenditure and this House has not been able to see its way to increase the grant. We have been obliged to reduce temporarily, I hope, educational facilities, but, notwithstanding that, the amount spent is, as I have said, more than double the figure at which it stood in 1913-14.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Incheape Committee did not contain a single educationist?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma: There were very cultured men on that Committee. They regretted that greater facilities have not been afforded in the case of primary education but still, business men as they were, they could not see their way to make any recommendations

for an increased grant and a business Government have been compelled also to accept their report and, apart from their report, more could not be done until we see brighter days in the financial world.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member please say if this House during its last term or in the present session ever refused a suggestion for a further grant for education?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma: I know that the hands of the Education Department have always been strengthened by the attitude of this House and I hope will always be strengthened by the House's attitude, and I have never complained that this House has not voted the funds we have asked for. All that I have said is that both the Legislature as well as the Government have been compelled, having regard to the circumstances I have mentioned, temporarily to put up with a state of things which we all hope to remedy in the very very near future. (*Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:* "You cut off one lakh from a small province and small Budget last year.") It is regrettable, Sir, but I fear that there is a feeling in some quarters that in Provinces which are a general burden upon the tax-payer the process of improvement cannot be very rapid. I am not subscribing to that view, that in the field of education there should be any retardation of progress, and this Department will endeavour to do its best to improve the number of schools, to improve the quality of the teaching, to improve the pay of teachers, and we shall, you and I, equally look forward to a day when Sir Basil Blackett will be able to comply with our wishes.

Well, Sir, there are only one or two other points. I think the Honourable Mr. Mehta has referred to the unsatisfactory state of things in the United Kingdom in regard to the educational facilities existing there. The Lytton Committee report was received some time last year. We immediately circulated it to Local Governments; replies have just been received, and we hope to be able to deal with the various recommendations made by that body within the next two or three months. We have also invited all the universities to send their representatives to meet us in Simla some time in May, and with their help we hope to be able to elaborate the necessary procedure for the purpose of enabling students who are duly qualified and who deserve entry into the British Universities to secure as much and as speedy accommodation as may be possible. We realize that the British universities cannot, owing to the continuous demands made on their space, give unduly large facilities for Indian students; and therefore all well-wishers of Indian students have felt that it would be desirable that only the best equipped student, the student who would be in a position to benefit by education in Europe, should ordinarily resort to the British universities for further training. And that is the reason why the Government of India hope to strengthen their universities, their educational institutions, both general and technical, chiefly to render any sojourn in Europe unnecessary. But as that would not be practicable in all branches, inasmuch as it will take a very long time for the Indian universities to come up to the standard of the British and European universities in all branches of learning, therefore, to minimise the inconvenience inevitable under such conditions we are strengthening our institutions, and we also hope to be able to secure a procedure which will enable students without the difficulties alleged to exist and to which my

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Honourable friend has been alluding, to enter these universities if they are really deserving of such entry. Whether an intermediate agency is necessary in Europe for the purpose of assisting students to secure admission to universities is a moot question on which there has been a difference of opinion, and it is just possible that the Government may see their way to spare a little money for themselves if they find that no such facilities are really needed by the Indian students in England. But that does not mean that the Government of India and the Secretary of State would not give all the help which may lie in their power to assist students to secure admission if such assistance is sought, or to look after their welfare, if such action is needed on their behalf. There is no feeling of suspicion on the part of the Government of India, so far as I am aware; no sort of espionage is required and the Honourable Member may rest assured that, if it be brought to the notice of the Government of India that any students are subjected to annoyance and the worry of being spied on, they will take the necessary measures for the purpose of preventing such espionage. But during the one year that I have been in charge of the Department, no such complaints have been made to me, and I take it therefore that the evil is not the same now as it perhaps was at some previous time; but the Government of India never felt convinced that the evil existed at any time; and, if my Honourable friend would bring to the Department's notice any such cases, they will certainly be looked into.

There is only one other point and that is Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer's expression of view that we should not any more employ the word "coolly". I am not aware that in any departmental literature we employ the word "coolly". The Honourable Member may rest assured that neither myself nor the Department over which I have the honour to preside would use an expression which seems to be felt in certain quarters as an expression the meaning of which has degenerated into conveying a status akin to semi-slavery. But I am not saying that the word "coolly" always connotes or has always connoted that. But, as that is the feeling of the House, at any rate that is the opinion of Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, there will be no difficulty in avoiding the use of the term "coolly".

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: It occurs in the Budget.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma: I suppose it is an Indian budget and in order to convey the meaning clearly, possibly the expression has been used. There is no difficulty which would be felt if the word "labourer" is employed.

The Honourable Dr. Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi (Law Member): Sir, I venture, with your permission, to offer a few observations regarding one particular criticism addressed by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi against the educational policy of the Government of India. And I make bold to deal with that particular criticism in this House to-day, because it seemed to me that it was directed to the policy which was adopted by Government during the period when I was Member in charge of the Education Department. My Honourable friend was pleased to observe that the Government of India paid greater attention to university education than to the education of the masses.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I said both university and secondary.

The Honourable Dr. Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi : To university and secondary education, than to the education of the masses in this country. Now, Sir, with regard to the relative position which university, secondary, and elementary education should occupy in the educational progress of a nation, opinions, sometimes different in their nature, and scope, have been offered by educationalists. Into that controversy it is, I venture to submit, unnecessary for me to enter on the present occasion. But this much I feel sure all Honourable Members in the House will recognise, that if a nation such as ours striding onwards along the educational path is to make that progress in education which I am sure all sincere well-wishers of the country must admit is desirable, then it is the duty of the Government of the country to pay equal attention and devote its energies in equitable distribution towards the advancement alike of university, secondary and elementary education. I have been long enough a member of the Central Legislature to remember that from the time of Mr. Gokhale onwards up to the date of my appointment as Education Member educationist after educationist in the Central Legislature urged upon the Government of India the necessity of establishing more universities in this country. Indeed, it seemed to me personally that six universities only in a continent like the Indian continent with a population of 310 millions of God's creatures was an absolutely inadequate machinery for the propagation of university education. (Hear, hear.) And, if I was able during the three and a half years that I was in charge of the Education Department merely to double that number, I do not think that the Honourable Mr. Joshi has, on that ground, any reason to complain against the Government of India for having paid greater attention to university education than to mass education. But is it true that the Government of India did actually pay greater attention to university than to mass education? I venture to submit that that is not a correct statement of fact. It is true that for a time the Government of India were, because of the peculiar social and political conditions of this country, averse to the introduction of compulsion in the department of elementary education. But soon after I assumed charge of the office of Education Member—and now I am speaking from memory—the Government of India, considering that the country had made long strides in the path of education, revised its policy and, before the introduction of the reforms scheme, a circular was issued to all the Local Governments which resulted in, as I have no doubt my Honourable friend is fully aware, enabling legislation being introduced in almost all the Provincial Legislatures leaving it perfectly open to all Municipal and District Boards to introduce free and compulsory education where local conditions made it justifiable for them to do so. (*Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:* "If they could find money themselves.") Naturally; because from that moment education became a transferred provincial subject and, as has been ruled by the Law officers of the Crown, Central revenues could not be spent upon a transferred provincial subject.

Sir, my Honourable friend complained that, at any rate, within those territories which are directly under their control, the Government of India ought to have taken steps to introduce compulsory and free education. May I remind him that after the conclusion of the world war for a succession of years the Government of India Budget was a deficit Budget? I believe—I have forgotten the exact amount—in three years the total of

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these deficits amounted to one hundred crores. It was because of that fact that the Incheape Committee was appointed at the insistent demands of this House as well as of the Council of State in order that the Government of India Budget might be balanced by retrenchment in their expenditure. It is because, as remarked by my Honourable friend Sir Narasimha Sarma, the Government of India were finally not in a position to undertake the necessary measures to introduce compulsory and free primary education in the areas under their direct charge that they have not been able to do so, not because they do not realise the advantages of it, not because they do not realise the necessity of it, but because the financial position has been such as to make it impossible for them to take those steps. But the principal charge under the Government of India is the North West Frontier Province, and I believe—and I think my Honourable friend, Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum, will bear me out in that statement—that elementary education in that Province was made free some time ago. (A Voice: "Yes.") It is not compulsory but it is free, and, if the Government of India have unfortunately been compelled to direct the closing of some of the schools, it is due to the cause which has already been explained by my Honourable colleague. I believe that a comparative study of the statistics relating to elementary education in the various provinces of India will show the Honourable Members that, with the exception perhaps of Burma, or may be one or two other provinces, primary education in the North-West Frontier Province is a long way ahead of primary education in many of the other provinces of India, so that really there is no reason to complain in so far as the spread of primary education in that province is concerned.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask the Honourable Member if he proposes to give a reply in regard to the ecclesiastical question.

Mr. M. S. D. Butler (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, when the Honourable Member referred to the ecclesiastical establishment I raised a point of order, not because I wished to stifle discussion, for Government have nothing to conceal in the matter, but because I had not anticipated that the question would be coming up to-day and I had not my papers by me. But, as the Honourable Member has raised the subject I am very happy to reply to him.

There have been several questions in the House this session with regard to ecclesiastical expenditure, and in replying I have endeavoured to explain what the Government have been doing in the matter. The whole subject was gone into by the Retrenchment Committee and certain recommendations made, and my Honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas wrote a special note about it, which was carefully considered by the Government. The expenditure on the ecclesiastical establishment is a very old one which has come down from the beginning of the connection of the British with India. The original idea was—and the reason still holds good—that when British officers and British soldiers professing the Christian faith are brought out to serve in a country which professes a different religion, they are entitled to receive such religious ministrations as they would get in their own country. With this object in view from the very earliest years of the British connection with India provision has been made for an establishment of Chaplains to minister to the religious needs of the

Europeans sent out to India from England, whether in the civil or in the military services.

Now, Sir, when that was first done, there was, of course, no sort of Christian organisation in India, but, as time has gone on, there has been a change in that respect. Missionary societies have sent their ministers out to India, and there has grown up a network of Christian organisation in the country, and I think Honourable Members here will not deny the advantages which have accrued to India from the educational and medical activities of those bodies. There have been changes also in the distribution and numbers of Europeans, whilst the spread of communications has also introduced fresh factors. When the Retrenchment Committee went into the matter they said they thought there should be a reorganisation of the Ecclesiastical Department in the light of modern conditions. Well, Sir, we did go into that. We found that there were 166 chaplains provided to minister to the civil and military needs in this country. After a careful examination of all the stations where these chaplains were provided, the Government came to the conclusion that it was now necessary for the needs of the Army to entertain, I think the figures were, only 98 chaplains. They also felt that there was need still only for something like 40 chaplains in stations where their duties would not be primarily military but civil. Accordingly they came to an arrangement with the Metropolitan to entertain 188 chaplains and to reduce the remaining 28 as occasion offered, and in their place to give grants-in-aid. The saving to be secured was calculated at Rs. 4,80,000 so soon as the reductions were completed. The agreement was also made for seven years in the first instance. The arrangement, I think the House will agree, marks a very great development in our ecclesiastical policy, and as I said before, it will be reviewed at the end of seven years in the light of the then conditions. Before I sit down, I might take the point which was raised by an Honourable Member when I gave this information to the House in reply to a question the other day. He asked, do you provide *maulvis*, *pandits* and *granthis* for the Indian army, and I replied certainly. I have the figures here in Sir Purshotamdas's note. It appears that in 1913-14 Rs. 84,000 only were provided for the provision of *maulvis*, *pandits* and *granthis* in the Army. Since then the expenditure has risen to Rs. 2,28,000, that is to say, six or seven-fold. There is now just the same provision made for the religious needs of the Indian troops as there is made for the British troops . . .

Pandit Shamlal Nehru (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I inquire what is the average pay of a *maulvi* or *pandit*?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: That I cannot say, but the provision made is the provision which is needed to get men suited for the work.

Mr. Shambhu Dayal Misra (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Are there any temples constructed at Government expense?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: Sir, there have always been temples in India. The reason why churches had to be built for Christians is that originally there were no churches here and therefore it was necessary to provide them for the troops and officers to worship in.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I know if the chaplains are Indian Christians or Britishers?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The chaplains are kept only in those stations where there are European officers or soldiers imported from England in such numbers as to make a whole-time chaplain necessary.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: May I know, Sir, if it will make any difference if Indian Christians are appointed as chaplains and the expenditure thereby reduced?

Mr. Chaman Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammudan): I am sorry I raised the question. I personally am against the employment of any *pandits*, *mauleis*, *granthis* or chaplains in the Army.

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: That point is open to argument. All I say is that in making their provision for the Army, the Government of India have endeavoured to provide for all classes alike.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: May I have an answer to my question?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: No, Sir; there are no Indian chaplains in the Army. If I may repeat, Sir,—this decision which we have just come to is the result of careful negotiation with the parties concerned, and I trust that the House will not introduce a discordant element into the matter by questioning its wisdom.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Sir, we have now disposed of motion No. 78. You will find we have still 90 motions to dispose of, and, if we allow for 8 hours to-day and say 4 hours to-morrow, we have only 7 hours in which to dispose of these motions which on an average works out to 4 minutes and a fraction of a minute per motion. I hope that a time limit will be fixed. I have consulted my friends on this subject and they seem to be agreed that some limitation of that character is necessary. The question is whether it should be 15 minutes, as some suggest, or, as Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer suggested, 5 minutes. I have followed the golden mean by suggesting 10 minutes and I therefore move that on all future motions the speeches be confined to 10 minutes.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That speeches at subsequent stages of the debate on Demands for Grants be restricted to ten minutes."

I would suggest adding a proviso that where a Member of the Government has to reply to a number of speeches he may have such latitude as the Chair may choose to allow him.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Certainly

Pandit Shamlal Nehru: And for other people also.

Mr. President: If the Chair allows it.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty-Five Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Five Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: Sir, I wish to say a few words on this motion*. In answer to certain questions put by the Honourable Sir P'urshotamdas Thakurdas, the Honourable the Finance Member gave a list of several outstanding questions between the Government of India and the Imperial Government. Most of these questions relate to the Military Department and raise issues connected with capitation charges and a number of other things connected with the Army. These questions have been pending for a long time, and I think it is desirable that we should take some means to expedite a settlement of these questions. It seems to me, Sir, that the best method of expediting a settlement of these questions is by sending a deputation of two of our best officers with powers to discuss the matter with the War Office and the departments of the Imperial Government concerned in these matters and to negotiate a settlement. I do not think we can get a better officer for this purpose than Sir B. N. Mitra of the Military Finance Department and it is perhaps desirable that we should send another officer of a superior status so that his authority to deal with these questions may be accepted without demur. Speaking for myself, I think, we should all be immensely pleased if the Government of India could prevail upon Sir Malcolm Hailey to undertake this task during his period of absence in England. Probably it may deprive him of his holiday, but a task which has to be performed at home under more genial conditions of climate than are obtainable in Delhi or even at Simla may perhaps not prove a very unattractive proposition. I would, therefore, suggest that the Government seriously take into their consideration this proposal of sending two officers with full powers to discuss these questions with the War Office and the other Departments and negotiate a settlement subject, of course, to the formality or requirement of the sanction of the Government of India before a final settlement is adopted. I think it is impossible for us to think of two better plenipotentiaries than Sir B. N. Mitra and Sir Malcolm Hailey. The presence of Sir Malcolm Hailey would be very desirable as we want, if possible, an officer of his status and commanding ability. The House and the country also would feel grateful both to the Government of India and to the officers if a deputation could be arranged in the manner I have suggested.

Another question which I should like to raise in this connection is this. I believe the Honourable the Finance Member has seen a copy of the report of the Auditor of the Home Accounts. That report shows a very sad state of things and the inefficiency of the supervision exercised by the Secretary of State over the departments under his charge. I think the endeavour of the Government of India should be to relieve the Secretary of State, of the agency duties with which he is now entrusted, as far, of course, as we can under the existing constitution. Now, one instance in which the India Office has been scandalously unmindful of the interests of British India is in regard to the payment of military pensions during the period following the war. I have not just now got with me the report of the Auditor of the Home Accounts, but I am perfectly justified in making that remark, that it discloses a scandalous lack of supervision. If the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett has got the report in his hand I can refer to the

* " Motion in the name of Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, which was not moved :

" That the demand under sub-head ' Finance Department ' (page 52) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.]

specific instance I have in mind. Now, it seems to me that the payment of military pensions can very well be taken out of the hands of the Secretary of State and transferred to the High Commissioner, who is subject to the control of the Government of India. Instead of having to deal with a high functionary who plays a dual part, sometimes as agent and sometimes as master, it will be more satisfactory to deal with a High Commissioner who will be entirely subject to the control of the Government of India.

