

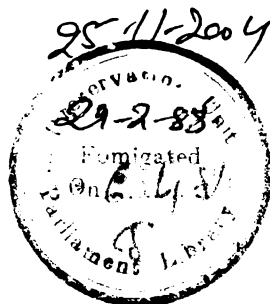
Wednesday, 11th February, 1925

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

Volume V

(20th January to 26th March 1925)

FIFTH SESSION
OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE, 1925



DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1925

MONDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 1925—

Questions and Answers	107—125
Resolution <i>re</i> Improvement of the Status and Condition of Indians Overseas—Not moved	125—126

WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 1925—

Questions and Answers	127—143
Message from the Legislative Assembly	143
Resolution <i>re</i> Amendment of the Natal Boroughs Ordinance—Not moved	143—144
Resolution <i>re</i> University Training Corps—Moved and Discussion Adjourned till after the 24th February, 1925	144—155
Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Amendment of the Standing Orders	155
Statement of Business	155—156

MONDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 1925—

Questions and Answers	157—159
Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the Table	159
Messages from His Excellency the Governor General	159—160
Amendment of the Law relating to Interest Bill—Rejected	160—164
Resolution <i>re</i> Supply of Ganges Water at and below Narora—Adopted	164—188

TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 1925—

Statement laid on the Table	189
Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Bill—Amendments made by the Assembly agreed to	189—191
Indian Ports (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	191—192
Resolution <i>re</i> Appointment of a Member of the Council of State to the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi—Adopted	192
Election of the Panel for the Standing Committee on Emigration—Adopted	193
Resolution <i>re</i> Investigation into the Mineral Resources of Chota Nagpur, etc.—Adopted as amended	193—201

WEDNESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 1925—

Death of Sir Leslie Miller	203—207
-----------------------------------	---------

FRIDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 1925—

Member Sworn	209
Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly laid on the Table	209
Question and Answer	209—210
Railway Budget for 1925-26	210—222
Election to the Panel for the Standing Committee on Emigration	222
Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill—Passed	222—223
Indian Ports (Amendment) Bill—Passed	223—224
Amendment of the Standing Orders—Passed as amended	224—225
Election of Panels for Standing Committees—Adopted	225—226

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Wednesday, 11th February, 1925.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STERLING SECURITIES IN THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.

59. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to say:

- (a) what was the premium on gold on the date on which they sold two million gold from the Paper Currency Reserve and what was the premium on the 15th of January 1925;
- (b) now that Government can replace the gold very nearly at par, do Government intend to do so;
- (c) has there been any change in the price of securities which were purchased by the proceeds of this gold;
- (d) what would be the loss on these securities if the replacement were made immediately;
- (e) what is their policy with regard to sterling securities, which are kept in the paper currency reserve, and why are there any sterling securities at all in the Paper Currency Reserve;
- (f) whether the sterling securities in the Paper Currency Reserve are Indian Government sterling loan, and, if not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. McWATTERS: (a) The gold was sold on different days commencing from the 19th November, 1923, and ending on the 5th February, 1924. The highest premium during the period was 12 shillings and the lowest 9s. 2d. per fine oz. The premium on 15th January, 1925, was 2s. 2d.

(b) The Government have come to no decision on this point at present. The transaction undertaken last year could undoubtedly be reversed now at a considerable profit, though it is arguable whether the most profitable

moment has yet arrived and in view of the strong metallic position of the reserve there appears to be no immediate reason for incurring the loss of interest involved by holding gold rather than securities.

(c) to (f). The sterling securities are all in the form of British Treasury Bills which are more easily realisable than any other securities, and involve no risk of loss by depreciation. It is not possible in an answer to a question to enter into the arguments, which are well known, which explain the necessity for keeping a portion of the reserve in sterling.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RATES TRIBUNAL.

60. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state what progress they have made with regard to the establishment of the Rates Tribunal?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The Secretary of State's reply to Government's proposals regarding the establishment of the Rates Tribunal was received by the mail of January the 25th, and is under consideration.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Supplementary question. Sir, may I know what salaries are to be paid to the members who form the Tribunal?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: I want notice of that question; I am afraid that I do not know.

EXPEDITIOUS SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS AGAINST RAILWAYS.

61. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps have been taken for alterations in the Railway Act in order to bring the Act up to date with modern practice in other countries;
- (b) if they recognise the necessity of any additional safeguards to the public in view of the taking over of the East Indian Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway under State management, especially to secure quicker repayment of claims for refunds, etc., and quicker machinery for adjustment of other claims against Railway Companies by the public?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given in the Legislative Assembly on the 10th September, 1924, to question No. 1698. This question, I believe, relates to the revision of the Railway Act, and the recommendation of the Acworth Committee was that it should be left for the President of the Rates Tribunal.

(b) The Government do not understand exactly what the Honourable Member's intention is; but they are not aware of any reason why it should be anticipated that the taking over of the East Indian and Great Indian

Peninsula Railways, should require the provision of additional safeguards to the public. The necessity for expeditious settlement of claims is fully recognised and has been receiving the attention of the Railway Board.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES.

62. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) in what way the Industries Department has assisted large all-India industries since its inception, and
- (b) what policy it has formulated for securing the growth of industries?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) I am not sure what the Honourable Member means by the expression "All-India Industries", but I presume he has in mind those industries the development of which has been declared by order of the Governor General in Council to be a Central Subject under Item 20, Part I, Schedule I, of the Devolution Rules. The only industries, regarding which such a declaration has been made, are the steel, rail, and railway wagon industries in the provinces of Bombay, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. It is hardly necessary for me to inform this House of the action which the Government of India have taken towards the development of these industries.

Nor, with regard to part (b) of the question, need I remind the House that under the Devolution Rules the "Development of industries, including industrial research and technical education," is a provincial Transferred Subject in all the Provinces and that in view of the provisions of Rule 49 of those Rules, the Central Government have little scope for formulating any policy for their development. In regard to matters which are the immediate concern of the Central Government, the main direction in which Government have been able to take action is in the formulation of the policy underlying the rules for the supply of articles for the Public Service and the creation in pursuance of that policy of the Indian Stores Department.

RUPEE TENDERS.

63. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken with regard to the establishment of a system of rupee tenders in India, for which the Assembly made a recommendation last year?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The Government have not yet come to a final decision in regard to the Resolution adopted by the Assembly to which the Honourable Member refers. As explained by the Honourable Sir A. C. Chatterjee in his reply to question No. 2081, asked in the Assembly on the 17th September, 1924, the question is one which has to be examined in many complicated aspects. This House may, however, rest assured that the matter is receiving the most earnest attention of the Government.

STATIONERY FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

64. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) who purchases the stationery required for their different departments ;
- (b) if the services of the Indian Stores Department cannot be utilised for this purpose ;
- (c) what attempts have Government made to create production of stationery required by Government in this country, and if such attempts have been made the names of any publications in which the results of such attempts are described?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) The Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps.

(b) No.

(c) A large proportion of Government orders for paper has always gone to the Indian Paper Mills. A large proportion of miscellaneous supplies, *e.g.*, ferro-prussiate paper, ink, ink powders, sealing wax, tags, tape, paper weights, penholders, wax cloth, etc., is manufactured in India. Manufacturers are given all possible information to enable them to manufacture stationery articles, and they receive the benefit of the services of the Stationery Office laboratory. The manufacture in India of ferro-prussiate paper, high quality sealing wax and inks is largely due to the encouragement given by the Stationery Office: In 1923-24 more than 31 lakhs worth of Indian made paper and stationery articles were purchased. There is no publication on the subject.

MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES IN INDIA.

65. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent and capacity of the new plants for match manufacturing, which have been set up in India during the last two years ;
- (b) the figures, by the month, of customs duty on matches and match-making material, and indicate if there has been any falling off in the revenue from matches from the growth of internal manufacture ;
- (c) who are the owners and what is the proposed output of the new plant, which has been set up in the country?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) and (c). The information required is not available with the Government of India. It is being collected from the Provinces and will be furnished to the Honourable Member later.

(b) A statement is laid on the table, from which it will be observed that there has been a falling off in the revenue. Government are not in a position to say definitely how much of this decline is due to internal manufacture.

Statement showing the figures, month by month, of customs duty on matches and match-making materials collected in 1923 and 1924.

(In thousands of rupees.)

Months.	Matches	MATCH-MAKING MATERIALS.*		
		Splints.	Veneers.	Total.
January, 1923	15,28	...	...
February	18,32	...		
March	10,63	...		
April	8,36		...	
May	12,28	...	...
June	13,84			
July	13,39	...	...	...
August	11,31	...	..	...
September	16,05	...	...
October	13,84		...	
November	16,66	...	...	...
December	9,71	...	...
January, 1924	7,72	...	...	...
February	3,97	...	...
March	10,77	...	...	...
April	9,52	77	1,57	2,34
May	8,70	12	54	66
June	9,31	11	48	59
July	11,02	39	43	82
August	11,03	5	25	30
September	12,97	6	74	80
October	9,77	16	70	86
November	10,77	9	66	75
December	9,00	16	73	89

*Separately recorded from April, 1924.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Do Government propose to make up for the loss of revenue by any special duties on locally made matches?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: I should like to have notice of that question.

PURCHASE OF MILITARY STORES.

66. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Army Department to purchase independently of the Stores Department?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Army Department utilizes the services of the Indian Stores Department for the purchase of such classes of stores as are dealt with by that Department and which it can obtain as cheaply and as efficiently as the army purchasing agency. At present, the Indian Stores Department carry out the purchase of textiles and engineering stores, and, further, all indents on England are sent to the Chief Controller, Indian Stores Department. Such items as he is able to supply are cancelled from the Home indent.

The question of further utilizing the services of the Indian Stores Department is under consideration.

FACTORIES UNDER THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

67. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many productive plants or factories (including under this head dairy farms) are being worked on Government account in the Army Department;
- (b) the number of men getting more than Rs. 300 per mensem, and how many of them are Indians and how many Europeans;
- (c) the reason for the continuance of each one of these factories?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) The following is the information desired:

Ordnance Factories	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Clothing Factories	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Grain Crushing plants	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Flour mills	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3 (two of which are part time.)
Dairy Farms	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	33

(b) 321, of whom two are Indians and the rest Europeans.

(c) As the answer to this part of the question is necessarily a rather lengthy one, I will, with your permission, Sir, lay it on the table.

The continuance of each of the Ordnance and Clothing factories is necessary because, in the first place, no organised private enterprise exists in India to undertake the manufacture of all the requirements of the

army. and secondly, because such private firms as may have facilities for the production of certain classes of articles cannot always be relied on to produce the material on modern lines and as quickly, according to the standard, quality and specification required.

As regards the Crushing plants and Flour Mills, the former are existing plants at which an experiment in centralised crushing of animal grains purchased for the army, is now being carried out with a view to economy and efficiency. As far as Government are aware, no private enterprise of this kind organised on modern lines exists in India to meet the requirements of the army. The flour mills are owned by private individuals and public joint stock companies and have been taken under the control of Government for stated periods for the purpose of grinding wheat products required for the army. The full-time mill does Government work only, while the part-time mills carry on private trade after Government milling is finished. As far therefore as milling is concerned, the manufacture is in the hands of private enterprise.

The dairy farms were established and are maintained for the purpose of providing the soldier with a safe and reliable supply of pure milk and butter.

FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FOR BUILDINGS IN NEW DELHI.

68. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the names of sub-contractors who have supplied the following items for various buildings in the New Delhi:

- (i) furniture;
- (ii) electrical fittings;
- (iii) door handles, hinges and other brass;
- (iv) iron or steel work;
- (v) cement; and

(b) what percentage of the total quantity was of Indian origin, i.e., manufactured in this country?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The information asked for is not available and its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour which Government consider it unnecessary to undertake.

I can, however, state generally that every endeavour is made to obtain supplies in India. The furniture is being, and will be, made in India, and from the commencement of the work Indian steel has been purchased whenever practicable and available: similarly Indian cement has been used whenever available, and the cast iron piping used in the water supply distribution schemes is practically exclusively of Indian manufacture, up to the maximum size made in India. As the Honourable Member is doubtless aware, practically all electrical fittings used in India are imported as are also high grade door and window fittings.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

69. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: What administrative changes have resulted from the taking over of the East Indian Railway?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: It is somewhat difficult to deal with the Honourable Member's inquiry within the compass of a reply to a question. The main change is that the Railway will in future be administered by the Government of India through the Railway Board and their Agent instead of by the East Indian Railway Company in England. As a natural result all of the arrangements connected with the administration both in England and India will be assimilated to those of other State-owned Railways.

REVALUATION OF SECURITIES IN THE GOLD STANDARD RESERVE AND THE PAPER CURRENCY RESERVE.

70. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the various dates on which securities in the Gold Standard Reserve and the Paper Currency Reserve have been revalued, and the total amount of loss in connection therewith from 1912-13 to date?

(b) Will Government indicate the loss, if any, which would be involved in the realisation of sterling securities, which they hold in the Gold Standard Reserve and the Paper Currency Reserve if Government were advised to turn them into gold now?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) In the Paper Currency Reserve, securities are held at their purchase price and not at their market value. There is thus no occasion for revaluation. As regards the Gold Standard Reserve, the Honourable Member will observe that in the quarterly statements published in the Gazette of India, both the nominal value and the estimated market value of the securities held are given.

(b) This is a hypothetical question the answer to which depends on the price of gold and the market value of the securities at the time of realisation.

With reference to the reply which I have just given to the first part of the Honourable Member's question, I should like to add, by way of explanation and to avoid any misunderstanding, that I assumed the Honourable Member's question to refer to *revaluation on a commercial basis*. There was of course a revaluation of the sterling securities in the Paper Currency Reserve in *October 1920*, in connection with the adoption of the new statutory ratio, since the accounts of the Reserve are published in rupees. This, however, was a purely book-keeping transaction and had no connection with the *market value* of the securities.

ECONOMIC INQUIRY IN INDIA.

71. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to secure the establishment of an economic inquiry in India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Finance Department Resolution No. 655-F., dated the 22nd January 1925, published in the Gazette of India of the 24th *idem*.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a paragraph in one of the local papers in its yesterday's issue as follows:

"The Committee has made proposals to the Government asking whether what is required of them is to lay down the scope of a larger inquiry or to submit tentative conclusions."

Will Government enlighten the Council in regard to this?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: I have not seen the quotation referred to.

THE TAXATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

72. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: (a) With reference to the statement in the communiqué announcing the appointment of the Taxation Inquiry Committee that Government expected this Committee to make a report in the course of one year, will Government be pleased to state from which date they are reckoning this year to commence;

(b) what outlay do Government expect over the work of this Committee as a whole and for how much has the sanction of the Legislature been obtained;

(c) the number of men to whom invitations to give evidence or join in the preliminary discussion were issued in connection with this Committee;

(d) how many of these persons replied agreeing to give such evidence and how many have already given evidence?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. MCWATTERS: (a) The Committee assembled in the last week of October. During November and the first half of December three of the members were detached for duty on other Committees and the full Committee was not in session continuously until December.