So far as I can see, there is no legal impediment to our relieving the Secretary of State of this function of payment of military pensions and other non-effective charges. But, though there may be no legal impediment, the Secretary of State may not be willing to part with this power which enables him to dispense favours intentionally or unintentionally. I will take it of course that he dispenses his favours unintentionally. I am quite willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. But this transfer of functions seems to me to be a point which it is necessary for the Government of India to take up.

Another point which I wish to suggest is this. The report of the Auditor of Home accounts shows that the accounts and the audit report are really not subject to any effective review by any independent authority either in India or in England. It may be that under the existing statutory limitations it may not be possible for us to go very far in that direction. But one thing at any rate is quite feasible, and that is, that before the Auditor's report is laid before the Houses of Parliament, a copy of it should be sent to the Government of India here and should be laid before the Public Accounts Committee in India, and the report as presented to the House of Commons should be accompanied by a copy of the remarks of the Public Accounts Committee here in India. That course, I think, will convey some information and criticism from the Indian point of view to such of the Members of the House of Commons as are disposed to study the Home Accounts of the Government of India.

Yet another suggestion which I wish to make is with regard to the money that is now spent upon the education of British soldiers in the Army School of Education at Belgaum and other places, the object of which is to make them efficient and useful citizens in their after lives after their discharge. That is a charge which should legitimately be borne by the British Exchequer. We are interested in maintaining the soldiers in a fit condition during their service here. We are not very much interested in their future career after they leave India. It seems to me that this is a matter which should properly be provided for by the British Exchequer and not by the Indian Exchequer. I am not now referring to the other question of the training that we give to superior officers of the Army. I do not propose to refer to it at this time. What I am now referring to is only . . .

Mr. E. Burdon (Army Secretary): May I rise to a point of order, Sir? Are we discussing now the Army Department or the Finance Department?

Mr. President: There is no motion for reduction actually before the House now. A motion for reduction was down on the paper in the name of Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, but the Honourable Member was not present. I alleged Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer to discuss the Finance Department, because the vote for General Administration is still before the House. And Financial Adviser, Military Finance, comes under Finance Department; is that not so?

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: My object in mentioning it was that the principle raised is one of financial adjustment between this Government and the British Government. I have no objection to the British soldiers being given a training here which would fit them to be useful citizens in after-life. But what I say is that the cost of that training ought to be debited to the British Exchequer. It is a question of financial adjustment, a question which Sir Basil Blackett ought to take up with the Home Government. It is only from that point of view that I mention it in this connection.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, the first point that was raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, was one which, as he will have noticed, was received with acclamation by the House. The suggestion that the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey should devote two months of idle time which he will have on his hands when he goes away from us in order to return to an even more exalted position, would, I am sure, be universally acclaimed if we could persuade him to overcome his modesty and believe that it is a fit task for him to undertake. Nevertheless, seriously, I am not at all sorry to hear the Honourable Member raise this important point. The existence of these large outstanding questions between the Government of India in the Army Department and the War Office is an unfortunate fact and the sooner we can get a settlement of these outstanding questions, I am sure, the better for everybody. The position of a Finance Member, who has to make a Budget in March without knowing whether charges amounting to more than a million pounds sterling will not come in course of settlement during the year, is not a very happy one. The House will remember that even in the revised Budget for 1922-23 the Finance Department were out to the extent of £800,000 owing to their expectation that a particular payment would be made that year which eventually was made the year after. Therefore, any suggestion for the early settlement of these matters is one which cannot but have our sympathetic consideration. There are, however, constitutional difficulties in the way of giving immediate effect to that suggestion, though I am sure that the Secretary of State for India is equally desirous with the Government of India of arriving at a solution. The possibility of finding a means, either such as is suggested by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, or another, will be immediately considered. I should like to take this opportunity of saying that the tribute which he paid to Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra in singling him out as a suitable officer for this function is one that is very thoroughly deserved. (*Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:* "And also to Sir Malcolm Hailey.") Sir Malcolm Hailey can, if he thinks fit, praise me, but it would be impertinent on my part to praise him.

The next point relates to audit reports. The Government of India have made arrangements now under which the report of the Auditor of the India Office accounts will in future be laid before the Public Accounts Committee. That will be done this year. That will get over the difficulty, to which Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer drew attention, that to some extent this report fell between two stools and was not examined by an independent authority either in England or in India. There was no intention of preventing any such presentation to the Public Accounts Committee and it was really due to a misunderstanding that it has not been done hitherto. I think the statement by the Auditor of the Home Accounts is not entirely complete on that head.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

In regard to the question of the military pensions, of course, immediately after the war, it was a common experience of more than one Government that the arrangements for an effective control of the enormous amount of accounting work that had to be done in connection with the pay, pensions and demobilisation charges generally of the Army led to a certain amount of incompleteness and inaccuracy in results. The state of affairs to which Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer drew attention is no doubt that mentioned in paragraph 25 onwards of the report of the Auditor upon the accounts of the Secretary of State for India for the year 1921-22. I would draw his attention to the fact that at the end of that report the Auditor stated definitely that the previous form of report has now been modified and that the rules and instructions of the Ministry of Pensions are to be followed strictly by the India Office Board. The tightening up of administration, if effectively carried out, should obviate any shortcomings that may now exist in regard to the control of the large amount being disbursed on account of military pensions and lead to a considerable saving. He at any rate suggested—perhaps not very confidently—that an improvement was in process of taking place and I can say from my knowledge that there has been a considerable improvement in these matters. On the point whether these pensions should be paid through the India Office or the High Commissioner, the Honourable Member will be interested to know that arrangements have just been made under which the pensions of civilians employed in the Army Department will in future be paid through the High Commissioner and not through the India Office, that is to say, the transfer in the direction which is desired by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer is in course of taking place. There is no immediate intention of transferring the military pensions but the matter will receive attention.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: Is there any legal impediment?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I am not sure on that point. I should not like to give a definite answer. I do not think there is. My information is that there is none.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: Then this requires only your pressure.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: This is of course part of the general transition that is taking place. Duties are being transferred as convenience allows from the India Office to the High Commissioner. All duties in the nature of agency functions are being thus gradually transferred.

In regard to the education of military soldiers in India to make them good citizens, the Honourable Member suggested that we should make an application to the British Government to bear that charge or a part of it. I am not entirely familiar with the nature of the subject to which reference has been made, but it is, I understand, not merely to make a good citizen hereafter that the education is being given, but for the purpose of making a good soldier as well, and, therefore, it is part of the cost of the Army in India.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: Especially general education.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: If it is part of general education, it ought not of course to be charged to military votes at all.

I should like to mention one more point. I was asked yesterday some questions about provision for contingencies. I have here the figures

showing the total provision for contingencies in 1923-24 and 1924-25 in all the departments which come under the head of General Administration. The total Budget estimate for 1923-24 was Rs. 10,68,840. The total in 1924-25 is Rs. 8,42,510, a reduction of Rs. 2,20,830. That reduction has been made possible partly as the result of the reductions in the total strength which followed on the reorganisation as a result of the Retrenchment Committee's report and partly on a very careful examination of the details of the contingent charges for each department which was made by a special officer during last summer. The result of that was to enable us to find a considerable number of small savings which total up to the satisfactory figure of Rs. 2,20,000.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, perhaps you will allow me to say a word in connection with the suggestion of my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, in regard to these outstanding claims. I see, Sir, from an interpellation which has been answered in this House that these claims amount to a sum of nearly one million pounds and have been outstanding for some considerable time. The suggestion made by my friend that the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey and Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra should be deputed to negotiate with the British Government and come to a distinct understanding on this matter has certainly my hearty support. But, Sir, the constitutional position of the Secretary of State has still to be considered. It may be that my Honourable friend, Sir Malcolm Hailey, will put forward a very good and constructive scheme and arrive at a settlement. But the Secretary of State as a member of the British Cabinet comes into conflict with himself in his capacity as Secretary of State for India. This has been so not only now but on several previous occasions, and Honourable Members who have studied the various reports from the time of the Welby report up to date will find that on several occasions the Secretary of State for India has given away the case on behalf of India by virtue of the fact that he is a member of the British Cabinet. That is the initial difficulty in this case. It may be that my Honourable friend may be able to come to a reasonable settlement but it certainly depends still on the Secretary of State for India to press our case on the British Cabinet. That, Sir, is the real difficulty in the case. I believe that, unless the constitutional position is cleared up and we know where we are with reference to the Government of India, these financial difficulties will never be satisfactorily solved.

Sir, whatever may be the case under the present constitution, my suggestion is that whatever settlement is come to or is suggested should be placed before this Assembly and should be approved by an affirmative Resolution of this House. I think, Sir, such a course would rather strengthen the position of the Secretary of State in pressing the case on behalf of India. Unless some such thing is done, I am certain, Sir, that we shall again be saddled with a sum of money which will be regretted by this Assembly when the matter comes up here next. Sir, I referred yesterday to many of the financial liabilities which have been placed on our shoulders by the Secretary of State in Council and I trust that this procedure of having these financial liabilities discussed in this House first, before the Secretary of State comes to any conclusion, should be adopted for the future. As I have said, this is the only way under the present constitution by which the Secretary of State will have the authority of this House in pressing our case as against the authority of the British Cabinet in the settlement of these claims.

Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, I am very glad to have had this opportunity of speaking on this subject a little in continuation of what I have said till now. In replying to Question No. 787 put this morning by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan I heard the Honourable the Finance Member give about the same answer that I got from him at the beginning of the Session. I am perfectly ready to believe, and in fact do believe, that the Government of India are as anxious that India should pay as little as possible with reference to these claims as any Member of this House and I do not think I am giving away any secret in saying that the India Office till now also has stood by the tax-payer and has fought India's case very well indeed. But, Sir, past precedents in these matters do not give one much hope and if one looks back at all the claims raised by His Majesty's Government till now, from 1860 onwards, there was only one occasion, I think in 1874, where the case was taken right up to the final point and the British House of Parliament upheld the point of view which the then Viceroy and the then Secretary of State practically fought out to a finish. In every other case practically India has lost and I do not think it would be any reflection on any of the Members of the Benches opposite if this House expressed a very strong view that no settlement should be arrived at with reference to any of these huge claims levelled against India by the War Office or any other Department of His Majesty's Government without the express consent of this House. I have not been able to understand why the Honourable the Finance Member is unable to give any assurance of this nature to this House. It may be perfectly correct that the Government of India are constitutionally within their rights in settling the claim, but I have not been able to extract from the Honourable the Finance Member a definite assurance that this House would be consulted before a settlement is arrived at. I tried in one or two cases by supplementary questions without any very much relief or progress in the direction I wanted. I feel very strongly, Sir, that it would not be right for this House to suggest any names at this stage; especially with regard to the Honourable the Leader of the House. I do not know if he would like his holiday in Europe, short as it is, to be interfered with by any juggling with financial figures. I think there could be no secret which the Government of India or the Secretary of State might like to be kept confidential in connection with all the correspondence that may have passed between the Government of India on the one hand as representing, if you like, the Secretary of State, and the War Office on the other. These claims are very old claims; 5, or 7 or more than 10 years have passed now, and it is high time that we got a definite assurance from the Treasury Benches opposite on behalf of the Government of India that no claim would be settled without consulting, if you like, either this Assembly, or at least the Finance Committee of this Assembly. I should not sympathise with any Honourable Member on the Treasury Benches who later on, after settling the claim, when this House criticises the Government very strongly, complains that the House was going for any Member opposite. I feel that the representatives of the tax-payers have every right to demand that in connection with these claims they should be consulted, they should be allowed an opportunity of going into them—if you like the Assembly may be represented by a small Committee or by a few selected Members of the House. But I should not like the Government of India to take the responsibility of settling these claims either by arbitration or by mutual settlement. I do not think, Sir, anything more need be said.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, I should like to say just one word in reply to what Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas has said. First of all as to the amount of claim, he quoted 100 million pounds sterling.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Mr. Ramachandra Rao said that.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: That is a nice round figure to talk about. But in some of these claims, in particular the claim of 40 millions, no one can really take that sort of total very seriously. That is the figure that has been suggested, but it is in the realm of fairyland, though it is quoted and quoted again and again. I think it is not desirable that it should go about the country as being really within the bounds of practical politics.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: When, what the Honourable Member says goes out, people will know.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I will say no more about it. But in regard to consultation with this House, we must remember the constitutional position. The decision rests not, as the Honourable Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas said, with the Secretary of State, but with the Secretary of State in Council, that is, not with the Secretary of State as a member of the British Cabinet, but the Secretary of State as part of the governance of India, in that part of his functions, not as an individual, but as part of a Council, namely, the India Council. That does make a serious difference.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask whether the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett seriously contends that the Secretary of State's Council will pit itself against the British Cabinet in a matter like this?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I have known it do so.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I have known it too.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask in how many cases it has been successful?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: If I am to answer that question arithmetically, I should have to ask for notice. But it has certainly been successful more than once. The facts may not perhaps be on record but there are numbers of occasions on which it has stood very faithfully to its duty in regard to this control of finance in the interests of the Indian people. In regard to one of these claims in particular, I believe that it is the attitude of the India Council that has prevented before now a settlement which might not have been entirely satisfactory to India. The Secretary of State in Council, therefore, must be the final authority. Moreover, the Government have not got a majority in this House and they cannot say that they will accept as final a decision by this House, even if they had the constitutional power. They might desire to do so; but in this case not only have they not got a majority in this House, but it is not the Government of India but the Secretary of State in Council with whom the decision rests. I cannot therefore go beyond what I have already said that the Government of India will do their best to see that full information is given to this House on the subject as it becomes available from time to time. That must not be taken as a statement that the Government of India intend to go and settle this over the heads of the Assembly, but it is a statement of the constitutional position as it exists and beyond which I am not in a position to go.

Dr. H. S. Gaur: Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that any liability incurred by the Secretary of State's Council will come out of the general revenues of India and that we will have to find the money, and from that point of view the constitutional position which he enunciates has since been modified by the passing of the Reforms Act?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I do not think it has been modified by the Reforms Act, in that sense.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Is it not possible that the Secretary of State may make it a non-votable item?

(The President then called on Mr. Joshi to move his amendment. No. 80.)

Mr. H. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the sub-head 'Department of Industries and Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of this Department to certain matters regarding the interests of Indian labour. The importance of the question regarding labour is day by day increasing and it will increase still more in the near future on account of the great desire which the country is showing for a rapid industrialisation by means of protective tariffs and other methods. Both the importance and the complexity of the problem, therefore, are likely to grow in the near future. I am anxious that the Government of India should be prepared to meet the present situation as well as the situation which is likely to arise in a very short time. It is necessary that the Government of India should be in a position to deal with these questions. Unfortunately, the Government of India, instead of being in a position to deal with these questions in a better way, are gradually doing things which clearly show that they are not quite alive to the importance of the problem. In the first place, the Government of India have already reduced the staff they had maintained to look after the labour questions in the country. I had referred to this question last year. The Government of India used to have a Labour Bureau. There were two officers in the Labour Bureau as well as some staff. But the Retrenchment Committee, which did very good work as regards other matters, as it consisted of capitalists, decided to abolish this Labour Bureau. Sir, that is my first complaint and I want the Government of India, as the finances of the country have improved, to re-establish the Labour Bureau, not only with the number of officers which it had before, but with a large number of officers as well as staff. Unless there is an agency with the Government of India to look after railway problems satisfactorily, the labour legislation which is necessary in the interests of the working classes is likely to be delayed. The Government of India have already shown that they are not able to introduce legislation which they had already promised. Some three years ago the Government of India had promised to introduce legislation to register trade unions. A question was asked on this point only a few days ago and the Honourable Member in charge of the Department said he could not undertake to say when the legislation would be introduced. I think 3 years quite sufficient time for the Government of India to consider this question, but, unfortunately, up to this time, they have not been able to make up their mind on this question. If they had a Labour Bureau I think the matter would have been expedited. The question of legislation for trade unions is important to the working classes

on account of the fact that the recognition of trade unions is denied on the ground that the unions are not properly formed. If the unions are registered, the registration itself is one kind of evidence that the union is properly formed. I do not say that, even if a union is registered, it will be recognised, still the registration itself will be some evidence of the fact that the trade union is properly formed; therefore we are anxious that Government should introduce that legislation at an early date.

Secondly, I want the Government of India to introduce some legislation to bring into existence machinery for conciliation and arbitration. The Government of India have not yet done it. Its evil effects are seen in many provinces, but still the Government of India do not move. Perhaps the Government of India are waiting to see the Local Governments introduce legislation; but, Sir, no Local Government has yet introduced legislation, and, if the Government of India wait for ten years more, I am quite sure that very few Local Governments will have done that and I think that the Government of India should take up this matter and introduce proper legislation.

The third matter on which I would like the Government of India to introduce legislation at an early date is as regards prohibition of the employment of women during the period of confinement, and to make provision for the giving of maternity benefits. This question also has been before the Government of India for more than four years. They do not say that they do not see the importance of the question; they see the importance of the question, but, unfortunately, they do not think that question is so important that they should take early action. It was said sometime ago that the Government of India first want some action to be taken as regards maternity benefits by voluntary efforts. They want to try their power of persuasion and to exercise their voluntary influence over the employers and see that the employers themselves introduce some rules on this question, but they have not met with much success. I want to know if the Government of India made serious efforts to persuade the employers to give maternity benefits as well as not to employ the women at least some days before confinement and some days after confinement. Sir, the Government of India, as they are a civilized Government, cannot delay this question much longer. I know that the Government of India, during the last four years, have collected some information, but the collection of information does not satisfy the needs of the working classes. They may go on collecting volumes and volumes without doing any good to the working classes. I see the need of collecting information if it is within certain limits. Let the Government of India spend a year or two in collecting information; they have spent nearly four years in collecting information, and I think it is high time that they should introduce legislation on this question without delay.

Then, Sir, there is another question to which I want the Government of India to give their serious consideration. On account of the industrialisation of the country new problems are arising and becoming serious. One of them is unemployment in the country. There is unemployment both among the middle classes as well as among the working classes. A great number of people are out of work because there is no work for them. Sir, this unemployment is a natural consequence of industrialisation. Industries do provide employment to working classes, but industries also bring in their train periodical unemployment, and, if the country wants industrialisation, the country should be ready with some measures to meet unemployment which is bound to come periodically. Sir, that period has

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

come now. Therefore, I want the Government of India to give their serious consideration to the question of unemployment. They must find out remedies to meet this evil. They must establish public employment agencies, and they must also consider whether it is not now possible to institute some measure of unemployment insurance. The question of making provision for the working classes during their illness as well as after their retirement from service is also becoming very serious. There was a time when we used to think that those working classes working in the factories could go to their villages and live there happily after they had become old, but, Sir, those days are rapidly passing. When a worker works in a factory up to the age of 50 or 55 years or 60 years, he generally has lost his land and has nothing to depend upon. There are numerous cases of people who have nothing to depend upon after they have retired from the factories and their number is now growing larger and larger. It is necessary that the Government of India should now consider this question

Mr. Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): I would like to point out that Mr. Joshi has exceeded his time limit by at least one minute.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I may say this, that I do not want to take any unnecessary time, but at the same time it will be convenient to the House that I should deal with this question on one motion instead of dealing with it on several motions.

Dr. H. S. Gour: How many motions will you require?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It depends upon the circumstances, but I shall not take any more time, if the House wants different speeches, I am prepared for them. Sir, I want the Department of Industries and Labour to give very serious consideration to the legislation which is absolutely necessary in the interests of the working classes of this country. I hope they will take early steps to do it.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Sir, I have no intention of exceeding the time limit which has been set, and I shall try and endeavour to remain this side of the limit you have fixed. I take this opportunity of stating that in the debate that took place the day before yesterday I was perhaps guilty of some sort of injustice to the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee. I am perfectly aware that he did all he could in the matter of the British India Steam Navigation Company, and, if my remarks carried a meaning which I did not intend, I apologise to him.

But, Sir, it is a very different matter with which we are dealing at the present moment. We are dealing with the whole principle of labour administration in this country. I am surprised that no attempt has been made to set up a Labour Ministry in charge of labour problems which crop up from time to time in this country. Recently we had the strike of the textile workers in Bombay—a strike on a very colossal scale which resulted in the loss of 3 or 4 lives and has caused an immense amount of sorrow and hardship to the workers of Bombay. Now, if you had had a Labour Ministry, you would certainly be in a position to deal with problems of that nature as they arise. But, as it is, we are shunted from the Central Government to the Provincial Government and from the Provincial Government to the Central Government, and by the time we have

found out as to who exactly is responsible for giving an explanation to us, the strike is probably over and no redress can be had for the workers. The Honourable Mr. Joshi has referred to various problems that could be tackled if you had a Central Bureau here in Delhi; but it is not mere bureaux that are going to settle this matter. It is a change of policy on the part of the Government of India. So far labour has been treated as if it were an adopted child, very much of an obstreperous child in need, to be sunnocked and put in the corner. But I do not think that is the attitude which the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee has been adopting towards labour. I know his sympathies for labour. I know he is undoubtedly willing that something radical should be done to do away with the conditions which now prevail in industrial centres in India. You take, on the one side, the textile industry. We hear the textile industry is very hard hit. What are the actual facts? You find that mill after mill has been making profits ranging from 100 to 200 per cent. in many instances. You take, on the one side, profits for 1914. The textile industry in Bombay made a profit of 80 lakhs in 1914; in 1916, 674 lakhs, in 1918, 471 lakhs, and then a most surprising jump in 1919 when the profits rose to 13 crores and 6 lakhs. When you remember that the total capital invested in the mill industry in Bombay is 12 crores, and that in 1919 the mill-owners of Bombay made profits of 13 crores and 6 lakhs, the plea they put forward, that they are very hard hit, is a plea which can never be justified. And it is on that plea that they tried to do away with the bonus they usually give to the workers. What is this bonus given to the workers? The bonus is simply part of the wages they keep back from the workers during the course of the year and which they give in a lump sum at the end of the year. That is not a statement I am making on my own authority. I make it on the authority of Mr. Findlay Shirras who ought to know what he is talking about.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable gentleman, but the settlement of labour disputes is a provincial subject and I do not know if he is in order in referring to the present dispute in Bombay.

Mr. Chaman Lal: May I remind the Honourable Member, Sir, that, if I am not mistaken, the representatives of the Workers' Welfare League in London went and saw Mr. Montagu when he was Secretary of State for India, and he promised that Conciliation Boards would be set up under the auspices of the Central Government and I cannot see how it is a provincial subject. If a promise of that nature has been given, and I believe it has been given, then I am perfectly in order in dealing with subjects of that kind. I speak subject to your ruling, Sir.

Mr. President: It is not always easy, as the Honourable Member knows, to say what is in order and what is not. A very good test is whether the Honourable Member to whom a question is put is in possession of the information and can answer it; and secondly, whether administrative action on his part could settle the trouble to which reference is made. The points raised by Mr. Joshi were, I think, all of them within the scope of the Honourable Member's Department, and so far as I can see some parts of the Honourable Member's remarks are in order though, when he refers specifically to the settlement of labour disputes, that is a matter which the Local Governments themselves are solely concerned with.

Mr. Chaman Lal: I thank you for your ruling, Sir. I would like to point out that, personally, I think a great deal will be gained if legislation on those lines is undertaken by the Central Government to establish Conciliation Boards throughout the country, and I cannot see that any harm will be done by the establishment of Central Conciliation Boards.

Now, Sir, coming back to the question of wages, the profits made by the millowners and the grievances of the workers throughout India, particularly in the textile industry, may I point out to the Honourable Member that although, on one side, these are enormous profits earned by the mill industry in Bombay, on the other side, if you will examine the wages, you will see that those wages have not been commensurate with the profits earned by the owners. Let us take, for instance, one mill—I will not take the name of that mill, because I do not like to single it out for condemnation. Let us take the condition of a scouter in Bombay. You find that in 1897 the wages for a scouter were Rs. 10; in 1922 they rose to about Rs. 14 to Rs. 15; Lap Carrier used to be paid Rs. 9 in 1897, while in 1922 he was paid Rs. 12; a fly-carrier Rs. 7 in 1897, and Rs. 9.5 in 1922. A sweeper Rs. 7 in 1897, and Rs. 8 in 1922; a drawer Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 in 1897, and in 1922 Rs. 17 to Rs. 22; a peeler Rs. 7.5-9 in 1897 and Rs. 10-13 in 1922; a dresser Rs. 10-14 in 1897 and Rs. 15 to Rs. 17 in 1922. Now these total wages have been increased no doubt by 70 per cent. for fixed wage workers and by about 10 per cent. for piece workers, but these wages are not commensurate with the rise in the cost of living or with the profits which the millowners have been making in Bombay during recent years, and I do consider, Sir, that if you had a Labour Ministry, that body would immediately appoint certain Members of this Assembly as an Advisory Board which could advise on all topics of this nature and do everything to see that justice is done to workers throughout India. I merely instance the textile industry, but if you look at the other industries of India—take for instance the jute industry or the tea plantations—you find exactly the same state of affairs prevailing there,—intense exploitation of the workers. No provision is made, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has pointed out, for unemployment insurance or for old age or sickness or for maternity benefits. India in this respect is at least 500 years behind the times. India is not at all and will not be considered a civilized country if it leaves its workers to starve and to undergo exploitation as they are undergoing it at the present moment. It is the business of the Government, it is the business not of philanthropists or trade union workers, but essentially of Government to see to it that legislation on proper lines is immediately introduced. You cannot do this unless and until you institute a thorough inquiry into the present state of exploitation of Indian workers. I see, Sir, that India to-day is becoming more and more the milch cow of foreign exploiters as well as of Indian exploiters. I am perfectly convinced that in no other country in the world will such enormous profits be allowed to accumulate year in and year out. Now let us take just a few instances. We have the Phoenix Mill, the total capital of which is Rs. 8,00,000, but its reserve and block account is Rs. 1 crore, and it has been paying profits from 50, 90, 100, 160, 175, 140 and 200 per cent. during the last six years or so. Then take another Mill, the Ahmedabad Advance, capital 10 lakhs, reserve and block account Rs. 74 lakhs, profits 20, 36, 36, 60, 60, 80 and 45 per cent., in recent years. Let me quote, Sir, just one more instance, the Bombay Dyeing Company, capital nearly Rs. 68 lakhs, reserve fund and block account Rs. 5 crores, profits 70, 88, 128, 215, 76 and 57 per cent.

Mr. Darcy Lindsay: Are these the people who want the cotton excise duty to be removed?

Mr. Chaman Lal: I hope, Sir, when you do abolish the cotton excise duty you will certainly put in a proviso that these mills must not under any circumstances reduce the wages of these workers for the next five years and that they will promise a standard rate of wages somewhere approximating to the wages prevailing in Great Britain. I have had numerous cables and letters from England asking me to press for this particular matter, the standardisation of wages and their approximation to the wages that are prevailing in these industries in Great Britain. It is only by doing that, by raising the standard of wages in India, that you will be able to do away, in a great measure with unemployment in England; but this is a matter outside the scope of my present remarks. I merely wish to call the attention of the Honourable Member in charge to the suggestion that he should institute first of all a searching inquiry into the exploitation of Indian workers. He should send his men down to the mine-fields where men are getting 7 to 8 annas a day, where I have seen with my own eyes such utter destitution as to shame any country in the world if it were allowed to continue. (*The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:* "In the mine-fields?") Yes, in the mine-fields. I do not know if the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee has been down to Ranegunj and Jharia. I have been to Jharia and I have seen with my own eyes the most horrible state of affairs. Men, women and children living in one *chawl* with hardly any ventilation, and I am told in winter when they have to light a little coal fire, several of them die of asphyxiation, of carbon-monoxide poisoning, merely because there is no ventilation. I have seen with my own eyes tiny little babies lying on a cot with not a soul to look after them. I asked an old woman who was there as to what was the provision for looking after the children of these workers, and I was told God only looks after them. That particular kind of God must be a very unmindful God, because in India, as the Honourable the President has remarked in one of his speeches at Delhi, the infantile death rate is about the worst that prevails in the whole world. You have 622 children, in Bombay alone, dying in the year 1922 within a year of their birth—622 out of a thousand born. That is a horrible state of things,—the poverty, the misery, the starvation, the infantile death-rate, the housing of these workers. And who is responsible? You will tell me the owners, the employers are responsible. I say the Government of India are responsible. It is for them to see to it that legislation is brought in

Mr. President: I must ask the Honourable Member to bring his remarks to a close. He has already had his full time and more.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Well, Sir, all that I want to do is to appeal to the Honourable Member that he should take the matter in hand immediately and give us an assurance that he is going first of all to institute a searching inquiry into these conditions, and secondly, that he is going to bring India up to the level of modern countries with regard to labour legislation.

Mr. Narain Dass: (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, if the Honourable Mr. Joshi had said something on behalf of the agricultural labourers, who are said to constitute from 70 to 80 per cent. of the labour population in India, I would have been under no necessity to put in a word on their behalf. I think the Government of India do owe a duty

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to give a direction to that great problem known by the name of the land revenue policy. There is distinctly a head under General Administration called Revenue and Agriculture Department and I think I would be perfectly in order . . .

Mr. President: I am afraid that is just what the Honourable Member is not. We are discussing the Department of Industries and Labour just now and a motion for reduction has been moved to draw attention to labour questions in so far as they come within the purview of the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee.

Mr. Narain Dass: Sir, am I to understand that agricultural labour and the condition of the agricultural labourer is not to be referred to?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member discussed land revenue and that is not only not in Mr. Chatterjee's charge but that is not a Central subject. If Mr. Chatterjee chooses to say that he is in charge of agricultural labour, the Honourable Member is in order.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: It is very difficult for me to say, Sir, whether I am in charge of agricultural labour or not. My Honourable colleague, Sir Narasimha Sarma, is in charge of Agriculture, I am in charge of Labour.

Dr. L. K. Hyder (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): May I ask the Honourable Member if Agriculture is an industry or is not?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: It is not an industry in the sense that the word is used in our departmental phraseology.

Mr. President: I think we are coming to quibbling. I must point out that the Honourable Member must address his remarks on such matters as were raised by the two previous speakers, and even they found it difficult to keep themselves in order.

Mr. Narain Dass: I think that when we come to consider the general administration of the Government of India, I will be allowed to put in a word on the general agricultural policy, because, after all, land revenue policy comes within the general administration of the Government of India. At whatever stage it may be, I think it forms part of the general administration and that I will be allowed to speak on it, if not now, at least at the end.

Mr. H. G. Cooke (Bombay: European): Sir, I should like to say just one word about the figures of capital and dividends that were mentioned by a previous speaker in connection with his remark about labour and wages. One so often hears it said that if a company has a capital of Rs. 1 lakh and it has paid a dividend of (say) Rs. 80,000 that the dividend is therefore 80 per cent. and that it is a crying shame therefore that the wages paid by the company are not higher. What really happens, Sir, in this. A company is originally floated with a capital of Rs. 1 lakh. It then trades for 30 or 40 years and as it has put aside to reserve a part of its profits each year it has really to-day perhaps a capital of Rs. 10 lakhs. Instead of paying out all its profits to its shareholders and asking for the money to come back as additional share capital, it has retained its original share capital as Rs. 1 lakh and has put from its profits Rs. 9 lakhs, to reserve. So that it is really quite misleading to say, as regards a company which has been in existence for 30 or 40 years, such as one of the mills which was quoted, that the company is now paying a dividend of 80 per cent. Technically it is; but actually it is not.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Sir, in view of what my Honourable friend from Bombay has just now said, I need say very little in reply to what my Honourable friend, Mr. Chaman Lal, said with so much emphasis. I think I may say quite at the outset that I am in great sympathy with what both Mr. Joshi and Mr. Chaman Lal have urged; but I hope that both realise that if India must have industrialisation, those at any rate who plead for labour have got to look at the industrial side with fairness, if nothing else. Mr. Chaman Lal referred to the question of bonus. I wish he had taken note of the Macleod award—the award given by the Chief Justice of Bombay who was appointed Chairman of a Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay to settle the dispute in question. The decision of this Committee, I understand, is against what had been urged in Bombay by the labourers and presumably by their leaders like my friends, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Chaman Lal. Let us have the case put fairly before this House both for labour and for capital and then let this House run down either labour or capital as they like on the merits of each particular case. Mr. Cocke has very rightly pointed out that it is wrong to name a certain mill which has existed for over 30 or 40 years and then point out that, in a certain number of years, which have been recognised as fat years, not only for the cotton mills but for every other industry in India, it has paid what may be called exorbitant dividends. I feel that both my friends there would do very well indeed to look at the other side of the picture also, and at least try and put forward their case with fairness to the side of capital. Of course, they may have a little partiality to their own labour side also. I feel that no capitalist nor anybody who is in charge of any industry, if he is really trying to serve his best ends, can be opposed to any reasonable demand for the betterment and for the amelioration of the condition of labour. A little acrimony and bitterness have been introduced in the discussion of this question by primarily, if I may say so, over-enthusiasts on the one side or the other who look after their own point of view only and solely. If my Honourable friends there lead their flock with a little control and try to put things fairly, I do not think that they will find many reasonable men—very few indeed on the side of capital—who will be opposed to any of the things for which Mr. Chaman Lal pleaded so eloquently before the House.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I appreciate the genuine interests in the labouring classes of the country which has prompted the speeches of my Honourable friends behind. At the same time they are a little bit unkind to the Government. It was suggested, I think by Mr. Joshi, that in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee we have abolished the Labour Bureau and have ceased to function at all with respect to the labour side of our work. I venture to think that that is not a correct representation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I did not make that statement. I said that they have reduced the number of officers and the staff.