(b) The estimated expenditure for 1924-25 is Rs. 1,44,050 as against a sum of 2 lakhs provided in the budget and for 1925-26 Rs. 2,81,000.

(c) and (d). On the 10th November, 1924, the Committee issued a letter to 320 members of legislative bodies, economists and other public men, inviting their assistance in indicating material available from non-official sources. To this letter 115 replies have been so far received. The formal questionnaire was issued in the third week of December, in the majority of cases through Local Governments. The exact number of copies issued by them is not known. By the third week in January, 37 replies had been received.

Up to the 28th January 27 witnesses had been orally examined and a considerable number since that date.

PROPOSED AIR ROUTE BETWEEN EUROPE AND INDIA.

73. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state what undertaking or guarantees they have given on behalf of India in connection with the proposed air route to India?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The Government of India have not at present given any undertaking or guarantee on behalf of India in connection with the proposed air route between Europe and India. The question of the assistance, if any, to be given is under consideration.

PURCHASE OF GLYCERINE FOR AMMUNITION FACTORIES.

74. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of glycerine which they purchased for ammunition factories during the last five years, with the price and

(b) the quantities showing how much was of Indian origin?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) 75 tons at a cost, of £6,813.

(b) A quarter of a ton for trial, at a cost of Rs. 600. This was found to be unsuitable.

LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH TRADE COMBINATIONS.

75. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: (a) Can Government state whether the Board of Trade regulates in any way the sale of petroleum and petrol in the United Kingdom?

(b) Will Government lay on the table any regulation, either ordinary or extraordinary, which enables the Board of Trade to inquire so as to secure a free market and to check all combinations or otherwise in restraint of trade?

(c) Have Government considered what measures they might take against monopolies and combinations either to fix prices of petrol or to pool profits or otherwise to the detriment of the consumer? If not, will Government consider the same and report what they propose to do?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) The Government of India are not aware of any Board of Trade Regulations regulating the sale price of petrol or petroleum in the United Kingdom. Regulations are of course in force designed for the purpose of securing safety and of regulating the method of storage and handling.

(b) The Government of India are not aware of any Regulations of the Board of Trade directed towards the object mentioned in the Honourable Member's question.

(c) Government have not considered the difficult subject of legislation to deal with trade combinations and agreements about selling prices. As at present advised, they are not satisfied that the need for such action has arisen.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Are Government aware that the price of petrol in the United Kingdom is far less than what it is in this country?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: I understand that the price of petrol in Calcutta from bulk installations as for instance, kerbside pumps, is Rs. 1-7-6, per gallon, of which six annas is excise duty. That reduces the real sale price to Rs. 1-1-6 a gallon, which is practically the same or even less than what it is in England where there is no excise duty. I think Re. 1 a gallon was the price before the war. I might be allowed to add that prices have come down very considerably during the last 18 months or two years.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN ART.

76. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proposals for the encouragement of Indian Art outlined at the Conference of Indian Art held at Wembley on June 2nd, 1924?

(b) Do Government contemplate any measures in conformity with those proposals? If so, what are they?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) Yes.

(b) I have nothing to add to what I said on the subject in dealing with the Resolution brought forward by the Honourable Khan Bahadur Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer in this Council on the 28th January last.

MURAL PAINTINGS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND COUNCIL HALLS, NEW DELHI.

77. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it has arrived at any definite decision in regard to the mural paintings to be executed in the Secretariat and Council Halls at New Delhi?

(b) If the answer is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state when they would be likely to do so?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) No definite decision has been arrived at.

(b) I regret I cannot forecast the period that will lapse before a decision is reached.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN ART AND ANTIQUITIES IN LONDON.

78. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a proposal for a central institute of Indian Art and antiquities in London? If it has, will Government be pleased to state whether it has promised any support to the scheme and, if so, what?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

79. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government please state:

- (a) if their attention has been drawn to the fact that booksellers in the list of Government do not usually stock Government publications;
- (b) what are the reasons, if any, why they do not stock Government publications;
- (c) what are the terms allowed to such booksellers;
- (d) is it not compulsory on such booksellers to stock Government publications;
- (e) if they are aware that even books like Reports of Controllers of Currency are not available with them in stock and the public have to write to the Superintendent, Government Printing at Calcutta?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) Yes.

(b) Booksellers state that the demand for Government publications is insufficient to justify them in holding stocks.

(c) Approved agents are allowed

- (i) 25 per cent. discount on published price, and

- (ii) a refund of the price paid by them for unsold books or publications returned by them in good condition.

(d) Government have no means of compelling booksellers to hold publications in stock. If such a condition were laid down, booksellers would decline to be authorised agents for the sale of Government publications.

(e) Government have no information on the subject. It should however be noted that the officer responsible for the sale of Government publications in Calcutta is the Manager, Government of India Central Publication Branch, and not the Superintendent, Government Printing.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Am I to understand that the Manager is to be addressed, and not the Superintendent?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Yes, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Is that fact published for the benefit of the public?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: Yes, Sir, it has been published.

DESPATCH OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS V. P. P. BY THE MANAGER, CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH, CALCUTTA.

80. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Are Government aware that the Superintendent, Government Printing, Calcutta, does not send Government publications per V. P. post but insists upon money being paid in advance for executing any orders?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: The answer is in the negative. The Superintendent, Government Printing, is as I have said, no longer responsible for the issue of Government Publications. The Manager, Central Publication Branch, Calcutta, has instructions that publications should ordinarily be sent by V. P. P. on demand. In the case of correction slips, however, the large number of packages returned unaccepted with consequent loss to Government have rendered it necessary to institute a system of prepayment. This does not apply to ordinary publications, and if the Honourable Member can show me any specific instance of prepayment being demanded, I shall be glad to have inquiries made.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

81. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: (a) Are Government aware that the existing difficulties in the way of likely purchasers make it sometimes impossible to buy Government publications?

(b) Will they consider the advisability of taking steps to making Government publications more readily available in all the principal towns and cities than is the case at present?

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. LEY: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Necessary steps have already been taken to make Government publications readily available. Copies of important publications are sent to the book depôts of Provincial Governments for sale as soon as issued. To keep stocks of all publications in the principal towns and cities would involve the printing of excessive numbers of copies, many of which would be wasted.

COAL MINES OWNED BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

82. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many coal mines are owned by the Railway Board ;
- (b) who manages these collieries ;
- (c) what is the average cost at pit's mouth in these collieries ; and
- (d) what is the price for coal purchased by the Mining Engineer for the Railway Board ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) (b) and (c). The Railway Board as such does not own any coal mines but the State-worked and State-owned railways own ten collieries, of which six are actually producing coal and four are under development. The Coal Departments of the East Indian and the Bengal Nagpur Railways manage the collieries owned either wholly or jointly by those Railways. All other collieries are under the direction of the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board.

The Honourable Member's attention is invited, in this connection, to paragraph 80 in Volume I and Appendix B in Vol. II of the Administration Report for 1923-24, a copy of which is in the Library. In this Report are given full details regarding cost of coal at pits' mouth for the open collieries.

(d) The Chief Mining Engineer has not purchased any coal for the Railway Board during the current year. The prices being paid for coal consumed by State-worked railways, under the 3 year contracts for the period 1922-23-24-25, as modified at a meeting last July between the Railway Board and the Coal Trade are as follows:

	Rs. A.	
Deshurgher	10	8 per ton.
Selected Jherriah	9	12 „
1st Class „	9	0 „
2nd Class „	6	4 „

CONTRACTS FOR COAL FOR THE RAILWAYS ENTERED INTO BY THE LATE MR. CHURCH.

83. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the position with regard to contracts entered into for the railways by the late Mr. Church ;
- (b) when are these contracts falling in ;
- (c) what arrangements are made for the future ; and
- (d) what precautions are Government taking to prevent the recurrence of the evils, which were complained of in connection with these contracts ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: Very full information was given with regard to this question in the September Session in the Legislative Assembly and it is rather difficult to compress all that information into an answer. If my Honourable friend will kindly accept it, I should like to refer him to pages 3216 and 3217 of the Official Report of the

Legislative Assembly Debates for September 1924. I have only to add, with reference to part (d) of his question, that Government intend in future to purchase coal required by State Railways by calling for tenders and placing orders after due consideration of the tenders received.

PURCHASE OF COAL THROUGH THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

84. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total amount of coal purchased by them each year for State Railways during the last three years ;
- (b) what is the annual amount of coal purchased for departments of Government other than Railways during the last three years ;
- (c) if they have noticed that the prices paid for coal under (a) and under (b) are not always the same ; and
- (d) if they will make use in future of the Indian Stores Department for the purchase of coal?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) The amount of coal purchased for the three State-worked Railways, (North Western, Eastern Bengal and Oudh and Rohilkhand) during the last three years is as follows:—

1921-22	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.63 million tons.
1922-23	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.67 „
1923-24	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.67 „

(b) and (c). Figures for the purchases of coal made by other Departments are not available. The price paid for coal by any purchasing department must depend upon many considerations, *e.g.*, the market conditions at the time of purchase, the quantity required, the time and period for which deliveries are needed. It would be most improbable that the prices paid by Departments under such varying conditions would always be the same.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the views expressed by the Stores Purchase Committee, in paragraph 148 of their Report, with which the Government of India are in agreement.

PURCHASE OF WAGONS.

85. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the wagon requirements of the Government of India during the next five years ;
- (b) how many of these would be additions and how many replacements and how many renewals ;
- (c) the figures separately for State-owned railways and for State-managed railways ;
- (d) if the provision for the encouragement of the wagon industry in the Indian Steel (Protection) Act will apply to purchases for railways managed by Companies; and
- (e) if so, what is the machinery to secure that wagon orders for Government railways managed by Companies are not placed with foreign manufacturers in preference to Indian manufacturers?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a), (b) and (c). It is not possible to give definite figures of what the demands will be for the next five years, especially as the Board hope by their efforts to obtain better use from existing wagon stock to effect economy in the purchase of additional wagons.

(d) and (e). The East Indian Railway, while still a Company-worked railway, and four other principal Company-worked railways join the State-worked railways in a combined call for tenders for the supply of wagons; and it is in response to this call that orders are placed for wagons of the types to which a bounty under section 4 of the Steel Industry (Protection) Act is attached. In placing the orders for wagons of these types, no differentiation is made between the Company-worked and the State-worked railways, and the provision for the encouragement of the wagon building industry applies equally to purchases of these types for these Company-worked railways as well as to those for State-worked railways.

But as the Honourable Member is aware, the total amount provided by way of bounty under section 4 of the Steel Industry (Protection) Act is limited to 7 lakhs in each year. It is this that limits the number of wagons to which it is possible to attach a bounty, and if the number of wagons required by the State-worked railways and these Company-worked railways altogether exceed the number to which the bounty can be attached, the balance has to be ordered abroad, unless tenders are received from Indian firms at prices, and under conditions, which admit of their acceptance in accordance with the Stores Purchase Rules.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Has the number of wagons required been such as to exceed the amount of bounty which is offered?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The amount of bounty, as the Honourable Member will realise, is not fixed so much per wagon; it is fixed by the total amount of the bounty available. The amount of bounty therefore that is needed per wagon depends upon the difference between the tenders of the Indian firms and of firms outside India. If there is a wide disparity between these two prices, the total sum is used up more quickly and the total number of wagons which can be ordered in India under the bounty scheme is reduced. If the disparity is small and the tenders approximate to each other, it is possible to spread this bounty over a much larger number of wagons. That accounts for a certain amount of variation.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: If the number of wagons is very large and the amount of bounty, namely, 7 lakhs, insufficient, will not Government consider the advisability of approaching the Legislature for increasing the grant from 7 lakhs to a higher amount?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: I think the Honourable Member is under a certain misapprehension, probably from my answers. The number of wagons that have to be ordered abroad is not so excessive. And secondly, the Tariff Board strongly recommended and so the Wagon Building Industry in India desired that the bounty should be given to particular types of wagons. It is not much assistance to the wagon building industry to get small orders for a large number of varying types. The bounty is therefore utilized in regard to orders for the main types of wagons. Seven lakhs was the amount recommended by the Tariff Board.

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

86. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the capital outlay up to the last year of calculation available on each of the workshops attached to State-owned railways ;
- (b) if there are commercial accounts kept for these workshops ;
- (c) what is the amount of work turned out by each workshop ;
- (d) if the workshops are fully occupied with work all the year round ;
- (e) if the reply to (d) is in the affirmative, what steps the railways take for getting their work done when their own workshops are fully occupied ;
- (f) if they pass on the surplus work to private enterprise ; and
- (g) if any complaints have been received from private enterprise of unfair competition with them by the railway workshops?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The information asked for is being obtained from the railways and will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS MEMBERS OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

87. THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the names and qualifications of the members of the Railway Board ;
- (b) why no Indians have been placed on the Railway Board ;
- (c) if it is suggested that there are no qualified Indians, what steps are Government taking to secure Indians to qualify for such position ;
- (d) with such steps as the Government are taking, at what period of time in the future do they expect to have an Indian or Indians sitting on the Railway Board?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: (a) The Honourable Member will find the names in the Classified List, a copy of which is in the Library. The relevant qualification in each case was long and distinguished service on the Indian Railways.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 1621 in the Legislative Assembly on the 3rd September 1924.

(c) and (d). Government are taking special measures to improve the training of railway officers in India, but it is impossible to specify any particular date when an appointment of an Indian to the Railway Board will be made.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN: Is it suggested that after half a century of railway administration in India, there is not a single Indian qualified now to be safely trusted to sit on the Railway Board?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: The selection so far has been made from those who had experience as Agents and as Chief Engineers who were available, and in the present case I do not think there was an Indian who was qualified for this post in that way.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. P. KARANDIKAR: May I know if steps are being taken to enable Indians to become Agents?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: I have just said, Sir, that Government are taking special measures to improve the training of railway officers of all departments of the Railway, Loco. Engineering, and Traffic.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Is it a fact that Rai Bahadur Ralla Ram (an exceptionally brilliant officer) retired after officiating as Chief Engineer, Eastern Bengal State Railway? Was his name ever considered for membership of the Indian Railway Board?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: That must have taken place before my association with the Railway Department began, and I am afraid I have no knowledge whatever about it.

GRANT OF PASSPORTS TO TRANS BORDER TRIBESMEN ENTERING INDIA.

88. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will the Government kindly state whether any passports or permits are taken by trans-border tribesmen when entering India from the land borders and, if so, will they kindly state for the information of this House the conditions on which such passports or permits are granted?

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL S. B. A. PATTERSON: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative; the second part therefore does not arise.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, a Message has been received from the Legislative Assembly. The message runs as follows:—

“I am directed to inform you that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law to provide for the special protection in respect of civil and revenue litigation of Indian soldiers serving under special conditions, which was passed by the Council of State at their meeting on the 8th September, 1924, was passed by the Legislative Assembly at their meeting on the 9th February, 1925, with the amendments indicated in the attached statement. The Legislative Assembly request the concurrence of the Council of State in the amendments.”

The statement of amendments and a copy of the Bill as amended are laid on the table.

RESOLUTION *RE* ANNULMENT OF THE NATAL BOROUGH'S ORDINANCE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA (Bombay: Non-Muham-madan): Sir, since I gave notice of the Resolution which I am now called upon to move, an influential deputation consisting of several very prominent members of both the Indian and European communities waited upon His Excellency the Viceroy and placed before him not only all the points that I might to-day urge in favour of my Resolution but also very many more. His Excellency's reply was marked by deep sympathy and a full determination to do everything in his power to get redressed the great wrong that has been done to Indians in Natal. As a member of that

[Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.]

deputation myself, I returned quite convinced that the Government of India are in right earnest. They have already started negotiations and from the assurance given by the Viceroy I feel confident that he himself and his Government will leave no stone unturned till they have brought about an honourable settlement of this very vexed question. I am sure His Excellency realises

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Order, order. The Honourable Member must not make a speech. If, as I understand, he proposes to withdraw his Resolution, the rules require him to confine himself to a bare statement to that effect.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: In one more sentence I will conclude. I think that Honourable Members ought to know the reason why I am asking for leave to withdraw the Resolution. All that I want to say is that we realise that His Excellency is fully alive to the fact that Indians look upon this question as a question of national honour, and we look to His Excellency and to his Government to do everything to vindicate that honour. His Excellency however explained to us that at this stage if any threats or denunciations were offered, it would embarrass the Government and perhaps imperil the negotiations. In view of that, Sir, I would request you to be good enough to ask the House to give me permission to withdraw the Resolution.

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to urge upon the Home Government the expediency of taking such steps as may be necessary for the annulment of the Natal Boroughs Ordinance to which assent has been given by the Governor General of South Africa."

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has not moved his Resolution, and therefore it is not necessary to ask for leave to withdraw.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA: Then, Sir, I do not move the Resolution.

RESOLUTION RE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

THE HONOURABLE RAZA SIR RAMPAL SINGH (United Provinces Central: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move the Resolution that stands in my name and runs as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to be pleased:

- (a) to raise the strength of the University Training Corps so as to meet the demands of the Universities of different provinces for giving military training to such of their students as are physically fit; and
- (b) to extend to the members of the University Training Corps the same privileges as are being enjoyed by the members of the Auxiliary Force."

Sir, I am aware that a Committee was appointed to go into the question of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces in India, to make recommendations regarding them, keeping in view the removal of racial distinctions, their efficiency and effectiveness as well as their attractiveness. Yet the report of the Committee is not out, but it is expected to be out within a few days as would appear from an answer given to a question in the other House. Under these circumstances it might be considered that it would have been better if I had waited for the issue of the report which, it may

be presumed, will assist the Government in the formulation of their future policy as regards the organisation, strength, facilities, etc., of the non-regular forces in India. What the recommendations of the Committee are, or will be, I am not in a position to tell; and out of those recommendations what will be acceptable to the Government of India and the Military Department with a view to give them practical shape, is equally beyond my power to conjecture. So for the above reasons I hope I shall not be considered to be inopportune in moving this Resolution, because even if the report were to contain the same recommendation as my Resolution seeks to make, it cannot be said that the Government would surely give effect to it. So in case the report contains the recommendation, my Resolution will only add to its weight and, if not, it will draw the attention of the Government to one very important point ignored by the Committee. Hence the desirability of my Resolution in either case.

Sir, I do not think it is desirable or necessary for me to go into the detailed history of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces in India—the latter of which includes the University Training Corps which forms the subject-matter of my Resolution. Suffice it to say that the various enactments which the Government of India passed from time to time for the formation of Volunteer Corps did not debar Indians from admission into those corps. But in practice this was not the case and very few lucky Indians could get admission into them. This uncalled for obstruction by executive orders on racial considerations was strongly felt by the Indians and from time to time representations were made to the Government, but in vain. The result was that there were no avenues for Indians of education, status and position to get military training of any kind. Only the enrolment in the cavalry and the infantry branches of the service and non-commissioned and commissioned ranks of the second order were open to certain classes on inadequate pay with no status. It was not possible for educated Indians having some sense of self-respect to join the Indian Army under these humiliating conditions, as it could not have added to their honour or materially benefited them. In this way the martial spirit, without which no nation can long survive, began gradually to wane in India. Even the classes from which enrolments were, and are, made cannot be considered to have retained and maintained their full spirit of chivalry and valour that distinguished them from others in former times. In these classes men who could any how afford to avoid enrolment never cared for it, and those who did, or do, join the army owing to pressure of poverty, had, or have, no great sense of that honour which service confers. I do not mean to say that the old martial spirit of these classes has altogether vanished. Their traditions, and feats of valour of their ancestors do still stand them in good stead and stir them with thoughts of heroism, and, as compared with others, they are still equipped with some of that spirit and can vie with other nations successfully on the battle-field. But it cannot be denied that there has come about a marked deterioration in their physique and inborn courage, and for this deterioration and general emasculation of the Indian people I hold the policy of the Government—both past and present—to be responsible.

Sir, under the Hindu rule a whole class was set aside as a special fighting asset of the nation. This duty was ordained to the Kshatriyas and the system served as a sort of voluntary conscription sanctified by the religious usage and tenets of the country. No Kshatriya could dare

[Sir Rampal Singh.]

to defy it, as such defiance would have amounted to a moral sin. But side by side with this sort of voluntary conscription which regulated the conduct of the Kshattriyas only, there is ample testimony to show that other classes or castes were never debarred from rendering their quota of service in the defence of their motherland. In the days of the Hindu and Muhammadan rules military training was a very necessary and desirable accomplishment which nobody having some position in the country could ignore to possess. The example set by the highly-placed was emulated with alacrity by their dependants and others. Thus the military art was kept alive as a noble profession for the rich as well as for the poor, and it always used to get vitality from the honour with which it was looked upon by the people and the Governments. I regret to observe that that enthusiasm and ardour for serving the country and the Crown got more or less extinguished under the British rule. The result of this unwholesome policy leading to the above-mentioned state of things became apparent in all its nakedness during the War; and any man who had had something to do with recruitment will readily testify to the fact that recruitment could not be made in those days as briskly as it was desired; and though India supplied more than her quota of men it was not without enormous difficulties. If the military policy of the Government had been something different from what they had been pursuing, the War would not have lasted so long and India with the guidance of England would have subdued the enemy within a much shorter interval. It was not so much for the longer duration that the War took to finish that we so grievously deplored in our heart of hearts as for our utter helplessness to defend our own hearths and homes in those troublous times. If any emergency could have occurred which might have compelled the English to abandon the defence of India, what would have been her fate? Any adventurer from outside might have become her master, as the people had no capacity to offer any resistance. I would venture to urge that the Government of India ought to take a lesson in this respect from the experiences of the late Great War and do their utmost to prepare India for such an eventuality, God forbid, if it ever occurs.