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I am sorry if I misunderstood my Honourable friend. It is quite true that, in order to carry out the wishes of this House for very rigid economy, we had to reduce our staff and we did so with the greatest regret. We have had to curtail our activities in many desirable directions. As I say, we did not do so without very great regret, and I share Mr. Joshi's hope that, when financial circumstances permit, we may be able again to extend our activities. But in the meantime, we have not ceased to carry on to the best of our ability the work that we were doing when we had the so-called Labour Bureau in

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the Department of Industries. As a matter of fact, as my Honourable friend must have noticed, the very change in the name of the Department indicates that the Government of India have not lost interest in the subject of labour. In this connection I would like to refer to my Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lal's observation that Government look upon labour as an obstreperous child which only needs smacking, I think that is what he said. I should like to know whether the history of the last three years lends any justification to this view. If Government did look upon labour as a step-child or an obstreperous child, is it likely that we should have carried through this House and through the other House measures like the revision of the Indian Factories Act, the revision of the Mines Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, and a promise to repeal the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act? I do hope that my Honourable friend did not intend to reflect either on the Government of India or on the Legislature when he made that somewhat jocular remark.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, in order to prove that we had no staff at all to deal with labour or that we had an extremely attenuated staff, referred to the delay in bringing forward legislation for the registration and protection of trade unions. He also referred to the absence of any legislation for providing a machinery for conciliation. In justice to our staff I ought to say that the delay is not at all due to any remissness on the part of the staff. I should like to take the whole of the blame on myself. Our proposals with regard to either of these questions were not mature before the last Assembly expired. I did not think it desirable to bring forward this legislation earlier, mainly because I confess that I really did not know what view our new friends in this Assembly would take on these matters. I did not like to bring forward any legislation on these subjects which was likely to be infructuous.

Mr. Chaman Lal: May I, with your permission, Sir, inform the Honourable Member that I have received cables from England that many prominent trade unionists there are in favour of legislation on those lines?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I was not referring to the trade unions in England. I was only referring to my Honourable Colleagues in this House, my new Colleagues. If, as I understand, it is their anxiety that this subject should be discussed in this House I for my part shall do everything to furnish them an opportunity.

Then Mr. Joshi passed on to the question of the prohibition of the employment of women before and after child birth and also to the question of maternity benefits. Mr. Joshi thinks that the Government of India have done nothing in this matter and that the whole duty in this respect devolves on the Government of India. I remember that two years ago an organisation was formed known as the all-India Workers' Welfare Organisation and my Honourable friend was the Honorary Secretary of that organisation. I had hoped very great things from that organisation. The Honourable Member knows that about three years ago this matter had been very carefully inquired into, very exhaustively investigated by the staff employed by the Government of India. At that time we came to the conclusion that it was useless prohibiting the employment of women during this period unless we could at the same time provide maternity benefits; financial considerations absolutely precluded us from making any provision on behalf of the State for maternity benefits. It was therefore suggested to honorary workers like Mr. Joshi that they should make

efforts to persuade employers to introduce these measures in their works and then it would be possible to consider whether legislation was desirable or not. I should like to know what this organisation of which Mr. Joshi is the Honorary Secretary has done in this direction. I do not wish to detain the House. I should just like to say that other matters to which Mr. Joshi referred, like unemployment, the appointment of public employment agencies, social insurance and so forth, are really very big subjects and cannot be discussed within the limits of a Budget debate.

I should just like to refer to Mr. Chaman Lal's description of the mine-fields. I did not go to Jharia on a jaunt to attend the Trade Union Congress. I did go to the coal fields several times and I have been down a good many mines; as a matter of fact, as my Honourable friend Sir Charles Innes said on one occasion, I lived in that area as a boy and I know a good bit about it. It is quite true that the conditions of the workers there are not perfect but has my Honourable friend gone into the homes of these workers when they are not working in the mines? Has he compared the conditions in the mine areas with the conditions in their own homes? It is no use having an absolute standard. We must have a relative standard in these matters. I think if he had carried his investigations a little further, he would have found that the organisations which have been set up by the Local Governments are doing very great and very useful work. I do not claim that these conditions are perfect but they are improving and I hope they will continue to improve.

Mr. Chaman Lal: What are the average rates of wages?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The average rates of wages are no better and no worse than the rates of wages of other employes in that locality. It is no use raising the average wages without raising the general conditions of living in India. He has also referred to the exploitation of the workers in the jute mills, in tea plantations and several other industries. The remarks I made a little while ago apply to these also. It is no use setting before yourself an absolute standard. You must have relative standards. As regards conditions in the jute mills my Honourable friend compared conditions here with those in England. May I inquire how many employers in England provide any housing at all for their employes? I think at any rate we may claim for the employers in the jute areas in Bengal that they have made genuine efforts to provide good and satisfactory housing conditions for their employes. There again I do not contend that the conditions are perfect. They are capable of improvement but there are many difficulties. I know that a good many employers find it extremely difficult to get land on account of the present law and on account of the difficulties with regard to title in Bengal. But I think some credit should be given to employers for what they have done. The picture that my Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lal drew was entirely unrelieved by any of the brighter features of the relations between labourers and employers in India. In many cases these relations are thoroughly satisfactory, and I think in the interests of the workers themselves it is desirable that a word of praise should be given to the employers. I am sorry, Sir, that I have taken so much of the time of the House, but I thought it necessary to answer some of the statements that have been made. As I say, I am grateful to the Honourable Members for their appreciation of the work that used to be done in the Government of India with regard to labour, and I can only assure them that it is being continued to the best of our ability and that we will increase the staff when circumstances again permit.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the demand under the sub-head 'Department of Industries and Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the sub-head 'Army Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I would like to ask my Honourable friend, Mr. Burdon, for information on one or two points. The first of these is that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the discussions last year said that he was still carrying on correspondence about the reduction of the capitation charges. May I ask him, Sir, what the result of that correspondence is. So far as Members of this House are concerned, we have absolutely no information as regards the exact method by which the capitation charges, the rate of capitation, is computed. I should like the Honourable Member to enlighten this House as regards the exact method by which the present capitation rate has been arrived at, and who are the parties who have entered into this agreement, who represented the India Office and what were the negotiations that were carried on? These are matters in which we should like to have such information as is possible. I have already referred to the constitutional difficulty of getting a fair and satisfactory settlement of our claims for and against the British Treasury and also His Majesty's Army Department.

Sir, there is another thing which I should like to mention. I understand that the Government of India are now making a contribution to the Air Ministry of £100,000. May I ask, on what basis this amount has been fixed and what were the representations made on behalf of India in fixing this amount? These are the two points on which I should like to have specific information from my Honourable friend.

Sir, on a previous occasion I mentioned to him that considerable irritation is being caused in India because contributions from Indian funds are being made to various educational institutions relating to the Army from which our students in England have been excluded on account of their race. I referred to these amounts in the debate which came up

4 P.M. some time last month. I should like to know whether it is obligatory on the part of the India Office or on the part of the Government of India to make any contributions to any educational institutions which train persons for a military career from which Indians as Indians are being excluded. Sir, I can say on behalf of those Honourable Members who are here that that contribution continues to evoke the greatest amount of resentment, and I think, Sir, the time has come that our contributions to these institutions must be stopped if our students in England cannot be admitted to them. These are the three matters on which I should like to have as full a statement as my Honourable friend can furnish. Of course, so far as our own training institutions in India are concerned, in the book which has been furnished, we have two or three institutions from which Indians are now excluded; but that, Sir, I think, is a matter which is more or less dependent upon the policy of exclusion from artillery training to which the Government of India are now committed; and I cannot ask my friend to declare the policy of the Government of India on that matter. But the fact still remains that amongst the training institutions which are mentioned in this book, there are institutions to which

Indians are not now admitted by reason of the fact that the training has not been extended to them in the particular departments to which those institutions relate.

Mr. President: Reduction moved:

"That the demand under the sub-head 'Army Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: Sir, I should also like to have some information from the Honourable Mr. Burdon with regard to several points connected with the administration of the Army. The other day His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief informed the House that Indians were now largely admitted into the artillery. I have no doubt that they are admitted as camel drivers, mule drivers and bullock drivers, and I know also that they are admissible to the mule batteries or pack batteries as they are called, and they have been admitted to these mule batteries or pack batteries for a number of years. The point on which we should like to get information is whether Indians have been admitted otherwise than as artificers or menials into the artillery, whether there are any Indian gunners in the field artillery, the horse artillery or any other artillery units other than the mule battery. In fact the statement made in that new book "The Army in India and its evolution" is that some of these units have been now diluted with the Indian element. Now, what I want to know is whether that process of dilution has extended to the gunners who fire the guns in these various artillery units.

Then, another statement that was made by him was that while no reduction of the fighting troops was possible, reduction was possible in the ancillary services, and I believe His Excellency even said that in the ancillary services there would be no serious obstacle to Indianisation. What I wish to know is whether there has been any considerable or serious attempt at Indianisation in the ancillary services, and if so in which of them. In making this inquiry for information, I am referring chiefly to the commissioned ranks in the various ancillary services. If they have admitted Indians to the commissioned ranks or have at any rate declared that Indians are eligible for the commissioned ranks in these ancillary services, I am not aware of it, and I am afraid the Military Department suffers from undue modesty and might carry on a little publicity campaign. It is very desirable that the public should know the number of commissioned places that are thrown open to recruitment year by year in these various services.

Then with regard to the rate of recruitment generally to the rank of commissioned officers, the principle was laid down in a Resolution of the Assembly that not less than 25 per cent. of the vacancies in the King's Commissions in the fighting services in the Indian units should be thrown open to Indians every year and that principle was accepted by the Government of India. I do not know whether it has been accepted yet by the Home Government or not. Now, the number of commissioned officers actually thrown open to recruitment from among Indians is, I believe, only 10 every year. I do not know whether the number of commissions thrown open to Indian recruitment still remains at 10 or whether it has been raised to the percentage of 25 desired by the House and agreed to by the Government in 1921. Some time ago when I made a request for information I was told that, owing to the large number of surplus officers in the Army, recruitment could not go on as fast as it would in normal times. But now I believe the incubus of surplus officers has disappeared and we might

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expect the normal rate of recruitment to be resumed. There are 7,000 officers in the Army. Excluding the British units, there may be 8,500 officers on the cadre of the commissioned ranks of the Indian units. Now, assuming 4 per cent. to be the ordinary rate of retirement, there should be 140 places thrown open every year for recruitment, out of which, if we had 25 per cent., the number of places thrown open to the recruitment of Indians would be 35. I am pretty certain that 85 places are not thrown open, as they ought to be at the rate of 25 per cent. But I think I might fairly plead that we are now entitled to something more than the 25 per cent. which we asked for in 1921. We are entitled to for some annual increment with retrospective effect from 1921. If an increment of even 2½ or 3 per cent. is added, we should now be entitled to about 33 per cent., or one-third of the total number of commissioned offices thrown open every year. I should like to know whether the point has been decided and, if it has not been decided by the Imperial Government, whether the Government of India will be so good as to press the point upon the attention of the Imperial Government and support our recommendation.

There are only one or two other points to which I wish to refer. I sent in a Resolution some time ago, which unfortunately was not able to get a place in the ballot, about the formation of certain Indian units. I do not now wish to get any answer from Mr. Burdon on the spot. My Resolution was to the effect that the Government of India should create certain additional Indian units, one unit of field artillery one squadron of the air force and certain other units. My object in moving that Resolution was to meet the objection of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to the admission of Indians into the artillery units or the air force, which were exclusively British. I do not want Indians to be thrust into any of these British units. If there is any objection to the admission of Indians to these British units, then I ask that Indian units might be created and I am sure this request of mine is of a very modest character. I do not ask that these Indian units should replace British units; all that I ask is that additional Indian units be created. From the purely military point of view, no objection can be taken to this request to augment our fighting forces by the addition of Indian units. That is the request I conveyed in my notice of Resolution, which has not yet found a place in the ballot. I do not propose to take up the time of the House on this point, as I know that it is not possible for Mr. Burdon to give me any answer on this point; but I mention it now so that, when I get a place in the ballot, as I hope to do in the next Session, he may have put things in train and be in a position to give me a satisfactory answer, and not be obliged to plead want of time.

I would only remark that the Medical Services in the country seem extremely extravagant. It works out to a high proportion. The Inchcape Committee went into the question of the number of officers with reference to the number of beds but if we consider the number of officers required with reference to the average number of patients you will find the proportion is extremely high. The answer will perhaps be that the officers have to look not merely after the patients but also have administrative duties such as sanitation. Making allowances for all that the proportion still seems very extravagant.

Mr. Darcy Lindsay: May I remind the Honourable Member that there are others waiting to speak?

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer: His Excellency said that except in the matter of the fighting service, with regard to which he did not admit the possibility of any reduction, it might be possible to explore avenues of retrenchment in other directions. What I should like His Excellency to do is to turn the searchlight on the staff of the Army Headquarters and the staff of the Commands and Districts. The staffs of the Army Headquarters have not undergone any decrease. There has been a slight increase in expenditure and a considerable increase in the staffs of Commands and Districts. I am not going to express any disapproval—perhaps that is not the correct word, it is perhaps too presumptuous—I am not going to make any criticism of the Commands. The Inchcape Committee gave it a temporary benediction. For my part I express approval of that arrangement as being one which is very probably necessary. But I do expect that if you had four Commands it might be possible to effect some reduction in Army Headquarters. The answer may perhaps be that the larger the staff of Commands and Districts, the greater is the burden of supervision. But this matter requires serious investigation.

Captain Ajab Khan (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, as the matter of the Army is before the House, I would like to offer a few observations in the matter. The admission of Indians to the King's Commission has been effected since the past few years. The sources of supply have been three: candidates from Curzon's Dehra Dun Cadet Corps, passes from Sandhurst, and promotion from the Viceroy's Commission. The first of these sources has been abolished. There are about 35 to 40 Indian officers taken from the Indian units and promoted to the King's Commission, and that source has nearly stopped. The only avenue for the Indian to get the King's Commission is through Sandhurst now. The annual number of admissions is about 10, and the number successful from Sandhurst has been about 6 or 7 a year. Taking the established large number of the Indian Army officers in service into consideration, it will be about a thousand years or even more before the whole Indian Army is officered by Indians. I think if the admission to Sandhurst be increased in the near future, it will be very desirable and to the satisfaction of everybody in the House. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with the approval of the Secretary of State, has set apart eight units for thorough Indianisation. If I may be allowed to say so, the scheme of setting apart several units to be Indianised is not a popular one amongst the officers who hold the King's Commission. The Indian officers in service were asked to apply for transfer to these units, and none of them, I understand, have so far done so, and even new candidates who come out from Sandhurst are very reluctant to go to these units. I think Indian officers want for a long time to work shoulder to shoulder with their comrades, the British officers, to form their character, imbue themselves with a strict sense of discipline, and learn to be hardy and patriotic. I think it will be a long time before the Indian officers with the King's Commission will like to be separated and work on their own. The Indian Army Service Corps, the Air Services and other services are I believe not open in the Commissioned rank for Indians. In the Air Service I believe two Indians served with great distinction in the great war in France. In the interests of Indians, I think some method will have to be evolved for admitting Indians to those services. I know in the mule batteries, and coast and garrison artillery there are Indians holding the Viceroy's Commission and I think they will do equally well if they are promoted to the King's Commission. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has promised that he will endeavour to extend the Military College at Dehra Dun, but we want some more

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admissions to Sandhurst thrown open to Indians as early as possible. With these few remarks, Sir, I close my observations.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Oldney (Nominated: Anglo-Indians): Sir, I have so many points to which I wish to call the attention of Mr. Burdon that I fear I shall not be able to deal with all of them in the short space of ten minutes which is allowed to us now. There are however one or two important points about which I want information. Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer just now pointed out that there was still an excessive amount of hospital accommodation in the military medical services when compared with the reduction in the Army and the present medical personnel by which I presume he means the officers of the R. A. M. C. This is the first point on which I wish to elicit information. Last year I touched on this very subject and we succeeded in a division of this House in obtaining a cut of Rs. 15 lakhs. I have again read through what I said last year, and I find that very little, if any, action has been taken on the suggestions made by me on that occasion. It therefore seems necessary for me again to refer to those points and in some detail. The Inchcape Committee recommended a cut of 53 lakhs in 1923-24 in the military medical budget, besides other retrenchments and savings which had *ipso facto* to follow in the general reduction of the Army which was recommended. It shewed that only one quarter of the hospital bed accommodation was occupied by British sick and only one-third of the hospital bed accommodation was occupied by the Indian sick. It recommended an immediate cut of Rs. 5 lakhs in Medical personnel. It also recommended a cut of one lakh in the cost of drugs. It moreover recommended a cut of Rs. 16 lakhs in clothing for patients.

Now, Sir, let us refer to the Army estimates presented to the House. You will find on page 75 of that record that there is an anticipated reduction of 29 officers in 1924-25 in the personnel of the R. A. M. C. officers which represents up to date a saving of Rs. 57,000 only and a reduction in the I. M. S. in 1924-25 personnel of 60 officers representing a reduction of 5 lakhs. The Inchcape ~~axe~~ has done its work well there. There is no reduction in the pay and personnel of the R. A. M. C. ranks. There is practically no reduction in the personnel and pay of the Queen Alexandra Army Nursing Service. There is a slight increase in the pay of Sub-Assistant Surgeons; there is an increase in the pay and allowances of matrons for family hospitals, and there is a marked increase in the pay of the subordinate Indian personnel.

I now come to the last point, namely, the personnel and the pay of Military Assistant Surgeons in the I. M. D. Here you have an anticipated reduction in the personnel of 78 men representing a reduction in their salaries of 2½ lakhs. Now the total anticipated reduction in the cost of the entire medical personnel in the Military Budget for 1924-25 comes to 8.13 lakhs. You will notice that the anticipated retrenchment in the pay and personnel of the I. M. D. alone comes to Rs. 2,46,000 which constitute about three-fourths of the total anticipated savings in 1924-25 in the personnel of the Military medical services.

Now, Sir, this is what one sees on a cursory glance at the figures placed before us in the Military estimates for 1924-25. I now turn to the reduction effected and contemplated in the Army. We are told that a total reduction of 24,000 troops is or has been effected in the British and Indian armies

"This reduction of 24,000 must *ipso facto* carry a proportionate reduction of personnel suitably distributed and apportioned over the various departments and corps forming the personnel in the medical and other services. Surely the Inchcape axe was never meant to decapitate or annihilate one Department in particular, to the exclusion of all other Departments? Even Lord Inchcape would shudder if he knew his axe were being used to exterminate the I. M. D. so as to satisfy the fetish of the late D. M. S. India, whose aim and object during his Directorship seemed to be to get rid of the I. M. D. bag and baggage and replace them by his pet R. A. M. C. (Ranks). Is this honest economy? Is this honest and equitable retrenchment? Did the Inchcape Committee, in its recommendations, intend to slaughter and exterminate any one particular Department with its retrenchment axe, especially the I. M. D., a Department which no one will deny is of vital necessity and importance to the Medical needs, not only of the British troops in India but India as a country. I repeat Lord Inchcape's Retrenchment Report was meant to effect a proportionate economy all round in the Army, and not in any one particular Department or community. But, what do the Army Estimates reveal? It exposes the patent fact that economy is being effected in the lower ranks, *e.g.*, I. M. D. and not in the higher imported European officers, namely, R. A. M. C. In short more subordinates are being axed to enable fewer officials being got rid of.

Now, Sir, let us examine this Adjutant General's circular letter. It calls upon or invites members of the I. M. D. of varying lengths of service to voluntarily accept gratuities, pensions and compensation, graded most unfairly and ungenerously. If the anticipated number do not avail themselves of this niggardly offer, then I presume compulsory retirement will be ordered. The Army Estimates have arranged for about 70 I. M. D. men to be axed in 1924-25, and the moment this Adjutant General's circular letter comes into operation, another 100 or so will be told to go, and so swell the ranks of our unemployed. This circular is issued forsooth in the interests of economy and in the name of Retrenchment? Not only is this iniquity to be perpetrated on those already in the I. M. D. but quite recently about 15 young lads, military medical pupils in the Medical Colleges in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay who have spent four of the most precious and impressionable years of their lives studying medicine, have been suddenly told by the Army Department that their services are not wanted in the I. M. D. although these lads have successfully passed all the requisite examinations and have for months been patiently waiting to honorably sign on their warrants and agreement for admission into the I. M. D. with the Army. The result is that these boys, after spending 4 years undergoing a course of medical training and passing all the examinations, find themselves to-day ruthlessly and without any compensation thrown into the streets to swell the ranks of our unemployed. Is this Retrenchment? Is this economy? Is this honest and fair? My opinion is that the Army Department in its quest for retrenchment has determined to offer and is offering the I. M. D. as its sacrifice on the altar of Retrenchment and Economy. Now, Sir, Members will ask me what has all this got to do with Military Medical Retrenchment and Economy? It has a lot to do with it and I am going to try and show you how we can still further retrench and economise. Not only to the extent of 58 lakhs but double that amount.

The British Army Medical Department in India has too many luxuries and frills obtained at the expense of the Indian tax-payer. These should go. There is Queen Alexandra Military Nursing Service, a corps of 266

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nurses, trained in England and employed in India at an annual cost of 8½ lakhs. These nurses have done noble and splendid work, but I ask, are they necessary to-day when we can very easily obtain equally efficient lady nurses trained in India and at a much cheaper cost to the Indian tax-payer? Anglo-Indian nurses were eagerly seized and wanted for the sick British soldiers during the War. Why not now? Why this change of front? Is this a luxury or a necessity? Does the British soldier, like the English baby, require his own English nurse to look after him? The late Director, Medical Services, who I understand had very little love for the I. M. D., had evidently determined to replace them by a body of British soldiers, semi-trained male nurses, called R. A. M. C. (Ranks). Its strength is 450 maintained at an annual cost of 6 lakhs. Privates in this corps get a higher salary than junior professionally qualified I. M. D. men. This corps R. A. M. C. (Ranks) was Sir C. Burchell's great and pet discovery and importation to British Station Hospitals in India during the war. They were unknown in Indian medical research and history till the past war and the Indian Exchequer is still called upon to maintain this medical luxury to-day. Let us now see what amount of actual indoor hospital work is performed by the officers and staff in the British Station Hospitals. I have roughly worked up the figures. Taking the average number of beds daily occupied by British sick at about 1,900, I find that each medical officer R. A. M. C. has 6 patients to attend daily; each R. A. M. C. male nurse has 5 cases; each nurse (Q. A. M. N. Service) has about 8 patients and each I. M. D. man has 4 patients. Each I. M. S. officer has 10 patients to attend per day. I call this a colossal waste of our money which must be stopped. Now can Honourable Members imagine any of our Civil and Presidency Hospitals being run on these luxurious and super-extravagant lines? I have often seen a British Station Hospital with scarcely 10 or 15 beds occupied (British garrison in the station 1,000), administered by a staff of one Lt.-Col. R. A. M. C. as Officer Commanding the Hospital, one Major as 2nd in Command, 2 Captains and 2 or 3 Lieutenants, R. A. M. C., 3 Q. A. M. Nurses, 10 or 12 R. A. M. C. (Ranks) and 3 or 4 Assistant Surgeons I. M. D. plus a number of other subordinates and menials. Sir, this is rank squandering of the Indian tax-payer's money. My view is this, such a Hospital could be quite efficiently administered by one or two R. A. M. C. officers, 2 or 3 Military Assistant Surgeons and one or two fully trained nurses of the domiciled community and a small subordinate staff, that is, at one-fourth the cost of to-day. I submit if we really wish to seriously effect economy in the military medical budget of the army, we have ample scope for it in this direction. I know that a certain degree of retrenchment has been effected, but in what direction and manner has this been effected? You have effected a ten lakhs' retrenchment in diets and provisions but none in drugs although the Army has been reduced by 24,000 and your hospital accommodation and beds have also been markedly reduced. You effected very little economy *pari passu* with the reductions of the Army in the superior personnel, i.e., R. A. M. C. officers. It is here, I say, that retrenchment can be and must be effected. Why cannot we have British Hospitals run on the same lines as the Civil Hospitals or the Indian Station Hospitals? Let there be a senior R. A. M. C. man or let him be a second in command, but let the others be trained in this country. It is members of my community, Sir, who are in the I. M. D., and who are thrown out for the benefit of those who have come out to India. I say that, Sir, with a sense of responsibility:

the figures here will prove all I say, although the Army Department will say

Mr. President: I would ask the Honourable Member to bring his remarks to a close.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: All right, Sir. I submit this is one of the means by which they can reduce expenditure. Have men trained in this country, place the Assistant surgeons under the command of R. A. M. C. officers, utilise the members of the domiciled community who are trained as nurses and who are to-day in hundreds unemployed. I say that the employment of the R. A. M. C. is rank spoliation of Government money. We had no need for them before the war. Why should we have them to-day? You have 7 lakhs being used up every year. I know that the reply the Army Member will give me will be that everything seems to have changed since the war, especially the constitution of the Army Budget. I have put these facts for his consideration and I should like to ask him what Government intend doing so far as the I. M. Department is concerned. Do they wish to axe this Service entirely? If so, let them openly say so. Are they going to carry out the intentions of the circular which I have quoted inviting these men to retire, or will it be reconsidered and more favourable terms offered? Does the Army Member realise that in this circular the terms offered are not only inadequate but niggardly to a body of qualified professional men who merit some consideration, *e. g.*, it often happens that 3 men, each with 25 years' service, simply because they happen to serve in three different Provinces, Madras, Bengal, or Bombay, find themselves in different grades. One a Major, the other a Lieutenant and the third an Assistant Surgeon (First class). All three are of the same age and length of service, yet the Major will get, *vide* this Adjutant General's circular, a pension of Rs. 800 per mensem, the Lieutenant will get Rs. 190 and the Assistant Surgeon (First class) will get Rs. 150 per mensem. All are equally handicapped owing to age and the present political situation from earning a livelihood, a purely fortuitous circumstance. Is this fair? Surely not. Will Government countenance the perpetration of this injustice or alter the terms of the Adjutant General's circular so as to make it worth while for the men to retire if this is desired? Remember these men have made their financial commitments, they have their children to educate. Some senior men have their children being educated in England and their children are on the threshold of their future careers, still supported by their parents at enormous sacrifices. Most men have effected suitable life insurances at 55 years of age for their wives and families the premiums of which must be paid. Many of them to-day occupy responsible appointments. Many hold King's Commissions the dignity and status of which must be maintained. They possess vested interests in the Army which must be safeguarded. They, on their part, have kept their contract with the Army Department with scrupulous honesty. Are the Government going to disregard their part of the contract, be it only a moral responsibility, and throw this splendid body of faithful servants overboard and get rid of them on such miserable terms and pittance? Surely Government do not view their responsibilities as mere scraps of paper to be torn up at their will and convenience. Do Government realise the enormity of the financial, social and domestic upheaval this circular, if given effect to,

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will create in this Department? It is surely not the intention of the Government to add to our daily increasing army of unemployed? Sir, I appeal to the Commander-in-Chief and the Army Member not to sacrifice the I. M. D. on the altar of Retrenchment and Economy. Effect your retrenchments by all means but in the name of justice and equity, if not of gratitude, do not exterminate a Service—the I. M. D.—to which the country has every reason to be grateful and of which we, as a community, have every reason to be proud. I earnestly request the Army authorities both in India and England to retain this Department and to make proper use of it. Look at the way the Army Department and Government of India are to-day treating the domiciled community. It is denied admission into both the British and Indian Armies in any capacity whatever. It is also denied admission into the Dehra Dun Military College. The formation of Anglo-Indian units is denied us without assigning any reasons nor are we allowed to participate in the formation of the 8 new Indian units. In fact all doors to the Army both Indian and British are closed to us. I hope this will soon be altered. We are, for practical purposes, denied admission into Sandhurst unless we forswear our birthright and mixed nationality, which we shall not do. We are denied an adequate percentage of Anglo-Indian Officers in the Auxiliary Force though we form two-thirds of it. So far as the Army in India is concerned—I ask the Army Member to definitely and irrevocably state what he considers the Anglo-Indian to be—is he a “European” or a “European British subject,” a “Statutory native of India” or an “Indian”? So far as I can see the Government thinks the Anglo-Indian is only fit to be in the ranks of the Auxiliary Force—a drawer of water and a hewer of wood. We cannot and shall not submit to this any longer. This is the return given by the Army and Government of India to the Anglo-Indian community who gave 10,000 of its men and women during the past war, out of a population of 120,000—the community who in 1857 helped England to retain India; the one community that has stood by Government in its hour of trouble to-day, when all others have deserted it. The reward for our past years of loyalty and support to Government is not only our entire exclusion from both the British and Indian Armies but is now to be culminated and made more complete by the operation of the Adjutant General’s letter which practically means the breaking of the I. M. D.—the one small preserve which has been left to the domiciled community to-day and of which we were so proud, the only link which joined the Anglo-Indian and Britisher in the Army of to-day. In the dissolution of the I. M. D., I see the parting of our ways, the loosening of those ties which we held and still hold so near and dear as descendants of the Britisher. It is with much pain and regret that I see in it the gradual disappearance of that pride, that silent dog-like faith, trust, patriotism and affection for our Fatherland, on which we relied so much in the past and which made us feel and say with full confidence “Come what may, England will never let us down”—an assurance which was recently given us by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales when he said the British nation would never forget us for our work for the Empire. And yet as I see it the domiciled community is to-day placed in a truly lamentable position—given up by the Government, not wanted by the Army, not wanted by the Indian—a bankrupt legacy left to India by the Englishman. This is his reward for his loyalty and patriotism to the Government. The I. M. D. is to be axed, not in the interests of honest retrenchment, not in the

interests of economy such as you and I want, but in the interests of others, highly paid officers who are brought out to India and occupy positions, some of which we can fill with equal ability and less expenditure. I plead on behalf of the domiciled community whom I represent in this Council. I plead on behalf of its trained women folk, to utilise them as nurses. I plead on behalf of those 15 boys whom you have refused to accept into the I. M. D. on the supposed plea of economy and retrenchment. You have cast them adrift on to the streets without any consideration. Compensate them adequately or utilise their services but do not further swell the ranks of our unemployed. I repeat my appeal which may be the last I shall make in this House. I plead of the Government Member to give us its support and recognition and not to desert a community which has never deserted it, and I hope never will. But I solemnly warn the Government that if this treatment such as I have complained of is continued, they must not be surprised if the loyalty and patriotism of even the Anglo-Indian community is unduly strained and we become the Ulster of India.

Mr. E. Burdon: Sir, I have been asked a great many questions and many of them it is difficult to reply to in any precise sense without papers. I shall endeavour to do my best on this occasion and, if any Honourable Member desires more information than I can give now, I will supply it later if, as I hope, he will, he will inquire at some time when we are not engaged in the business of this House.