Sir, repentance and correction come when the mistake is realised, and after long last during the War the exigencies of the situation induced the Government to enact the Indian Defence Force Act of 1917 which after the Armistice took the shapes of Indian Auxiliary Force Act and the Indian Territorial Force Act in 1920. A limitation has been put on the strength of the Territorial Force by the Secretary of State and the Military Department; and the prescribed limit for the present is only twenty thousand in all for the whole of British India. The progress so far made is not quite satisfactory according to some, as the prescribed limit has not yet been reached. I need not dwell upon the causes that are standing in the way. I have only to deal with the University Training Corps which forms a part of the Territorial Force. The Government of India have accepted the principle of having a second line of defence. The Esher Committee laid special stress on the importance of encouraging University Corps and even the Provincial Governments were not averse to their developments. The Universities have become conscious of their duties towards their students as regards military training. In my own province three Universities, I mean the Allahabad University, the Benares

Hindu University and the Aligarh Muslim University, have expressed their readiness to introduce compulsory military training for their boys who may be physically fit. The word "compulsory" need not cause any nervousness in the mind of the Government. These Universities are autonomous bodies and it is their look-out to see what is best for their students. The educative effect of such training cannot be overestimated. I may quote the latest publication of the Government, in support of my assertion, which says :

"The purpose of the University Training Corps is mainly educative, to inculcate discipline and form character. Incidentally they are expected to be a source of supply of both officers and men for the provincial battalions."

Can it be said that for good citizenship military training and the sense of good discipline that it engenders are not the most essential requisites? It would be unstatesmanlike on the part of the Government not to encourage and foster the very legitimate aspirations of the young educated Indians to obtain a training for the defence of their country. Sir, in essence the Government are pledged to carry out the scheme of a second line of defence, and it would ill behove them to show any half-heartedness or stinginess in meeting the demands of the Universities. The announcement of the British Government, the message of His Majesty the King-Emperor and the utterances of many responsible officers are ringing in the ears of the Indian people that the goal of the British Government is Swaraj; but Swaraj without developing the capacity of the people for self-defence is meaningless. Any indifference or lukewarmness on the part of the Government is sure to create discontent and give a chance to the people to infer that the policy is simply to delay the advent of Swaraj to an indefinite period. The present rate of progress in the Indianisation of the military services and the imparting of military training are calculated to take years and years before the end could be achieved. In a debate Sir William Vincent, the late Home Member of the Government of India, declared in emphatic words that if he were a non-official Member of the Assembly the one consideration that he would constantly have pressed upon the Government would have been the development of an Indian army officered by Indians because on that really rested very largely the future political progress of the country.

Sir, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief while sympathetically dealing with the question of Territorial Forces on the 5th February, 1924 in the other House was pleased to observe :

"We therefore have a balance of 5,000 men still to make up. When these units get up to the total limit of 20,000 and when the experiment (for it is an experiment) has proved a success, I have no objection to advocate its expansion."

Sir, no doubt the prescribed limit has not even now been reached as far as my information goes, and there must be some special causes for that, but the response of the Universities has been substantial, adequate and all that could be desired, even though the conditions are discouraging and there are grievances and the sooner they are redressed the better. I wonder why the prescribed limit of 20,000 was not made up by enrolment to the University Training Corps. The other day while talking with my Honourable friend Aftab Ahmad Khan, who is absent to-day, I learnt that the boys of the Aligarh University are clamouring for admission into the University Training Corps but are not getting admission. I know on reliable authority that the same is the case in the Allahabad and Benares Universities. It is inexplicable why admissions are refused and even then

[Sir Rampal Singh.]

success questioned. If proof be needed for the disparaging circumstances under which University Training Corps are labouring I would simply refer to the reply given by the Government to a question put by Pandit Sham Lal Nehru, M. L. A., on the 22nd January last, in the other House with regard to the Allahabad University Training Corps. It was organised in 1922 and the order for the issue of rifles was given in 1924, and yet, as far as I know, they have not reached them. Then, Sir, leaving all these things aside, I for one cannot agree that a scheme on which the betterment and the future national defence of India rests should be given a trial for trial's sake. It should be pushed through at all costs. It has a great vitality in it which should grow in strength provided the Government help and foster it with care and earnestness.

Sir, there is one aspect of the question on which I have not touched yet, and it is that the expansion of the Territorial Force or for the purpose of the Resolution the strengthening of the University Training Corps would entail expenditure which, in these days of retrenchments and economies, it is neither feasible nor desirable to incur. In matters affecting the vital interests of the Indian people the niggardly policy of the Government of India can find few advocates. You are expending between 50 and 60 crores, at one time up to 70 crores, over the regular Army for the defence of India, and you cannot afford out of that sum to spend a few crores over the organization and equipment of the irregular forces in India. Shall I repeat the oft-repeated aphorism "where there is a will there is a way"? You have set your seal of appreciation to the desirability and necessity of the formation of a second line of defence, and now on considerations of finance it would not be proper for you to let the movement drag on a more than half-dead existence. The other House, I am sure, will never grudge any allotment on this item of expenditure.

Now, Sir, I come to the second part of my recommendation in the Resolution. I would not tire the House by going into details where the Territorial Forces, of which University Training Corps form a part, suffer in comparison with the Auxiliary Force, in status, emoluments, conditions of service and so on. Nothing is more galling to the sense of one's self-respect than to be subjected to and become a victim to race distinction anywhere, to say nothing of it in one's own country. It would be but a truism to say that education makes that sense of self-respect more sensitive, sharper, more keen than it is in the ordinary man with no rudiments of even elementary education. Now, Sir, it is hoping beyond hope that University Training Corps consisting of the undergraduates who, a few years after, are to become the leaders of the political thought and material and moral progress of India should swallow any disparity in privileges which may be enjoyed by any other community. Buoyancy in patriotism and self-denial for the sake of the defence of one's own motherland cannot have a free play if adverse conditions be created to smother them at the very outset. It is an admitted fact that the University Training Corps do not enjoy the same privileges, rights and concessions as do the Auxiliary Forces. So in the name of justice, in the name of statesmanship, I appeal to the Government and to this House to accept my Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras: Nominated Non-official): Sir, it is a matter for great congratulation that this subject of raising the strength of the University Training Corps has been brought up for discussion before this House by the Honourable Raja Sir Rampal Singh.

a distinguished and a rich landholder, for it is evidence, if evidence were wanting, that upon this question of University Training Corps, men of all sections and of all classes and all interests are keen. The Honourable Mover very rightly pointed out that the Universities, almost without exception, have begun to take a deep interest in this matter, and he referred to the action of three Universities in India. I might state, subject to correction, that in the University of Bombay, a proposition for compulsory military training to University students was lost by one vote and in my own University, the discussion on the subject has been adjourned; and in almost every other University this question has been raised in some form or other. Having regard, perhaps, to some of the difficulties which are experienced by the Universities themselves and by the authorities, particularly the military authorities, in regard to the introduction of compulsory military training, I think it is a matter for great satisfaction that the Honourable Raja Sir Rampal Singh has moved his Resolution in which he makes a very modest and a very practical demand. In the absence of compulsory military training, I think it is reasonable to expect the State to give all facilities to students who want such training. To put it very briefly, and if I may say so, to put, as it were, the view of the country, if you have difficulties in providing for compulsory military training for all the University students, then give facilities to all students who are anxious to have military training. In one word, let no student, who is in the University and who is anxious to have military training, be denied the facilities for it. This is a very modest and a very practical proposal, and I am glad to associate myself with all that the Honourable Raja Sir Rampal Singh has said in regard to this question. Not only that, Sir, I want that this military training should not be confined purely to the infantry branch. I want that it should be extended to all branches, and I take it, when my Honourable friend moved his Resolution, it was his object also. Not only in infantry training should be given but instruction should be imparted in all the branches,—as you have in England in the case of the Officers' Training Corps,—training in India should also be given in all the branches. As a preparation for this,—and I would appeal to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief who has on more than one occasion assured this House that he is deeply interested in promoting military training among Indian students,—if the scheme is to be successful at all, as they have in England, some attempt should be made, at least in some of the high schools, to have something like the Junior Training Cadet Corps which exist in England.