In the first place, my Honourable friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao asked for a statement with regard to capitation payments and I think it will perhaps be best for me to give a short self-contained explanation of what these capitation payments are. I think it will probably assist the elucidation of some other points which will come afterwards. Now, the capitation payments are made by India to His Majesty's Government to reimburse the latter for certain items of expenditure which they incur in connection with the supply of British officers and troops to India. I should like to explain the point of this more fully though I dare say most Honourable Members are aware of its significance. So far as the Indian section of the Army in India is concerned, the Indian personnel are recruited and do their recruit's training in India, and consequently all the expenditure on recruitment and recruit's training is direct expenditure in India borne on the Army estimates. The position is different as regards the British section of the Army. The men have to be recruited at Home, and they have to be trained at Home. The infantry soldier is trained in the primary duties of an infantry soldier and the technical personnel of the technical services have to receive certain further technical training. The British soldier does not come to India until he has had 9 months' or one year's service at Home. So we have no raw recruits in the British regiments that come to India. Now, the capitation charges may be divided broadly into three classes. The first is expenditure connected with the annual supply of a certain number of British soldier recruits to India, consisting of the initial charges of recruitment, pay during the period of training, charges of depôts and training staff, etc. The second category is expenditure connected with the supply of British officers to India including the cost of the maintenance of officers before embarkation for India and while under instruction; the cost of educational establishments, namely, the Royal Military College

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at Sandhurst, the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and the Royal Military Medical College at Millbank, the School of Military Engineering, the Artillery College, etc., apportioned according to the number of officers on the Indian and Home establishments, respectively. The third category of expenditure consists of expenses of British soldiers returning from India and awaiting discharge and of invalids including a share of the cost of staff of hospitals and discharge depôts. Now, Sir, I think my Honourable friend asked for certain further information as to the amount of the capitation rate and how the question of revising it now stands. If my Honourable friend will study previous proceedings of the Assembly, he will find that the capitation rate during the war was increased very largely indeed, and the increase was due entirely to a rise in prices. The increase was made on an arbitrary basis. It was made in accordance with the general increase in the cost of living. After the end of the war, when these questions began to receive more careful attention than was possible during the stress of war, the Government of India pressed that the calculation should be revised, and as an interim measure they proposed that a certain reduction should be made in the capitation rate corresponding to the fall in prices which had since taken place. That reduction was made also on an arbitrary basis. Then, as I think my Honourable friend will recollect, the question of the capitation rate was gone into carefully by the Inchcape Committee, that is to say, as carefully as the information at their disposal enabled them to approach the question. In the course of the consideration of the Inchcape Committee's report by the Government of India, we made representations to the Secretary of State claiming that the question of the capitation rate should be gone into thoroughly. We asked that the Government of India should be given information with reference to any new rate which it was proposed to fix, information of the exact details of every item which it was proposed to take into account in making out the capitation rate. It is a matter of some considerable difficulty to make the calculation. There are items of capital expenditure as well as of recurring expenditure which have to be taken into account. We have placed the matter before the Secretary of State and the latest information which the Government of India have is that the calculations are being made and the matter is under correspondence between the India Office and the War Office. Further information than this the Government of India do not themselves possess at the present moment, but I can assure the Honourable Member that this question of the capitation rate will be most vigorously pursued by the Army Department and by the Military Finance Branch. It is a matter on which the Government of India hold very strong views, and, as I say, I can assure the Honourable Member that the figures will be most carefully scrutinised. I think my Honourable friend asked if I could tell him who the representatives of the India Office are that are discussing this matter with the War Office. That I am afraid I cannot say. I do not know who they are, but I am quite sure that the India Office will put forward its very best resources in order to contest this matter. Now, what I have said about the capitation rate in respect of the Army applies . . .

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask the Honourable Member what the present rate of capitation is?

Mr. E. Burdon: £25.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I know for how long this £25 is being paid?

Mr. E. Burdon: From 1923-24.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: It appears to me from the Inchcape Committee Report that it was at least being paid in 1921-22.

Mr. E. Burdon: That was a rate even higher than the one to which I have referred, the rate which was afterwards reduced.

The observations which I have made in regard to the capitation rate charged in respect of soldiers of the British Army apply substantially to the case of the Air Force.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I ask if this capitation grant takes into account the whole number of British soldiers who are sent down here for a short term of service?

Mr. E. Burdon: Yes. The capitation payments in respect of Air Force personnel are also made on an arbitrary basis, and they are being re-examined.

I think my Honourable friend's next point was how we could defend the inclusion in the capitation rate of any part of the cost of those educational institutions in the United Kingdom to which Indians are not admitted. Well, Sir, the observations which I have made at the outset will, I think, serve to explain this to some extent, particularly if we remember the fact that the Army in India consists of two sections, the British Army and the Indian Army. We have British troops in India: I understand from remarks which have been made in the course of previous debates in this Assembly that the presence of British troops is recognised as being necessary now and as likely to be necessary for some considerable time to come, and I do not think that any one seriously challenges the view which was accepted in 1859 that the British portion of the forces in India should be a part of the British Army. Well, Sir, we take certain forces from the British Army and we are required in the shape of the capitation rate to pay for the expenses of recruiting and training the soldiers before they come to India, before in fact they are effective personnel fit to be sent to India. Therefore it cannot be said that India is not receiving some value for money when it pays a part of the cost of the educational institutions which serve to produce the British forces serving in this country. That is at any rate the theoretical justification and it is I submit a substantial justification. I am not dealing now with another aspect of the capitation charges. Honourable Members know as well as I do that in the past it has frequently been said that India should not pay these capitation charges at all on the ground that the Empire derives certain advantages from the employment of a portion of the British Army in India and in particular derives advantages from the experience which British troops receive while serving in India. I am not on that aspect at all. That is a much larger matter but taking the smaller proposition I submit that the justification which I have put forward is an intelligible justification. It is this. We need in India a certain number of British troops and we are required to pay a part of the cost of bringing these troops into being before they come to India and before we begin to pay the recurring expenditure connected with their

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maintenance. While I am on this subject of educational institutions there is a point which I think I ought to make clear. The educational institutions which I mentioned as being partly paid for from Indian revenues through the capitation grant are training institutions of which we have no counterpart in India. There are of course, as my Honourable friend is aware, other military educational institutions in India but these belong to an entirely different category. The purpose which they serve is to give special and advanced instruction to the personnel of the army who have already learnt their primary duties either as combatant personnel or as personnel of the administrative services. I will mention one or two of these institutions. They are very well known and the Honourable Member will see that in each case there is a counterpart of the institutions in the United Kingdom. The first that I will mention is the Staff College at Quetta. Corresponding to it is the Staff College at Camberley. We have small arms schools here in India at Pachmarhi and Satara corresponding to the Central small arms schools at Hythe. We have an equitation school at Seugor corresponding to the equitation school at Weedon. Of course we do not pay in the capitation rate any part of the cost of those institutions in the United Kingdom to which I am now referring. As I have said, the corresponding institutions in India are for the purpose of giving specialised and advanced instruction to effective personnel and there is another very important purpose which they serve and it is this. They train officers and men to be instructors. The object is that when they have qualified themselves they should pass on to others in their units the specialised knowledge which they have acquired.

I am not quite sure that I have an accurate recollection of the further point which my Honourable friend raised in regard to training institutions. Was he referring to the Artillery School? (*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao*: "Yes.") I think my Honourable friend's point was that Indians are not admitted to the Artillery School here in India. To the best of my belief Indians are admitted to the Artillery School. The Artillery School in India is one of those institutions created for the purpose of imparting advanced and specialized instruction, and though, as I say, I cannot speak quite positively, to the best of my belief Indians are admitted to the Artillery School which is at present established at Kakul, because, without being sent to that School they could not learn adequately their duties as officers and men in the artillery units to which they belong. I will verify the point finally and give precise details to the Honourable Member on another occasion.

Now, Sir, I turn to the observations made by my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. I am afraid, Sir, I am taking rather a long time, but I have been asked so many questions that it is a little difficult to give briefly the information required. My Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, suggested that Indians are admitted into the artillery as camel drivers and bullock drivers. Well, Sir, there are no camels and no bullocks in the artillery. That is the first point. But I think my Honourable friend wanted to know whether Indians are admitted and employed as gunners in the artillery. In the book which the Army Department issued a very short time ago it will be found very clearly stated that Indians are now employed as drivers and artificers in the Royal Horse and Field Artillery. That is another of my Honourable friend's points. They are not at present employed as gunners in those particular categories of artillery or in medium batteries. But they are employed as drivers, gunners and

artificers in the Pack Artillery. They are employed as gunners and artificers in the Frontier Garrison Artillery and as gunners only in the Indian Coast Artillery. That is to say, in certain categories of our artillery Indians are employed to man guns of precisely the same calibre and pattern as guns of the Field Artillery.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend raised another point which he has raised on previous occasions. He asked for information whether Indianization was permitted and was proceeding in other than the combatant services. Well, Sir, my recollection is that in July last in this Assembly in making a speech on a Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, I said quite definitely that Indian officers holding the King's Commission are eligible to hold appointments on the Staff and in the Departmental Services of the Indian Army. I made it equally clear that at the present moment very few Indian officers with the King's Commission are so employed. The reason is this. It is the recognised practice in the Army that officers should spend their first few years with the combatant arms to gain a thorough acquaintance with the duties of the combatant services and the needs of the combatant soldier before they proceed to embark on administrative employment. That is what is being done at present in regard to the Indianisation of those services which my Honourable friend refers to. It is on the other hand a fact that the grant of King's Commissions to Indians only commenced a few years ago. We have not at present available more than a very few Indians who have sufficient experience to qualify them for employment in the administrative services or for employment on the staff. There are however certain Indian officers employed extra-regimentally. I know of one Indian officer, the son of a former member of this Assembly, who has been employed as a recruiting officer and another Indian officer I know is employed as Adjutant of a Territorial Force Battalion, and I think the House will realise that this is an appointment of some importance. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, raised the question of the number of King's Commissions granted annually to Indians and he mentioned the figure of 10. My Honourable friend also referred to the fact that for some years owing to an accumulation of surplus officers during the war, our recruitment has been lower than that which would be required to make good the normal decrement in the sanctioned cadre of officers. These facts are perfectly correct. Our normal decrement is in the neighbourhood of the figure which my Honourable friend mentioned, that is to say, something well over 100, and for several years past we have only been able to take 50 officers a year, for the reason which my Honourable friend gave. We are now contemplating an increase in the annual number. That increase cannot be effected at once; two years' interval must elapse before the annual intake can be increased. I take two years as the normal period for the Sandhurst course and we have to give notice to obtain new entrants, so that there will be some little time before we rise to the figure of 70 cadets a year from Sandhurst which we are now aiming at. As regards the number of vacancies at Sandhurst given annually to Indians, the figure remains at 10; and here again in speaking on a Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, last July, I gave full information on this point. I stated that the Government of India were prepared to renew their recommendation that the number should be increased when they thought they had a favourable opportunity for doing so; and my Honourable friend admitted frankly at the time that the Government of India would probably be the best judges of when the favourable opportunity would arise. It has not yet actually arisen. But His Excellency the

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Commander-in-Chief, speaking in this Assembly only a very short time ago, gave earnest of his belief that an increase would come about before very long when he informed the House that he was already taking steps to expand the accommodation at Dehra Dun. I can assure my Honourable friend that this question of increasing the number of vacancies granted annually to Indians up to, or approximately up to, the number recommended by this Assembly, is constantly in the minds of the Government of India and that they will assuredly seize the first opportunity which seems to them favourable to effect the object in view. Now, Sir, my

Honourable friend referred to the administration of our Medical Services and informed the House that in his opinion our administration in the medical services is extravagant. I should like at this point to read out a short passage from the book on the Army in India which my Department has recently issued. The passage is as follows:

"An essential duty of the medical services is to attend the sick and wounded of the army in hospital; but, under present-day principles of military medical administration, at least equal importance is attached to the prevention of disease and to promoting hygiene in the life of the army. The object aimed at is to maintain in the soldier a high standard of physical health and fitness, and to increase his powers of resisting disease. For this reason, the medical services are required to concern themselves with every department of the soldier's life, with the climatic and hygienic conditions of the cantonments in which the troops are stationed, with the hygienic suitability of the barracks in which the soldier lives, with the clothes that he is required to wear, the equipment that he is required to carry, the quality and composition of the ration which he is given to eat, and with the character and degree also of the physical training which he is required to undergo. It is for this reason also that in modern times a large number of specialists are employed in the military medical services for the purpose of research connected with the special conditions of army life. A medical officer in the army is expected to see more of the troops in their barracks, in their lines, and during manœuvres, than in the hospitals; and the successful medical administrator in peace time is he whose hospitals contain the smallest number of sick."

That, Sir, explains the strength of the medical establishments which we have retained after giving effect to by far the greater part of the retrenchment recommended by the Inchcape Committee. And I can assure my Honourable friend that the expenditure of the medical services did not escape Lord Inchcape's or his Committee's attention. The retrenchment effected, or practically effected, is in the neighbourhood of 68 lakhs of rupees. The number of hospital beds has been cut down from something like 21,000 to 14,000, both British and Indian. It is largely this reduction in the number of beds that has enabled us to make so large a reduction of expenditure.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member but will he kindly tell the House whether this number includes the 25 per cent. reduction which the Committee said should be done?

Mr. E. Burdon: It is the total reduction, Sir. Then, Sir, in connection with a point originally raised by my Honourable friend and afterwards reinforced by my Honourable friend Colonel Gidney, I think the House will probably be interested to hear the figures of the strength of officers which we propose to retain in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. In the Royal Army Medical Corps the number of officers before the war was 888. We have provided in the next year's Budget for 802 and we hope ultimately, that is to say, probably in the following year, to come down to 282. In the Indian Medical Service there were 274 officers before the war. In the next year's Budget we have provided for 482 officers, which means a very great reduction in the

cadre which we have been maintaining in recent years. The ultimate reduction which we hope to come down to is a total of 402.

The rise in the number of Indian Medical Service officers is very fully explained in the book on the Army in India issued by my Department. It is due almost entirely to the introduction of the system of Indian Station Hospitals for the better care of Indian troops.

My Honourable friend's last point was, I think, a suggestion that Army Headquarters staff has not yet been sufficiently reduced. I should like to explain in this connection that the 4 Command system to which my Honourable friend referred has only recently been placed on a permanent basis. Those who have studied the Inchcape Committee's report will find that while the Committee did not wish to disturb immediately the 4 Command system they recommended that the matter should be reviewed a year after they submitted their report. The matter has been re-examined only quite recently and it has been decided that the 4 Command system should remain. It is advantageous and indeed necessary in a country of this size that there should not be a smaller number of any Commands, and I think my Honourable friend himself recognises this. The point of my observation is that until the 4 Command system had been stabilized, it was impracticable for the Government of India and for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to explore fully the possibilities of decentralization.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyar: They are not worked out to the figures of officers recommended by the Innes Committee.

Mr. E. Burdon: I am just coming to that point, Sir. As I was saying, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief had not been able to make a full and final exploration of the possibilities of delegating authority to the 4 Commands. It was impossible to do so when the question was unsettled, but now that it has been settled this will be done. In the interval we have made such reductions in the staff of Army Headquarters as we considered to be possible, and I say we have made very considerable reductions. The figure recommended by the Innes Committee was 107; that compares with the figure of 177 commissioned officers proposed in the reconstruction of 1921. Now we have authorised provisionally a figure of 118, so we are not very far short of this recommendation, and we could not get down to the exact figure of the Innes Committee without sacrificing certain appointments which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Government of India consider necessary. I am referring to the appointments of technical advisers, Major General of Artillery and other appointments of a cognate kind. But as I say, Sir, we have come down very nearly indeed to the figure recommended by the Innes Committee.

I think the points taken by my Honourable friend, Captain Ajab Khan, are really covered by the observations I have already made and I need not mention them further, except to say that his observations regarding the reservation of eight units of the Indian Army to be completely Indianised will be brought by me to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The remaining questions which I have to answer were asked by my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney. I have already covered certain points which he brought forward. As regards the others, it is a very difficult matter to be absolutely precise when there is a large mass of figures to be dealt with, but it seems to me that his figures do not correspond in every particular with my information. The figures of reduction in the case of Assistant Surgeons of the Indian Medical Department

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are as follows: Before the war there were 425 assistant surgeons, and the figure to which we now propose to fall is 871, that is to say, a reduction of 54 on the permanent cadre. The reduction, as my Honourable friend has recognised, has been made under the stress of retrenchment, and a reduction of this kind follows inevitably from the reduction of combatant troops, and also from the reduction of hospital beds which I think my Honourable friend admitted to be very necessary

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: May I rise to a point of order? I draw the Honourable Member's attention to the figures quoted on page 75 regarding the proposed reduction of the I. M. D. from 894 to 821 during 1924-25. And then, Sir, I wish to draw the Honourable Member's attention to the Circular issued by the Adjutant General in India on the 17th January, which practically means that at least an additional 100 men of the I. M. D. will be if necessary compulsorily placed out on the pension list, in other words, the total reduction in the I. M. D. by the end of 1925 will be very nearly from 150 to 200 men.

Mr. E. Burdon: I can assure my Honourable friend that he is mistaken as regards the figures, but I shall be very happy to go into the figures with him in detail.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: They are your own official figures; 78 is down on your record. Page 75 of your figures shows a reduction of 78 contemplated in the I. M. D. You cannot get away from that point.

Mr. President: I think the Honourable Member had better put down a question. It is very late and I want to get on.

Mr. E. Burdon: That would be a more convenient course as far as we are concerned, because I am anxious to be accurate and to give full weight to my Honourable friend's representations, and it would be more satisfactory to himself and myself and the House if we were to go into the matter separately and also separately into the matter of the Circular which he has mentioned, a Circular which so far contains certain provisional proposals which have not yet been finally approved by the Government of India or by the Secretary of State, as I think I mentioned a few days ago in this Assembly.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I understand, Sir, from a telegram I have just received from Calcutta, that this Circular has already been given effect to, and some I. M. D. men have got their dismissal orders.

Mr. E. Burdon: That is not my information, but I shall be glad to go into the point with the Honourable Member. There is only one other point which I think it necessary for me to touch on the present occasion, and that is the reference which my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, made to the employment of a certain number of Royal Army Medical Corps other ranks in British Station Hospitals. There are 450 of these R. A. M. C. other ranks, and they are employed as nursing orderlies in British Station Hospitals. This establishment did not exist as a recognised establishment before the war. What actually happened was this. There were nursing orderlies in the hospitals but they were not trained orderlies but merely soldiers brought from combatant units. This system was a

thoroughly bad one because in the first place the hospitals had to put up with untrained men, and in the second place, during peace time there were two authorities counting upon the same personnel, and when it came to mobilisation the hospitals had to employ untrained orderlies and the combatant units had not a certain number of men on whom they were entitled to reckon. During the war R. A. M. C. other ranks were employed in India as everywhere else with British troops. We now have 450 in all the British hospitals in India, a number which I may say is not sufficient to provide for the mobilisation according to the authorised establishment of all the hospitals that accompany the field army. I may explain that the necessity of having a separate establishment earmarked for this purpose became all the more necessary when the combatant strength of British units in this country was reduced in consequence of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, and consequently the margin between peace and war establishment became smaller than it had ever been before in India.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Might I ask the Honourable Member, Sir . . .

Mr. President: I think the Honourable Member had better put questions down, if he wants definite information.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: I beg to withdraw the motion. The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. B. Venkatapatraju (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not propose to move my amendment but with your permission I wish to ask leave of the House to refer to one important point. We generally attach great importance to the statements made in this House by the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey with all sincerity on matters of national importance; and he stated yesterday that in the matter of the assignment of portfolios to various Members it was not done by design but by accident. Those were not actually his words; but they convey the purport of his meaning and for himself he said he was quite willing to accept any portfolio being assigned now to an Indian Member and therefore what he meant to convey was that the present distribution was done by accident, not by design, by which important portfolios are entrusted to European and unimportant ones to Indian Members. Now the Honourable Member is perfectly aware that there are two interests so long as there is alien rule in India—the British interest and the Indian interest; and when there is a clash of such interests, is it not advisable for His Excellency the Viceroy to see that Indian interests are well looked after by appointing an Indian Member, or where there is a European Member, by associating with him an Indian Secretary, because under the present system, whether we approve of it or not, the Secretary has audience of His Excellency the Viceroy? Under these circumstances, if it was not done by design, then why only are unimportant portfolios entrusted to Indian Members, why should you entrust to a European Member a portfolio which deals with the life and liberty of 300 millions of our people and another portfolio which brings revenue to the extent of 200 crores to a European Member, and another which deals with 100 crores Railways and Commerce to another European Member? Not that I complain of the *personnel*, but I ask, is it not better to have also an Indian Secretary attached to the portfolio of every European Member, if Indian Members are not entrusted with unimportant portfolios?

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: Sir, may I have your permission to speak on a point of general importance. For obvious reasons, Sir, I have not taken any part in the discussion of the Budget, and even now I do not rise either to give a vote or to make a cut. It is only on a matter of general importance which pertains more to the literature on the Administration than on any details concerning rupees, annas and pies that I propose to say a few words. Sir, under section 26 of the Government of India Act, a provision is made by which the Secretary of State has to present before the Parliament a report of the administration of the government in India. You will find, Sir, under that section, the Secretary of State has to place annually a statement about the general administration of the government in India and stating the account and other details. Clause 3 of that section says:

"The account shall be accompanied by a statement, prepared from detailed reports from each province, in such form as best exhibits the moral and material progress and condition of India."

Now, this section clearly indicates that there is a pious desire cherished by the Members of the British Parliament to have an accurate account placed before them about the moral and material progress of India in all its details. Sir, we are each supplied with a copy of the book known as "India in 1922-1923", and I take it that it is the annual statement which is prepared for presentation to the British Parliament by virtue of section 26 of the Government of India Act. This book which is now placed in our hands was prepared evidently by Mr. Rushbrook Williams, and I take it that it has got the authority of the Indian Government for whatever is contained therein. Sir, it is a matter of absolute importance that whether the Government of India is good, bad or indifferent, a true account of it should be presented before the British Parliament. You will find, Sir, at page 295 of the book I am referring to a statement which offers a direct insult to the Members of this Assembly, which votes annually the salary of the distinguished author of this Report. You are all aware, Sir, that on the floor of this House the question of the salt tax was hotly discussed by all the Members of the Legislative Assembly, and they did it with the best of motives and in the best interests of those whom they represented in this Assembly, and yet, you find, Sir, a report being sent to the British Parliament in the following terms:

"Apart from any question of compunction which they might have had in adding to the burden of the classes sunk in poverty, the majority of the Members had naturally to consider the question of their own approaching election."

Now, Sir, I ask, is it honest, is it fair, is it just, to make a statement about the Members of the Legislative Assembly when they raised a question with the best of motives

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: It was confessed to in the House. More than one Member stated that definitely.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: If I remember rightly, Sir, from the proceedings which I have read of the previous Assembly, one Member insinuated against the other Members, and that was a Member who never had any idea of standing for election again but probably expected to come back by nomination; and he insinuated that they were actuated by this motive. This is so far as the Members of the Legislative Assembly are

concerned. Then there is a compliment paid to the Members of the Legislative Councils at page 75 of this Report. It says:

"And since the average Indian does not distinguish between the general organization of the society in which he lives, and the Administration in power for the moment, he is prone to visit upon the police the brunt of any general grievances which he may cherish against the Government. Public opinion therefore tends to look upon the constable as a symbol of oppression and restraint, and refuses to believe that strong measures in the suppression of disorder, equally in clemency in dealing with individual offenders, may spring from honest striving after the public good."

He further adds:

"Unfortunately this prejudice is not absent even from such responsible sections of the populations as those who enter the local Legislatures."

And even now the Honourable the Finance Member says "Hear, hear", and evidently approves of the remarks contained in the report which is said to be a true representation of what is going on and about the character and the stamina of the persons who come to the Councils or the Assembly. If that is, Sir, the respect which you have for the Members who enter the Assembly and the Councils in order to work with you, I submit, Sir, these Members would think twice before again entering Councils like these. Sir, at page 78 of this report you will find a statement which is appalling to the dignity of any nation and I doubt very much, if this was said of any Britisher, whether he would consider it as a compliment or as a direct insult. He says:

"Two or three successful enterprises of this kind suffice to gain for the leader of the band the reputation of a local Robin Hood, in whose achievements all but his immediate victims seem to find some perverse satisfaction."

Is it a fact, Sir, that this country views with perfect satisfaction—perverse or otherwise—the acts of local Robin Hoods, the acts of any dacoits, the acts of any bomb thrower?

Sir, this is one feature, and at page 85 I may refer to another instance; how far it is correct you yourself may judge. That is with reference to the treatment of political prisoners in this country. Yesterday also a question was answered by the Honourable the Home Member. Here too it is stated:

"With these exceptions, it was laid down that each case was to be considered on its merits, and that selection for differential treatment was to be based upon the status, character, and education of the prisoners, and the nature of his offence. Prisoners so selected were to be separated from ordinary prisoners: might import their own food and bedding and wear their own clothes: might possess books and magazines: receive visitors and letters at stated intervals, and enjoy exemption from labour and from menial duties."

Here it is stated freely, Sir, to Members of the British Parliament that respectable political prisoners are allowed to have free visits from friends. And you cannot have a better case that satisfies the requirements that are laid down here for the fair treatment of a political prisoner than the case of Mahatma Gandhi himself. And yet what does Mahatma Gandhi write?

"With reference to the names sent to the Government of certain visitors intending to see me, you have to-day informed me that the Government have now decided to restrict the number of visitors to be permitted to see me to two, and that of the names sent only Messrs. Narandas and Devadas Gandhi may be permitted to see me for this quarter's interview."

As the Government have hitherto permitted me to receive five visitors, I must confess that the present decision has come upon me as a surprise. But I welcome the decision inasmuch as they have refused to grant similar permission to my colleague Mr. Yagnik who is kept in the same block with me. Had it not appeared graceless, I would myself have waived the facility which I then saw was exclusively allowed to me."

[Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar.]

This, Sir, is a letter from Mahatma Gandhi to the Superintendent, Yerowda Central Prison, and, in the face of this, it is stated in the Report which is sent from this country to the British Parliament that political prisoners are being treated with all courtesy here, if their status deserves it, and I am sure nobody would deny that, whatever may be said about others, the status of Mahatma Gandhi cannot be questioned anywhere in the world.

Sir, I need not refer to the cases of Vakil Vasudeviah of Salem and Pandit Wajpai. But I only mention them lest what is contained in the statement may be supposed to be true in England while it is otherwise. These cases may concern the Local Government but I beg to say, Sir, that I can also refer in this connection to those two instances and only by way of illustration as the report is that of Government in India and not of India alone.

Sir, there is one thing which I find from the regular tenour of the report, that, wherever there is anything lacking or defective on the part of the Government, the blame is thrown on the non-co-operators and Mr. Gandhi. If there is less education, it is non-co-operation that is held responsible. If there is any other interest that suffered in India, it is non-co-operation and Mr. Gandhi who are responsible. In every way, Sir, you will find, if reference is wanted I am prepared to give the pages as well, non-co-operation is brought in in order to account for the non-progress of education and other matters. Sir, I may also say that if a report is sent from this country, it must be to the interests of the British Parliament to know how far trade has advanced, how far education has advanced, and how far sanitation has advanced, and how improvements have been made in these various directions. So far as dealing with trade figures are concerned, no doubt attempts are made to show that the balance of trade is in favour of India. But if details are given, you will realise that India exports more foodstuffs to other countries than it imports. The exports of foodstuffs, grain, pulses and flour are Rs. 42.47 lakhs and odd whereas the imports under the same head are only 54 lakhs. As regards manufactured articles, we get into India 179 crores worth of articles whereas what goes out of India is only 70 crores. If these 70 crores are further analysed, and the facts placed before them as to how much represents foreign capital and how much Indian capital, they will know the true situation of the trade interests of India. But this much I can say that the figure for export of foodstuffs, grains and pulses and flour, coupled with the fact that 179 crores worth of manufactures come into India only goes to show that India is the hotel keeper of the shopkeepers abroad. I may also say in this connection that even the facts which have been reported in this report about the Akali movement and about the Gurdwara movement are not accurate. I do not at all concern myself about what may be said about non-co-operation or Mr. Gandhi. But as to other matters at least, I wish that correct statements should be reported to the British Parliament. On page 184 it is said in glowing terms that all possible arrangements have been made to look to the convenience of third class passengers, whereas complaints are unceasing in this House still as to how they are being treated even now. If there is any defect in the forest administration you will find on page 171 that it is stated that it is all due to non-co-operation and not to any action of the Government. And if education is wanting,—it is only to-day that we have heard that it is due to financial stringency; if mass education and compulsory education have not been

expanded, the only explanation that is given on the floor of the House is financial stringency; but that is not the account that is given in this report. Financial stringency occupies a very minor part in this report, and what it is attributed to is the fact that the masses are still adhering to their national customs which prevent them from going to schools, their poverty, their incessant disease, and if anything more is wanted, the attempt of Mr. Gandhi to take them all away to national schools.

Mr. President: I would remind the Honourable Member .

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: I am closing just now.

Mr. President: I am only reminding him that it is time to close.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: The President is aware that I have not encroached upon any time budgeted for the Budget. I wish to say only one word and nothing more. If this kind of report has to be sent in future, I would respectfully place before this House the suggestion, not only for the consideration of my non-official friends but also for the Government Benches, that steps may be taken to have a Committee of non-official Members of this House appointed, and that when the report is prepared, it may be submitted to this Committee before it is sent to the British Parliament. If that Committee disproves of it, by all means let them put in their dissenting notes. A few minutes ago we had a dust storm which put dust into our eyes and this is a report to throw dust into the eyes of the British Parliament. The dust storm unceremoniously entered this Chamber, but this dust ceremoniously enters the British Parliament.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: I hope the Honourable Member will not accuse me of discourtesy if I say that we on our side are prepared to take the vote on this motion without further contention.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,05,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'General Administration'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 16—AUDIT.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Audit'."

Mr. Bhubanananda Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Audit' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Sir, Audit is a very dry subject. It may be an interesting subject to my friend the Honourable Mr. Cocke over there. It is a department where the audit takes place after the money has been expended. When money is spent by responsible officers of Government why do you want an audit? If you want an audit, why not ask commercial auditing firms to audit the accounts of the Government of India so that you may have expert opinion on the accounts of the Government of India?

[Mr. Bhubanananda Das.]

I will now refer to the Standing Finance Committee's report, No. 4, pages 111-112, and the Appendix, page 128. On page 11, in paragraph 5, there is this remark:

"Entertainment as a temporary measure of two officers of class I of the General List of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service for the test audit of military expenditure and for the military appropriation reports, a sum of Rs. 84,860 being included for the purpose in the next year's budget estimates. The Committee agreed to the provision for the next financial year; but wished to record its opinion that the Military Accounts Department should come under the administrative control of the Auditor-General on grounds of efficiency and economy."

I was a member of the Standing Finance Committee, but I was not a party to the opinion expressed there. I find the Financial Adviser to the Military Department is responsible to the Honourable the Finance Member. If he is there to control and check the expenditure, there is no use in asking the Auditor General again to check the military accounts. Just a few minutes ago great confidence was expressed in the Military Financial Adviser and there is no need of asking the Auditor General to go into the military accounts once again.

I come to paragraph 6:

"Move of the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, from Calcutta to Delhi, a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs being made for the purpose in the next year's budget estimates."

I was a party to sanctioning this amount, but I asked certain questions of the Auditor General, "You want to move about 1,000 or 2,000 clerks from Calcutta to Delhi. Have you made provision for their housing in Delhi, also for office accommodation, and how much money are the Government of India going to spend by this transfer?" We were told that there was sufficient accommodation and that no more buildings were necessary, and that there were enough buildings at Raisina to accommodate all these clerks. We were also told that office furniture and office accommodation had been arranged. If that is so, will the Honourable the Finance Member assure this House that no further expenditure will be made under this head, and then I shall have no objection. (*An Honourable Member*: "There is nothing here".) Our President Mr. Moir always simplifies the report and writes only a few lines, but you do not know the things that are discussed there for hours and hours.

Then I come to paragraph 18:

"Provision of a sum of Rs. 1,75,000 in the next year's Budget estimates to meet the expenditure involved in the opening of a new audit office in connection with the Lloyd Barrage and Canal Construction Scheme, Bombay. This was accepted by a majority, but in view of the important issue raised as to the ultimate debit of the audit charges on such projects, the Committee gratefully accepted Sir Frederic Gauntlett's promise to furnish a complete note on this question."

The Barrage scheme is not a Government of India scheme. It is a scheme of the Government of Bombay and when we asked for information whether the Government of India were a party to this barrage scheme, we were told that they were not a party. There are other similar schemes, the Bombay Development Scheme and the Sutlej Valley Scheme in the Punjab. If these schemes are financed by the Provincial Governments, why should the Government of India incur expenditure on their account? The expense of auditing these accounts should be charged to the Provincial Governments so that they may not launch on these wild schemes. Why should the Government of India incur expenditure for it? Whether the

schemes are wise or not, it does not matter, but the Central Government should not spend money on that head. With these observations I move my motion.

Sir Campbell Rhodes (Bengal: European): I notice that there is no Chairman present here this afternoon and I feel sure that the House would be quite willing to adjourn for 20 minutes if the Chair so wishes, so as to give the Chair a short interval.

Mr. President: I am quite prepared to go on; but I see no particular reason why we should sit late to-night, otherwise the Honourable Member himself might be in danger of being asked to take the Chair, as an *ex-Chairman*!

The Honourable Sir Basil Blckett: The Honourable Member who has just spoken suggested that the Government of India's accounts—or so I understood him to say,—are audited by a gentleman who is under the control of the Government of India. It is true that the Auditor General is an officer in Government service but in his functions as an Auditor General he is absolutely independent of the Government of India, and it is I think most undesirable that the impression should go out that he conducts his audit in any way that is not entirely independent. The Government of India do not give him any orders in his capacity as Auditor General. He went on to suggest that it might be desirable to have a commercial auditor in place of the Government auditor. I think there is no country in the world which does not have its own arrangements for its own auditor and I am not quite clear whether the most eminent firm of chartered accountants could do the work that quite naturally falls as part of the work that has to be done in and for any Government by an independent Auditor General.