The second part of the Resolution is important. I am not one of those who believe that anything is gained by raking up the past history of this question or any other question in which perhaps the Government have not dealt with the people as justly and as rightly as they ought to have done. But having regard to the fact that the declared policy of the Government of India has been of late to give all possible facilities—and I only hope that facilities would be given quickly and in an increasing manner for military training—I do hope that the second part of the Resolution will elicit from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief a very sympathetic answer that the University Training Corps should have the right to receive not the Viceroy's Commission like Subadar and Jamadar, but the King's Commission as well: That is exactly the implication of the request in the second proposition—to extend to the members of the University Training Corps the same privileges as are being enjoyed by members of the Auxiliary Force. As I am aware, not once, but more than once the Government of India, and particularly His Excellency

[Mr. G. A. Natesan.]

the Commander-in-Chief, have said that they are deeply interested in this question. I do ask them to accept this Resolution and to give such a satisfactory answer as will satisfy the public at large.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA (Bombay: Non-Muhamadan): Sir, the Honourable Mover has made two distinct recommendations in this Resolution. I support them both. I hope that there is not a single Member of this House who will dispute the first recommendation, in which he asks for an extension as also an improvement in regard to the conditions of the University Training Corps. The University Training Corps has been a success from the start, and this very success is an argument in itself for not only expanding it but also improving it. As the Honourable Member pointed out, the Territorial Force in this country, including the University Training Corps, is limited in number to only 20,000, with the result that many Universities which desired to have their own independent Corps have not been able to do so. I think, Sir, it is the duty of Government to see that every young student who desires to have a military training is afforded the opportunity for the same. Personally, I go much further as this House is aware, because of a Resolution I brought forward to the effect that compulsory military training in the country be enforced. That Resolution, however, was not accepted by this House. Universal compulsory military training may come later on, but until then I strongly support the view which was advanced by that eminent educationist, Dr. Paranjpye, and which so far has been followed by only the University of Allahabad, as far as I know, but I stand corrected as the Honourable Mover has told us to-day that besides the University of Allahabad, the University of Benares and also the University of Aligarh are in favour of every physically fit undergraduate being compelled to undergo a course of military training. The Honourable Mr. Natesan has referred to this question being brought up before the Bombay University, where, as he rightly said, it was lost by one vote. I do hope the day is not long distant when every University in the land will compel its undergraduates to undergo a course of military training.

But, Sir, apart from compulsory military training and besides increasing the number of the Territorial Force and consequently of the University Training Corps which would enable, I hope, every student to undergo a military course if he so desired it, I think there are other improvements which also ought to be taken into consideration. The Universities Conference met in May last and made certain recommendations which were embodied in a Resolution. The recommendations were six in number and were as follows:

- (1) The institution of A and B certificates in University Training Corps and the overhauling of the system of granting Commissions in the University Training Corps.
- (2) The military authorities should add to their subventions for the purpose of training camps, etc., and the Universities should supplement these funds.
- (3) Some effort should be made to ensure closer working between the University Training Corps and the battalions of the Territorial Force.
- (4) Sapper and medical units should be encouraged.
- (5) Anglo-Indians should be permitted to enter the University Training Corps.

- (6) The military authorities should hold out facilities to University Training Corps to take part in any rifle meetings and the like.

These recommendations as I have informed the House, have been made by a responsible body such as the Universities Conference and I trust therefore that they will meet with the sympathetic consideration of the authorities.

I now come to the second recommendation in the Honourable Mover's Resolution. He desires the extension to the members of the University Training Corps of the same privileges that are being enjoyed by the members of the Auxiliary Force. I would go further and I would say that the same facilities be afforded not only to the University Training Corps but to the Territorial Force at large. Sir, this is a vexed question. This is a question which affords a standing grievance to the public at large. It has not been ventilated in this House to the same extent as it has been in another place, and ventilated there by one who is held in high esteem both by Government and the public on account of the sober and sound views that he holds on all subjects, and particularly because he has identified himself with the subject of military training amongst Indians; I mean Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. He has more than once drawn the attention of Government to the distinctions which do prevail at the present moment between the two forces, and he has suggested their removal. The distinctions are in regard to organisation, in regard to training, pay, bonus allowances, etc. Now, in regard to organisation, the Territorial Force at the present moment consists of only one arm of the Army, namely, the infantry, whereas the Auxiliary Force is fully equipped in all the different branches of the Army. This change is what the Honourable Mover, I take it, wants for the University Training Corps and which I claim for the whole of the Territorial Force. There is nothing in the Indian Territorial Force Act to prevent the formation of other arms, besides infantry, in the Territorial Force. If it is not there, the objection perhaps is administrative and not statutory. But whether administrative or statutory, I think the time has arrived for the entire removal of this distinction. Nearly five years have elapsed since both the Auxiliary Force Act and the Indian Territorial Force Act were enacted. There has been a growing and genuine desire on the part of young men to join them and it is the duty of Government therefore to encourage them as much as they possibly can. Government should therefore abandon any idea of distrust which they may have and should open other branches of the Army also to the Territorial Force, I mean particularly cavalry and artillery. Sir, I look upon the removal of this distinction as perhaps of greater value than the distinction in regard to payment of bonus, etc. And I do hope that this will be borne in mind and that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be as sympathetic to the Resolution which my Honourable friend has put forward before the Council to-day as he was to another Resolution in regard to the University Officers Training Corps in England which I brought forward some days back.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which has been moved by my Honourable friend, Raja Sir Rampal Singh. The Honourable Mr. Sethna and Mr. Natesan have dealt with the points very well, and I think that in a province like the Punjab, which finds the majority of

[Lala Ram Saran Das.]

the recruits for the Army, the extension asked for is mostly needed. I am sorry to observe, Sir, from the information which I have that the Members of the Punjab University Training Corps do not receive from the Government the encouragement that they ought to do. An officer of the University Training Corps applied for a King's Commission which was refused. The Punjab being a martial province needs special consideration in this matter. During the last Great War man power was greatly needed and so the British Government had to fall back on India for it. India has 310 millions of population and in case this Resolution is accepted and its policy adopted, a time will come when no power in the world will dare face the British power. With these remarks I strongly support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. YAMIN KHAN (United Provinces West: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which my Honourable and respected friend has recommended to this Council. Two years ago I moved a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly recommending that officers of Indian regiments should in future be appointed from amongst Indians, and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief was pleased on that recommendation to announce the decision that 8 units of Indian regiments would be Indianised at once and he gave the hope that in future the number of those regiments will be increased. I do not know, Sir, what has happened during these two years, but I find that the spirit which is at present prevailing among the students and young boys is to join the Indian forces and they have the future prospect in mind of joining the army as officers. For the development of this spirit it is necessary that they must have from the very beginning a certain encouragement. I know there is a school at Dehra Dun for the preparation of students for the King's Commission, but the heavy expenditure essential for that school keeps back a lot of boys from going and acquiring that spirit which they inherit from their ancestors. My Honourable friend the Mover has very rightly pointed out that the material spirit has not altogether died out in the minds of the young boys who come from the martial races. The monetary circumstances and the absence of hope for the future prevent them from taking up a military career which would have been the most fitted for them. There are boys who in after life take up medicine, law and other professions, but from the very beginning they are only fitted to take up the military profession. I knew many boys when I was in college who would have been very suitable military officers if they had been so trained. I find them now in other capacities. It is those people who have military traditions behind them that long to join the army. But they cannot come in until this is developed in the Universities. When I used to read the history of the lives of great men nobody's life appealed to me more than that of Napoleon. I used to dream for a time of what a man can achieve. What is the result? Although I have taken up one part of Napoleon Bonaparte's life—for he was an excellent lawyer, because he made the Code of France and I have taken up that part—I have been shut out from endeavouring to follow all his other achievements which under other circumstances could have been at my disposal. In the same way I find every boy in college handicapped. All my play-fellows were splendid cricketers and very good riders. They were good at hockey. Of course they were not good at their books. For them it would have been a splendid thing to have been officers in the

regiments. If they look to their forefathers they find that many battle-fields have been won by their ancestors, and that is a great stimulus to them. They know that now at the most they can only rise up to a certain limit. They have got a social position which they cannot keep up by simply getting an appointment in the shape of Viceroy's Commission in the Army which brings them a very limited salary without any scope for the future. They do not get sufficient temptation to take up the profession for which they are made by nature. The case which has been put up by my Honourable friend the Mover will provide, if accepted, great recruitment for the Indian army from amongst the University Corps because a boy who goes to the University in the first year is about 16 or 17, and if his inclination is for military training and if he finds that he will be a good soldier and that he will have a good prospect before him, he will probably take up this profession rather than go and seek other professions for which he is not suited. I do not think that you cannot find among Indians great talents, bravery and capacity for acting as officers. Unless there is sufficient education, unless there is sufficient temptation, the young men will not go and take up this profession. General education is only limited up to the school class. After that, it is the character which is formed and it is only at that time that one can make up his mind for which profession he should go. So the best thing for the Army as well as for India and for the future defence of this country, as very rightly pointed out by the Honourable Member, is that these Corps should be opened to the boys in the Universities. Of course he makes a limitation that only those boys who are physically fit should be admitted; and I do not think therefore there will be any such thing as compulsion. I think all boys who are physically fit will join with great pleasure; those who enjoy the sports which they have at present, cricket, hockey and football—and in Aligarh, pig-sticking and riding and jumping—will readily join these Corps and they will be a good source for recruitment for the future as Indian officers for the Indian regiments, taking into account the school which you have got at present at Dehra Dun. You can select boys from amongst them and send them to Sandhurst or other places, as Government likes. But in the present circumstances I hope this recommendation made by the Honourable Mover will be accepted, as I think it is a very feasible and very practicable one from all the points he had in view. I do not know what His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will say about the financial aspect of the question; probably the Honourable Mr. McWatters might get up to speak on this question; or His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief might find it inconvenient to say anything now and might like to give a reply after he has received the Report. But I think if he accepts the Resolution he will find it very good for his Army.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Sir, I have listened with considerable interest to the remarks that have been made not only by the Honourable Mover of this Resolution, but by the various Honourable Members who have spoken on this subject. They have travelled over a considerable area. They have touched upon many difficult and complicated questions, but I do not propose to follow them into the intricacies of Indianisation and other very knotty questions which they have referred to, for they are unconnected with the immediate subject of the Resolution. I find myself in considerable sympathy and I may say agreement, with some of the remarks of the proposer of this Resolution—I do not mean to say by that that I can accept the Resolution as it stands; but I do find myself in agreement with several of his arguments, and particularly

[H. E. the Commander-in-Chief.]

with what he said in reference to a certain committee which, as you all know, has been sitting for some considerable time and which, as I announced in this House about a fortnight ago, had already signed a unanimous report. I refer of course to the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee which has been sitting for the last four or five months under the presidency of Sir John Shea and who signed their unanimous report about a fortnight ago. The Honourable the Mover of this Resolution said that he could not tell what was in that Report and he could not say what the Government would decide upon it. I quite agree with him: I cannot tell you what is in that Report, neither can I tell you what the Government are going to decide upon it. But this I can say now, that many if not all the points that have been raised in reference to the Territorial Force and particularly to the Officers Training Corps which is the subject of this Resolution, are very carefully and very thoroughly dealt with in that Report. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to publish the Report before this debate took place, because Honourable Members who have spoken on this subject would then have had an opportunity of seeing the results of the work of this very important Committee presided over, as I said, by the Adjutant-General of the Forces, and a prominent member of which was Sir Sivaswami Iyer to whom an Honourable Member has already referred and who has most thoroughly gone into all the intricacies of this difficult problem and who in conjunction with the other members of this Committee has put forward recommendations in a unanimous report. Now, I find myself in some difficulty. I should like to accept the Resolution, but I fear I cannot. I am reluctant at the same time to oppose the Resolution, knowing as I do that the desires of the Honourable Mover as well as the desires that have been put forward by other Honourable Members are met to a very large extent by the proposals of the Committee to which I have referred; and I therefore find difficulty in respect of my attitude towards this Resolution. If I were an ordinary member of this Council and if this Resolution were going to be put to the vote, I feel that I should prefer to walk out of the House and not record my vote. I do not know whether it would be possible and in accordance with the rules of business to continue this discussion at a later date when this report has been made available to Honourable Members . . .

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY (Central Provinces: General): Will Your Excellency tell us when the Report will be published?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It will be published on the 24th of this month; it is in print and ready now and its publication has only been delayed owing to its being in the post for we cannot issue it until it reaches London. That is the only thing for which we are waiting, so I suggest, Sir, if it is in conformity with the usages of the House, that we might resume this discussion at some later date when Honourable Members have had an opportunity of carefully studying the Report.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: To put the matter in order, would His Excellency or some Honourable Member move formally that the discussion be adjourned to some date after the 24th February?

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): I move that the debate be adjourned to a date a fortnight after the publication of the Report. No useful purpose will be served by continuing the debate after what His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has said, and there are many of us who would like to bring forward our views on the Resolution as well as the recommendations of the Report. It may be possible to move amendments to the Resolution in the light of the Report which might make this Resolution acceptable to the Commander-in-Chief. From that point of view, Sir, I move that this debate be postponed to a date a fortnight after the publication of the Report.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I would be quite prepared to accept that.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROOM (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, I agree with what my Honourable friend has just said when he proposed the adjournment of the discussion. The only thing I am doubtful about is whether we should fix a time when it could be discussed—a week or fortnight after its publication. In March we will be busy with the Budget and other matters here, and it might be inconvenient to fix a stated time like a week or fortnight after the publication. I think we might move that the discussion be postponed until some convenient date after publication of the Report.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY: I should certainly like to put it in that general way, but it is not permissible to do so under the rules. If, however, the Honourable the President or the Honourable Member in charge of the department suggests some other date, I should be quite agreeable to accept it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think the most convenient form of putting the motion is:

“That this discussion be adjourned to some date in the present Session after the 24th of February.”

The motion was adopted.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING ORDERS.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Law Member): Sir, may I ask your leave to present the Report of the Select Committee which was appointed the other day to amend Standing Order No. 70.

(The Report was presented.)

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE SIR NARASIMHA SARMA (Law Member): I have already stated, Sir, that Government have no business to place before the Council to-morrow. On Tuesday next the Honourable Mr. Crerar will move

[Sir Narasimha Sarma.]

that the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in the Indian Soldiers Litigation Bill, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration, and the Honourable Mr. Chadwick will move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908. On Thursday, the 19th February, the Honourable Mr. Chadwick will move that the Bill already referred to be taken into consideration and passed, and in the event of any Bills being passed by the Assembly in time to admit of their being laid on the table in this Chamber on Monday next, motions will be made that the Bills in question, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration and passed. On the same day the Honourable Mr. Crerar will move for the election of panels from which members will be nominated to the Standing Committees attached to the Home and Commerce Departments, the Department of Education, Health and Lands and the Department of Industries and Labour, and I shall myself move that the report of the Select Committee, on the amendment of the Standing Orders, which I have just presented, be taken into consideration.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 16th February, 1925.