The next point to which the Honourable Member referred is the statement at page 101 of the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, Vol. 8, No. 4 in regard to the Military Accounts Department. The Committee records its opinion that the Military Accounts Department should come under the administrative control of the Auditor General on grounds of efficiency and economy. I share with the Honourable Member who has just spoken regret that the opinion should have been recorded. I hope if I had an opportunity to meet the Standing Finance Committee I should be able to persuade them to take a different view. I think there is some misunderstanding about this matter. The Military Accounts Department is a department quite separate from the Auditor General. But it does not do audit work. It does accounts work. The accounts of the Military Budget are audited by the Auditor General. In my view that separation of functions is on the whole a desirable system. I should like personally to see it extended so that you would have inside the various Departments an accounts office which would help the administrative department to conduct its administrative work in the light of financial accounting principles and help that Department to do its work well instead of having a department outside which must tend to regard the duties of any particular department chiefly from the point of view of the method in which they keep their accounts. Some times I think the result is that the two are working a little bit at cross purposes and instead of helping the Department to run smoothly the result of the separation between the accounting department and the administrative department may actually be to put impediments in the way of efficient administration. I have heard it stated, I do not know with what truth, that in certain cases in

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

regard to the Railways, directions given (and afterwards withdrawn by higher authority), directions given by the accounting officers in regard to methods of keeping accounts have held up goods trains for six or seven hours unnecessarily. That is a quite possible result if you get too much separation. It ought not of course to happen under any system. So that my own personal view would be that it is desirable to extend the system of an accounts office separate from the audit office, and I believe you would thereby improve audit. However, that is a matter which is under discussion and I mention it now only because it has been raised. It is connected also with another point raised by the Honourable Member in regard to the Sukkur Barrage. The Honourable Member was not correct in stating that the Government of India had no concern with the starting of the Sukkur barrage scheme. It was a scheme which had to receive the approval, among other things, of the Government of India and in the financing of which the Government of India will probably be called upon to take a considerable part. But there is certainly a little difficulty under the present system under which the expense of keeping extra accounts as the result of big provincial schemes falls on the Central Government, and I should like to see in connection with the examination of the subject of the separation of accounts and audit the possibility examined of giving the job of keeping their own accounts to the Provincial Governments, leaving an independent Auditor General appointed by the Government of India to conduct the audit. But that involves entering deeply into things like the Meston Award and the Devolution Rules and I do no more than suggest my own personal views as to some of the difficulties of the present system.

The last thing mentioned was the question of the proposed transfer of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, from Calcutta to Delhi. There are obvious disadvantages in having your Accountant General for Central Revenues (and central expenditure) at Calcutta when the Government of India are at Delhi and at Simla; and there are obvious advantages from everybody's point of view, not least I think from the Public Accounts Committee's point of view, in having the Accountant General available somewhere nearer the capital of Government. We have been carefully into the question of this proposed transfer and we have come to the conclusion that it is possible to effect the transfer without going in for any new expenditure on buildings.

It is believed that we can house the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, and his staff in the new Secretariat and there is no intention of embarking on any new building in order to find him accommodation. Accommodation will be available in the new Secretariat in October 1924, and it is proposed to effect the move during this year. The expense of transfer would obviously have to be incurred sooner or later and there is no economy in postponing it.

Mr. Bhubanananda Das: What about housing accommodation for the staff? You will have to provide quarters in Raisina.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I understand that that is not expected to cause any difficulty, quarters being available.

Mr. Bhubanananda Das: I beg to withdraw my motion*, Sir.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

* "That the Demand under the head 'Audit' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 17—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

(Mr. President called on Dr. H. S. Gour, but the Honourable Member was absent.)

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: Sir, as Dr. Gour is not here, I only wish to ask the Honourable the Finance Member about the system of the financial statement presented to us and nothing more. We find under the heading 'Administration of Justice' Rs. 46,000 provided for some law officers in Bengal. It seems to me, therefore, that it should properly come under "Law Charges" and not "Administration of Justice." If I am right, it is only payment made to the lawyers there where Government appeared as a client; properly speaking it is only a law charge and does not come under the head of "Administration of Justice." In the first page of the Budget we find an item, "Administration of Justice" and Rs. 9,14,000 is provided for, which, I believe, represents the "Administration of Justice in the North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan, Delhi etc.;" and in the next page under the same nomenclature "Administration of Justice" what is provided for is only a sum of Rs. 46,000, which, I think, can only come under "Law Charges."

Next I wish to know why the provision of Rs. 2 lakhs provided for the Civil Justice Committee or the Judicial Delays Committee, as it is called, is put in an obscure corner under "Miscellaneous," waiting on a platform along with 50 other items to enter into the omnibus and which is not likely to be reached for discussion, whereas it should properly come under "Administration of Justice."

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member raise that point on this vote? The Honourable Member is entitled to ask why law charges of the Government have been put under the heading "Administration of Justice" and whether the Government of India consult the law officers in Calcutta, but he must not try to make this item the omnibus for all the others.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: I am not discussing that. I am only submitting that this charge which comes under "Miscellaneous" should be presented to the House under "Administration of Justice." Therefore I am simply suggesting to the Finance Member what are the items which can be grouped together under the heading "Administration of Justice" and presented before this House for a convenient discussion, and in my own humble way I stated that under the heading "Administration of Justice," the administration of justice in all these places, the North-West Frontier, Baluchistan, Delhi and all these places, may be put into one map and presented to this House for discussion, instead of putting an item which should not properly be put there and an item which directly comes under it being placed elsewhere.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, I am not going to make many observations on the administration of justice, particularly not on the civil part of it, because though it causes a lot of delay and is prohibitive in cost, on the whole it is a very pure administration. I am more concerned with the administration of criminal justice, particularly in two of its aspects. Firstly, so long as there is racial discrimination in the administration of criminal justice, you will find that there will not be purity of justice between the white and the brown—purity which ought to be more sacredly guarded in criminal matters than in the administration of civil justice. But still we have on our legislation provisions which discriminate in criminal justice between the white and the non-white subjects of His Majesty.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: On a point of order, Sir. I should like to know whether the advice which we obtain from our Law Officers in Calcutta which is what is now in question entitles the Honourable Member to discuss these questions.

Mr. President: It seems to me that the Honourable Member is not in order. I was waiting for the moment to see precisely what he desired to discuss.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: All that I was saying was to draw the attention to the fact that the administration of justice in criminal matters between every community of His Majesty's subjects in India is not on that sacred footing as it ought to be. That is all. Secondly, there is the administration of certain sections of the Criminal Procedure Code which to-day is so unpopular and causes Government great unpopularity.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member cannot discuss that.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Then, Sir, it does not deserve the title of "Administration of Justice". So, I will reserve my remarks for some other head.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, whether this should be called 'Administration of Justice' or 'Law Charges' is a matter which one might discuss with the help of the dictionary for some considerable time. But I do not think I need detain the House by actually dwelling on it any further. The arrangement by which charges are distributed under the various heads such as North-West Frontier Province, Delhi, and so on, which are of a similar character to the present charge, was made at the express request of the last Assembly. It is possible to present your accounts in several ways. We had an instance of it the other day when, as I tried to explain to the House the same facts were presented in two different accounts or rather Railway estimates with a difference of a crore of rupees between them. There is no such difference here. The reason for the presentation of the charges for the Civil Justice Committee, which I think was mentioned, under the head "Miscellaneous" is that the head "Miscellaneous" includes provision for special commissions and committees of inquiry and that this is a special committee of inquiry. The fact that it may not be reached is not a matter which is entirely within the control of the Government.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 18—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Jails and Convict Settlements' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, in moving this motion I only wanted to invite the attention of the Honourable the Home Member as to what transpired in the Madras Legislative Council. When a question was put in the Madras Legislative Council on the 4th March respecting the Moplah women who have been sent to the Andamans at Government expense to join their relatives, the Member on behalf of Government replied that 15 women and 80 children were sent. 8 women and 15 children were sent by the District Magistrate of Malabar on a direct request to him by the Deputy Commissioner at Port Blair. Out of these, 4 women and 13 children returned to India because they did not want to stop there.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is raising a question relating to the Andamans.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Convict Settlements include the Andamans

Mr. President: But the Honourable Member is referring to the Andamans for which there is a separate vote.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: This was in connection with the prisoners and that was in connection with the colonization and utilization of State land. I am only concerned with prisoners imprisoned in the Andaman Islands.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: It would have been quite appropriate when we were dealing with yesterday's subject, "General Administration, Home Department." It will be equally appropriate when we come to the details printed on page 247 of the Volume, which include expenditure on Jails and Convict Settlements in the Andamans themselves. I may add for your information, Sir, that the Rs. 5,000 which we are dealing with now refers only to exchange on leave allowances.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will recollect that I allowed a debate on an item of exchange in a previous case. This case is not covered by that precedent.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I should like to know if the general policy of Jail Administration can be brought in under this heading: not political prisoners but the general policy of Jail Administration.

Mr. President: We had that discussion once already as regards the general policy of Jail Administration under the Home Department vote.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Halley: It was quite a long discussion.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 19—POLICE.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 20—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Sir, in moving the amendment* which stands in my name I find certain difficulty. Where could I properly discuss the omission of all amounts for the construction of the Vizagapatam Harbour? I wanted to bring it under Railways, and found it was already omitted under railway expenditure. I then wanted to bring it under this, but no amount was mentioned. Vizagapatam Harbour was under the control of the Government of India and not under the control of the Provincial Government. I may also state that they have already spent 20 lakhs. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes said that the Bengal Nagpur Railway had made certain suggestions and certain financial proposals and that they were under consideration. When I specifically asked during the last Budget debate why an officer on Rs. 3,000 a month with a large number of assistants and other paraphernalia should be located at Vizagapatam without providing funds for the harbour, Sir Charles Innes said, they were considering the provision of funds. Expecting they would provide it, I have been carefully watching the Budget this year and I have not been able to find any entry. Only the other day Sir Campbell Rhodes supported the proposal that early steps might be taken for the construction of that harbour, and it is neither economical nor advantageous, after spending some Rs. 20 lakhs and keeping a number of officers there, not to proceed with the work. Sir Cartwright Reid has taken a photograph of the whole place and presented it to the British Exhibition, and in the various proposals made hitherto the people understood that the Bengal Nagpur Railway were prepared to undertake the task if they were permitted to raise the money, and we were told once more that the Government had not permitted the Railway Company to raise funds for that purpose. We are often told it would be a paying concern inasmuch as it would facilitate the loading of ships at less cost by unloading at Waltair and bringing the goods to Calcutta by rail than unloading at the Sunderbuns. Not only the shipping companies, but also the Bengal Nagpur Railway are anxious to push on with the work, and I hope Sir Charles Innes will see his way to provide some amount which has not been shown, at any rate, in this Budget, at an early date, because we have already acquired a large property and the railway authorities are demolishing streets and creating much inconvenience in the municipality without any prospect of bringing it into proper shape and utilising the land available for any useful purpose. And, therefore, Sir, I want to know whether anything can be done by Sir Charles Innes this year.

* "That the demand under the head 'Ports and Pilotage' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): I think the Honourable Member is altogether too pessimistic. It is quite true there has been some delay, in fact very considerable delay, in regard to the development of this port, but the labours of the officer to whom he referred have not been wasted. That officer has been engaged in preparing the estimates for the development of the port. The view we have had to take after considerable examination of all the schemes put up to us by the Railway Company concerned, is that the development of this port is intimately bound up with the question of constructing the Raipur-Vizianagaram Railway, a very important railway which will connect the Central Provinces with Vizagapatam if that port is developed, and which will open up a large tract of new country. Well, Sir, the position is this. During the last few months we have had the estimates for that railway thoroughly revised. We have had, so I am informed by Mr. Hindley, a fresh examination of the traffic prospects of the railway, and Mr. Hindley tells me that he hopes the whole question of the Vizagapatam Harbour and of the Raipur-Vizianagaram railway will be ripe for decision in a very short time and that if the decision is in favour of the construction of the railway and the development of the harbour, then I hope we shall be able to provide some capital money at any rate for a beginning this year. I hope in these circumstances the Honourable Member will not press his motion.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: I do not press it.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: Sir, before we close this subject I should like the Honourable Member for Commerce to say whether the Government have abandoned all intentions of provincialising the Bengal Pilot Service with a view to its being handed over to the Port Commissioners.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am afraid, Sir, no decision has yet been arrived at on that particular point.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I want to get some information from the Honourable Member in charge of this Department. About three years back the Government appointed a Committee to inquire into the question of the methods of the recruitment of seamen and that Committee made several proposals for changing the present methods of recruitment and introducing new and improved methods. As a result of that Committee's suggestions a new scheme was put forward. I want to know whether the Government of India propose to introduce the new methods at an early date or not; and secondly, if they propose . . .

Mr. President: I do not see how the Honourable Member is in order in referring to a Committee relating to the engagement of seamen. I do not see any provision for that purpose here.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is a provision for Shipping Masters and all those people who have to do with the recruitment of seamen.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: What Mr. Joshi says is right. Provision is made in this Budget for several officers engaged in the recruitment of seamen who supervise the recruitment of seamen.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I am told that although the Government of India are ready to introduce these new methods, they propose to restrict the new methods only to the port of Calcutta at present, and before introducing them in Bombay, they want to wait till they get some

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

more experience. Sir, I do not approve of this idea. The Government of India, whenever we ask them to carry out some improvement, do it on a smaller scale and they want to make an experiment first. What is there to make an experiment here in a small thing like this? A Committee was appointed to go into the matter; it made proposals both for Bombay and Calcutta, and now after the Committee has gone into the whole thing, the Government of India want to introduce the new methods of recruitment only in Calcutta and want to wait for many years, they want many years' experience before they introduce these new methods into the port of Bombay. I suggest to the Government of India that they should take steps to introduce these new methods in both the ports simultaneously.

Secondly, I am told that the Government of India is not willing to accept the suggestion of that Committee to appoint advisory committees for those officers who will be in charge of the work of recruitment. Sir, I was a member of the Committee which considered this matter in Delhi, and as a member of that Committee, attached great importance to the appointment of these advisory committees. The proposal of advisory committees was passed by a majority. Now the objection made to the proposal of advisory committees is that the employers do not accept it. Sir, the employers will never accept any improvement which is likely to be inconvenient to them, but it is not the business of Government to do only what the employers approve of. I would insist on the Government of India appointing advisory committees both in Bombay and Calcutta although the employers may not accept the proposal. If the employers do not send their representatives to the advisory committees, let them rot. The Government may represent the employers' interests in that case. But advisory committees should be appointed when Government change the methods of recruitment. Sir, I hope the Government of India will accept my suggestion.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Sir, I shall be very brief in replying to Mr. Joshi as the time is getting on. This question of the recruitment of seamen is one of the most difficult questions with which we in the Government of India have ever had to deal. It is a question which raises very large issues. The number of seamen who are recruited in Calcutta and in Bombay is very large indeed, and a very large number of ships depend on that system of recruitment. We have consulted both the Governments of Bengal and of Bombay in regard to the recommendations made by the Steamer's Recruitment Committee. That Committee found that things were not nearly so bad in Bombay as they were in Calcutta, and the Bombay Government has advised that for the moment nothing should be done in regard to Bombay. We have decided to accept that advice, because the matter is far more urgent in Calcutta, and we consider that in Calcutta it should be tackled first. We have correspondence with the Government of Bengal at the present moment. The general line that we are taking is that, as in this matter there are so many interests involved, we must proceed with the utmost care and with the utmost caution. We have, therefore, suggested to the Government of Bengal that they should begin by putting the Shipping Master's office in Calcutta under a very carefully selected officer. We have had suggestions from Calcutta as to how that officer should work and should organize this bureau. We have suggested to the Government of Bengal that this officer, as soon as he

takes over, should work out his own scheme for the recruitment of seamen, and we have laid down for the guidance of the officer the main points at which he should aim in evolving his scheme. For the moment, we do not propose to associate with him the Advisory Committee suggested by a majority of the Seamen's Recruitment Committee, but that is a development which may come in the future. For the moment, we have decided to take the first and most important step, namely, to place a carefully selected officer in charge, to lay down certain principles for the guidance of that officer, and to leave him, in the light of experience, to work out his own scheme.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 15th March, 1924.
